



Local Government for Langton Green, Speldhurst, Ashurst and Old Groombridge

**MINUTES OF THE FULL COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY, 2nd MARCH 2015 at 7.30pm
IN THE ASHURST VILLAGE HALL**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Cllrs Mrs Jeffreys (Chairman), Mrs Podbury, Mrs Soyke, Barrington-Johnson, Langridge, Milner, Owen, Parker, Turner and Woodward

IN ATTENDANCE: County Councillor John Davies and Borough Councillor David Jukes

OFFICERS PRESENT: Mr C May – Clerk and Mrs M Flemington – Assistant Clerk

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC: There was one member of the public present

15/045 TO ENQUIRE IF ANYONE PRESENT INTENDS TO FILM, PHOTOGRAPH AND/OR RECORD THE MEETING: No-one present intended to film, photograph and/or record the meeting.

15/046 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: Cllrs Mrs Horne (prior engagement), Mrs Hull (prior engagement) and Pendleton (recuperation)
Borough Councillor Stanyer

15/047 DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY OR NON-PECUNIARY INTERESTS: Cllr Owen declared a non-pecuniary interest in agenda item 11a) and 11b) Langton Green Recreation Ground pavilion.

15/048 DECLARATIONS OF LOBBYING: There were none.

15/049 MINUTES: RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on 2nd February 2015 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

15/050 BOROUGH AND COUNTY COUNCILLORS REPORTS: Cllr Davies reported that the diversion order has now been made on footpath WT95 at Stone Cross. He said that the electoral boundary review will not affect Tunbridge Wells West but noted that the number of County Councillors is likely to be reduced from 84 to 81. Cllr Jukes reported that Gatwick (GAL) gave an hour's notice that they could not attend a meeting with Tunbridge Wells Borough Council (TWBC) on the morning of 2nd March. Cllr Jukes said he has received an excellent Parish Plan from Benenden Parish Council which he will forward to SPC. Cllr Langridge enquired about TWBC assistance with analysing data from Parish Plan questionnaires and Cllr Jukes advised that Holly Goring at TWBC may be able to help.

15/051 PUBLIC OPEN SESSION: There was one member of the public present who did not wish to address the meeting.

15/052 FINANCE COMMITTEE – Report by Cllr Owen

- a) There had been no Committee meeting since the last Full Council. The next meeting is on 30th March.
- b) There had been two budget virements; £2,232.50 from contingency to footpaths for the contribution to Kent County Council (KCC) for improvements to the footpath between Speldhurst Village Hall and Barden Road and £230 from contingency to grants for the environment talks to the schools. The notification was for information only because approval to transfer the money was given at the time the payments were authorised.
- c) There had been no interim payments.
- d) It was **RESOLVED** to renew membership of The Campaign to Protect Rural England (CPRE) at a subscription cost of £36.
- e) It was **RESOLVED** to enter the Kent Men of the Trees 2015 competition at a cost of £10.

15/053 ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT – Invoices verified by Cllr Barrington-Johnson

<u>Payee Name</u>	<u>Cheque/Ref</u>	<u>Amount Paid</u>	<u>Transaction Detail</u>
<u>To authorise the payment of invoices as listed</u>			
Samaritans	160	250.00	Grant
KCC	MT486	2,232.50	Contribution re work WT69
RIP Cleaning Services	MT487	172.80	Canine refuse collection
PCC of Speldhurst	MT488	800.00	Maintenance grant
Hospice in the Weald	MT489	1,000.00	Grant
Langton Life	MT490	250.00	Magazine article
Vicky Ellis	MT491	230.00	Environmental talks to schools
Langton Green Charitable Trust	MT492	336.60	Office electricity (annual)
Langton Green Charitable Trust	MT493	12.00	Meeting room January
Mr L Cooper	MT494	26.97	Reimbursement of expenses
Mr L Cooper	MT495	404.00	Groundsman's duties
Premier Digital	MT496	565.00	Newsletters
M Flemington	MT497	769.67	Salary
M Flemington	MT498	33.84	Expenses
C May	MT499	1,505.66	Salary
C May	MT500	35.00	Mobile
HMRC	MT501	820.69	NI & Tax
KCC (KCS)	DD	297.76	Photocopier
Total payments		£9,742.49	

It was **RESOLVED** to pay the invoices listed above, sign the cheques and authorise the BACS in Unity Trust Bank

15/054 HIGHWAYS: A Committee meeting was held on 27th February and the minutes were circulated at the meeting. Cllr Langridge reported that double yellow lines will be applied for in Barden Road to prevent parking on the corner opposite Furzefield Avenue. He said that signs will be put up outside Speldhurst Post Office reminding people to park considerately and that new volunteers are required for Speedwatch. He said that further information is awaited regarding the campaign for 20mph outside schools. Cllr Jukes advised that Cllr Caroline Derrick is leaving TWBC and that Cllr Hills will take over this campaign from the end of March. Cllr Mrs Soyke enquired about SIDs; Cllr Langridge explained that these were mobile speed signs – Speed Indicator Devices - that would be moved between static posts that would be fixed in locations agreed with KCC Highways. It would be the SPC's responsibility to move them from location to location. He asked that Cllrs give thought to where they should be sited and advise the committee.

15/055 LANGTON GREEN RECREATION GROUND (LGRG):

- a) An email had been received from the Sports Club with an update on the pavilion project which was circulated to Councillors.
- b) It was **RESOLVED** to sign the deed of variation of the lease for the pavilion. It was signed by Cllrs Mrs Jeffreys and Milner at the meeting and independently witnessed by the member of the public who was present. It was also **RESOLVED** that Cllr Mrs Jeffreys sign the side letter which acknowledges that whilst the lease prevents the tenant from charging the whole or any part of the lease, the parish council is willing to allow a first legal charge to be created in favour of the football foundation. Cllr Owen abstained from the decisions.
- c) An email had been received from KCC with an update on the School expansion, car parks and footpaths. It was circulated to Councillors. The Clerk advised that the re-lining carried out in the existing car park by Abbotts's contractor was sub-standard and SPC will not be paying for this work. Re-lining will have to be carried out again in the future.

15/056 TRANSFER OF LAND FROM TWBC: The Clerk reported that the transfer forms have been signed and will be returned to Donaldson West Solicitors.

15/057 COUNCIL ELECTIONS: The Clerk handed the election paperwork to all Councillors present. He explained the procedures, confirmed that all forms must be hand delivered to TWBC and that nominations must be submitted between Friday 20th March and Thursday 9th April.

15/058 COUNCILLORS' ATTENDANCE:

- a) It was **RESOLVED** to record Councillors attendance at Full Council, Committee and Working Group meetings and publish this information on the website. The information will be recorded as numbers of meetings attended out of the total and not as a percentage.
- b) It was **RESOLVED** not to adopt a recommended minimum attendance at meetings.

15/059 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT: Cllr Mrs Jeffreys had nothing to report.

15/060 COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- a) **Governance** – There has been no Committee meeting since the last Full Council meeting. The next meeting is on 23rd March.
- b) **Planning** – A Committee meeting was held on 3rd February and the minutes have been circulated. The next meeting is on 5th March. Cllr Mrs Podbury advised that the applicant at The Old Dairy site, Barden Road had to carry out a traffic survey and suggested a copy be obtained. The TWBC Site Allocations Development Plan Document consultation was discussed. It was **RESOLVED** that no comments are necessary and that a nil return should be submitted.
- c) **Amenities** – There was nothing to report.
- d) **Air Traffic** – A Committee meeting was held on 27th February and the minutes were circulated at the meeting. In addition Cllr Barrington-Johnson reported that he is drafting a letter to be sent to MEPs from High Weald Councils Aviation Action Group (HWCAAG), which now has 14 full parish/town council members, 5 associate members and a further 8 considering joining. He will be sending a letter to EasyJet as a private individual regarding confusion over the retro-fitting of engines, but will also draft a letter to be approved at the next Full Council meeting and sent by SPC. Cllr Jukes asked for copies and KCC Cllr Davies advised that Matthew Balfour has taken over the Transportation portfolio at KCC from David Brazier. Cllr Barrington-Johnson said there had been a HWCAAG meeting on 10th February, a Gatwick Area Conservation Campaign (GACC) meeting on 28th February and it is hoped to arrange a meeting with Gatwick for Speldhurst, Rusthall and Bidborough Parish Councils and Southborough Town Council this month.

- e) **Footpaths** – Cllr Milner reported that the improvements to WT69 had been carried out by KCC and that the footpath diversion order has been published in respect of WT95 at Stone Cross.
- f) **KALC (Kent Association of Local Councils)** – An area committee meeting was held on 26th February and Cllr Mrs Jeffreys' notes had been circulated. Cllr Mrs Jeffreys advised that the next meeting is at the end of May and she volunteered to attend with the newly appointed Chairman.
- g) **Parish Plan Working Group** – A meeting was held on 12th February and the notes have been circulated. The next meetings are on 11th March and 9th April. It was **RESOLVED** to adopt the Terms of Reference, subject to item 9 becoming item 1 and a grammatical amendment in item 4. Cllr Langridge said that the Open Days have been arranged for Saturday 16th May Old Groombridge in the morning and Ashurst in the afternoon, Saturday 23rd May in Speldhurst and Saturday 20th June in Langton Green. He asked for as many Councillors to attend the Open Days as possible. He said that a budget has been prepared that will be put to the Finance Committee.
- h) **Environment Working Group** – The Assistant Clerk reported that the tree planting and award ceremony in Pocket Park had taken place on 3rd February with the Mayor in attendance.
- i) **First World War Working Group** – Cllr Langridge reported that further information is awaited from TWBC regarding Speldhurst War Memorial.
- j) **Security** – Cllr Langridge reported that the Amenities and Highways Committees had considered CCTV and agreed that it should be further investigated but there were reservations. He said it was a complex issue but he and Peter Brown will investigate further to produce a report for the April Full Council meeting when it will be on the agenda.

15/061 OTHER MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF 2ND FEBRUARY 2015: There were none.

15/062 CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED:

1. Letter dated 9th February from KCC PROW Legal Orders Officer with Notice, Order and Statement to Accompany in respect of the diversion of part of footpath WT95 adjacent to Stone Cross Cottage, Ashurst
2. Issue 224 from KCC – Inside Track – 22 pages of various grants available.
3. Longfield Road Improvement Scheme – Newsletter 5
4. A brochure from the Sports Facility Show being held at Lee Valley Athletics Centre on 10 March
5. Email from a resident dated 17 February querying our newsletter article that said that precept for the last two years has been held to a figure below 2%. It was in fact 2.5% and 1.8% see below
6. Email from West Kent Housing Association dated 17 February regarding a shared ownership property they are trying to sell in Chiddingstone. They cannot find a buyer therefore the criteria for sale will be widened.
7. Email from a resident dated 16 February asking if the Parish Council can investigate the post box collection times at Asher Reeds which seem to be between 7-8am
8. The Times of Tunbridge Wells' first edition is on Wednesday 4 March and would like to hear about local issues – parking, roads, campaigns, projects, interesting people etc.
9. Letter dated 30 January from Hospice in the Weald enclosing Hospice News
10. Email dated 3rd February from St Mary's Church thanking SPC for the additional grant towards maintenance
11. Email dated 4th February from Hospice in the Weald thanking SPC for the grant
12. Email dated 3rd February from TW & District Samaritans thanking us for the grant

Re item 5 the Chairman said that a retraction was required to be published in the next edition of the village magazines regarding the minor overstatement of the precept increase in the newsletter. She asked the Clerk to draft the retraction and circulate it to Councillors.

15/063 DIARY DATES:

Monday 2nd March – Full Council meeting – Ashurst Village Hall

Thursday 5th March – Planning meeting – Office

Wednesday 11th March – Parish Plan Working Group meeting - LGVH

Thursday 12th March – SLCC Kent Branch meeting – **9am – 1pm**
Tuesday 17th March – Speedwatch – **2.30 – 4pm**
Tuesday 17th March – HWCAAG meeting, Chiddingstone
Friday 20th March – **Councillors Nominations can be submitted from this date**
Friday 20th March – Opening of Speldhurst playground – **4pm**
Sunday 22nd March – Opening of Groombridge Sports pavilion – **11am-1pm**
Monday 23rd March – Governance meeting – Office
Monday 30th March – Finance meeting – Office
Thursday 9th April 4pm – **Close of Councillors Nominations**
Thursday 9th April – Parish Plan Working Group meeting - LGVH
Monday 13th April – **Full Council meeting – LGVH**

15/064 ITEMS FOR INFORMATION:

Cllr Langridge said that there have been reports of children falling off one of the items of playground equipment at LGRG playground. He reported that the new Tunbridge Wells Times newspaper will be published this week.

Cllr Milner said he is concerned about the flooding on Speldhurst Hill/Etherington Hill. The Clerk advised that KCC Highways are investigating the problem.

Cllr Turner said that blocked drains were a major cause of local flooding.

Cllr Mrs Podbury suggested a gate or stile with a small plaque on a Speldhurst footpath for Alan Passmore's memorial. Cllr Milner will investigate and report back.

There being nothing further to discuss the meeting closed at 8.48pm

Chairman