



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

**Minutes of an Environment Committee Meeting held in the Committee Room,
Ashurst Village Hall on Wednesday 30th March 2011 at 7.30pm**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Cllr Brown (Chairman) and Cllr Mrs Hull, Mrs Debbie Siddle and Mr Alan Ford.

OFFICER PRESENT: Mrs M Flemington, Assistant Clerk

1. **Apologies for Absence:** Cllr Mrs Podbury (unwell) and Doctor Peter Ringrose (prior engagement)
2. **Declarations of Personal and Prejudicial Interest:** There were none
3. **Declarations of Lobbying:** There were none
4. **The Minutes of the Meeting held on 26th January 2011**, having previously been forwarded to all members, were approved and signed subject to an email from Dr Peter Ringrose concerning Item 7 being attached to the Minutes in which he stated he did not agree to work on a register of re-cycling and other environmental data.
5. **Public Open Session:** There were no members of the public present.
6. **Matters Arising and Correspondence:**

Cllrs Mrs Hull and Mrs Podbury will be arranging a meeting at Speldhurst School.
Cllr Brown and Debbie Siddle are attending a meeting at Langton Green School on 5th May.
Cllr Brown had a meeting at Holmewood House School with Mr Touey. The discussion showed a general interest, but did not bring to light any specific inclusions of environmental matters in the curriculum. A good point however is a scheme where every classroom has two bins, one for paper and one for non-paper rubbish. This constructive scheme apparently came from an environmental council, with elected representatives from each class. This council no longer exists. Mr Touey then introduced Cllr Brown to Judith Kerr-Shephard of the Pre-School. Showed him round the gardens and growing areas, where children grow vegetables and fruit, and eat them and take them home and enjoy them. This is excellent awareness teaching. Cllr Brown read out his report for the Annual Parish Meeting.
Cllr Mrs Hull advised that only low-energy light bulbs from reputable manufacturers should be purchased as others may be dangerous. She will write an 'Eco-Saver' on this for the next editions of the Village Magazines.
Cllr Brown advised that a local schedule of recycling and environmental information for the website would be discussed further at the next meeting.

7. Current update

Cllr Mrs Hull reported that there is considerable mess, mud and damage to trees in Southfields and Furzefield Avenue, Speldhurst following the recent works on the gas main carried out by Morrisons. She is in discussion with KHS regarding replacement of damaged/dead trees.

An 'Open Green Meeting' will be considered at some stage in the future.

Debbie Siddle suggested combining a future 'Open Meeting' with a schools environmental project and awards.

Alan Ford will speak directly to the Editor of Langton Life regarding the use of more appropriate pictures for future 'Nature Watch' articles.

- 8. Awareness in the Parish:** It was agreed that awareness in the Parish had been covered under 7. Current Update. It was also agreed that for future meetings items 7 & 8 would be amalgamated under one item 'Current update and awareness in the Parish'

9. Items for Information:

The next meeting will be **Wednesday 1st June 2011** in the Committee Room, Ashurst Village Hall

Cllr Mrs Hull thanked Cllr Brown for his hard work in setting up and chairing the Environment Committee.

The meeting closed at 8.26pm.

Chairman