



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

**MINUTES OF THE FULL COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY, 2<sup>ND</sup> JUNE 2014 at 7.30pm  
IN ASHURST VILLAGE HALL**

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

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Kent County Councillor John Davies

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

**MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC:** There were four members of the public present in connection with the Speldhurst Recreation Ground Committee Playground improvements

**14/130 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:** Cllr Parker (family commitment). The Chairman sent Cllr Parker her best wishes on behalf of the Council

**14/131 DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY OR NON-PECUNIARY INTERESTS:** There were none.

**14/132 DECLARATIONS OF LOBBYING:** There were none.

**14/133 MINUTES:** It was **RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on **12<sup>th</sup> May 2014** be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

**14/134 BOROUGH AND COUNTY COUNCILLORS REPORTS:** County Councillor John Davies reported that he has opposed the proposal for double yellow lines on Langton Road, Langton Green

**14/135 PUBLIC OPEN SESSION:** There were four members of the public present in connection with 14/136 iii); Oliver Plunkett, the Chairman of the Recreation Ground Committee, advised the Council that they had only recently been advised by TWBC that they will need planning permission for the project works. This is a setback because until then they had been told that it was not required and planning permission is a pre-requisite of the Veolia grant. The application is being pushed through but it comes at a time when TWBC Planning department is moving to Maidstone which will mean inevitable delays. They are waiting to hear if Veolia are prepared to extend the time for which their grant is available. If the grant period from Veolia is extended and planning permission is given they hope to be in a position to start installation in the autumn. He confirmed that they have chosen SMP as the supplier for the equipment. **The Recreation Ground Committee to advise the Clerk as soon as they hear from Veolia following their meeting on 9<sup>th</sup> June and the Clerk will update the Finance Committee.**

**14/136 FINANCE COMMITTEE – Report by Cllr Owen**

- i) There has not been a Committee meeting since the last Full Council meeting. The next Committee meeting will be held on 23<sup>rd</sup> June.
- ii) It was **RESOLVED** to approve the following budget virements; £4,000 from contingency to s137 being the grant to St. Mary's, Speldhurst for vegetation clearance and new fencing and £200 from s137 to contingency because the equipment for the Community First Responder was £200 less expensive than anticipated.
- iii) After listening to the comments of Speldhurst Recreation Ground Committee and subsequent discussion it was **RESOLVED** to agree to the current proposals for the playground improvements. The project depended on the Veolia grant still being available and once confirmation of this was received further consideration would be given to a further grant of £10,000 (making the total grant for the project £25,000) subject to the Recreation Ground Committee completing a grant application.

**14/137 ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT – Invoices verified by Cllr Pendleton**

<u>Payee Name</u>	<u>Cheque/Ref</u>	<u>Amount Paid</u>	<u>Transaction Detail</u>
<u>Notification of additional payments in May</u>			
Amazon	AO31	24.99	Computer security
Sainsbury's	AO32	12.00	Office Equipment
PC World	AO33	36.00	Keyboard and mouse x 2
East Malling Limited	137	-225.00	Reversal – cancelled chainsaw course

To authorise the payment of invoices as listed

SECAmb Charitable Fund TW CFR	146	960.00	Community First Responder kit
Langton Green Charitable Trust	MT331	108.00	Meeting room hire
Kent County Council	MT332	500.00	Traffic Survey Lower Green Road
Langton Green Charitable Trust	MT333	34.00	Office PAT testing
St Mary's Church	MT334	4,000.00	Grant
M R Lawrence	MT335	555.00	Mowing & strimming
Mr L Cooper	MT336	340.00	Groundsman
Mr L Cooper	MT337	25.86	Maintenance expenses
Miss K Lawrence	MT338	15.00	Cleaner
C May	MT339	1,408.45	Salary
C May	MT340	13.95	Expenses
M Flemington	MT341	668.72	Salary
M Flemington	MT342	70.75	Expenses
HMRC	MT343	725.60	Tax & NI
BT PLC	DD	18.00	Mobile
M R Lawrence	MT344	220.00	Mowing
Tunbridge Wells Borough Council	DD	55.00	Non-domestic rates

**Total payments** **£9,718.33**

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

**14/138 HIGHWAYS:** Cllr Langridge reported that a Committee meeting was held on 29<sup>th</sup> May, and the minutes have been circulated. He advised that Speedwatch will restart soon.

- a) It was **RESOLVED** to adopt the revised Terms of Reference.
- b) The decision on the installation of additional barriers in Barden Road was deferred.

**14/139 SE WATER WORKS – STARTING 24<sup>TH</sup> JULY FOR 41 DAYS:** The Clerk reported that South East Water have confirmed that there will be access to LGVH and LGRG from the north during the road closure and that he has asked them to install extra signage ahead of the approaches to Speldhurst and Langton Green advising of the road closure and diversions. Councillors made it clear that they were not happy with the length of closure time or the diversion map and asked the clerk to register their concerns especially after the road works of the past year when the community had been forbearing and tolerant. After discussion it was agreed that the **Clerk will write to South East Water and ask them to attend a site meeting in advance of their open meeting on 19<sup>th</sup> June to agree the details.**

**14/140 NEWSLETTER:** After discussion it was agreed to include articles on new Councillor Neil Barrington-Johnson, LGRG car park improvements and LGPS expansion, leader of Parish Plan working group appointed and more volunteers still needed, footpath clearance in conjunction with Langton Green Village Society, air traffic route consultation, grants given including equipment for local Community First Responder, photo of trees planted in Furzefield Avenue and autumn open meeting.

**14/141 VILLAGE MAGAZINES:** After discussion it was agreed that the Clerk will provide the key facts/information to go in each magazine for each edition to those responsible for submitting the articles.

**14/142 COMMUNITY RIGHT TO BID:** The Clerk reported that TWBC have advised that the nomination of the land adjoining Treetops, Stonewall Park Road cannot be considered by them for listing as it is excluded under Schedule 1 of the Localism Act 2011 as it is land attached to a residence.

**14/143 TO CONSIDER A LIMIT TO THE TERM OF OFFICE OF THE CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNCIL:** Cllr Mrs Jeffreys put forward a proposal that there be a limit to the term of office of the Chairman of the Parish Council in the same manner that there is for Committee Chairmen. After discussion it was **RESOLVED** that the Chairman of the Parish Council should serve a maximum term of five consecutive years and the current Chairman, who will have served seven years, will step down next May.

**14/144 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT:** Cllr Mrs Jeffreys reported that Cllr Milner will be attending the Parish Chairmen's meeting on 17<sup>th</sup> June on her behalf. She advised that the nomination from Langton Green School for the Parish Council's Diamond Jubilee Award for Olympic Spirit does not really fit the criteria of the award. After discussion it was agreed that if the school does not have another candidate the award will not be made this year.

**14/145 COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

- i) **Governance** – There was nothing to report.
- ii) **Planning** – Cllr Langridge reported that there has not been a Committee meeting since the last Full Council and that the next Committee meeting will be held on 9<sup>th</sup> June. He advised that there are a number of ongoing planning appeals and that he attended the Treetops appeal hearing. He reported that information on TPOs in the parish has now been received from TWBC.
- iii) **Amenities** – Cllr Mrs Hull reported that a Committee meeting was held on 19<sup>th</sup> May, and the minutes have been circulated.
  - I. After much discussion and a vote of 7 in favour and 5 against it was **RESOLVED** that Pocket Park, Speldhurst will only be cut 2/3 times this year rather than twice a month. **Cllr Turner is to arrange for someone to carry out this work.** Cllr Mrs Jeffreys said that if this is not a practical solution it will have to be reviewed.
  - II. It was **RESOLVED** to purchase a pressure washer for use by the Groundsman and others at a cost of up to £200.
  - III. The purchase of an additional/larger dog bin for between LGRG car park and the school will be considered by the Finance Committee at the meeting on 23<sup>rd</sup> June.
- iv) **Air Traffic** – Cllr Mrs Soyke advised that there is a High Weald Parish Councils Aviation Action Group meeting on 3<sup>rd</sup> June and a noise summit at TWBC at 6pm on 17<sup>th</sup> June.

- v) **Footpaths** – Cllr Milner reported that he is still seeking confirmation from KCC PROW as to when they will replace the bridge in Shadwell Woods. Speldhurst Scouts are working in Shadwell Woods with Cllr Milner and Cllr Mrs Horne on 6<sup>th</sup> June – Community Action Day. The Groundsman has started work clearing footpaths in Langton Green for the Village Society.
- vi) **Broadband** – Cllr Woodward reported that the BDUK programme is starting to roll out in July.
- vii) **KALC** – Cllr Mrs Hull reported that there was a meeting at the end of May but she was unable to attend. The salient points would be raised at the Parish Chairman's meeting to be attended by Cllr Milner.
- viii) **Parish Plan Working Group** – Cllr Turner reported that the next meeting is scheduled for July and it is proposed to hold the open days later this year.
- ix) **Environment Working Group** – Cllr Mrs Hull advised that the next meeting will be held in the autumn.
- x) **First World War Working Group** – Cllr Langridge reported that the re-dedication of the War Memorials at All Saints' Langton Green and St Mary's Speldhurst has been agreed with both Churches. He has spoken to Langton Green Brownies and as a result has been asked to speak to Langton Green Guides. He is waiting to hear back from the schools about going to speak to them. They are having a display at Langton Green Fete and this display will be available for any other events in the parish over the next four years. He advised that there will not be an event or concert in the parish until next year or later but that there is going to be a national event on 4<sup>th</sup> August 2014.
- xi) **Security** – Cllr Langridge reported that he has had a meeting with Peter Brown of West Kent Neighbourhood Watch and that he will have a watching brief reporting back to Peter Brown on any relevant security concerns in the parish that are brought to his attention by Councillors.

**14/146 OTHER MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF 12<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2014:** There were none.

**14/147 CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED:**

1. ACRK Rural News Issue 137
2. Kent Voice magazine (spring/summer)
3. Letter dated 21<sup>st</sup> May from All Saints' Church thanking us for the graveyard maintenance grant
4. Email dated 24<sup>th</sup> May from the organisers of the Speldhurst pram race thanking us for the grant paying for the insurance and they raised £1,500 towards ICT equipment for the school
5. Letter dated 15<sup>th</sup> May from Victim Support thanking us for the grant
6. KCC Inside Track – grants available

**14/148 DIARY DATES:** all meetings are at 7.30pm unless otherwise stated.

1. Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> June – Marchiennes visiting Langton Green Primary School
2. Monday 9<sup>th</sup> June – Planning meeting – Office
3. Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> June – Clerk attending Clerks' Conference
4. Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> June – Clerks' networking meeting – TWBC – 10.30am – 2.30pm
5. Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> June – TWBC Planning training – 1pm and 6pm
6. Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> June – Noise summit – TWBC – 5.30pm
7. Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> June – Parish Chairmen's meeting – TWBC – 7.00pm
8. Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> June – South East Water consultation on Speldhurst Road closure – LGVH 3-7pm
9. Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> June – Speldhurst Fete
10. Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> June – Finance meeting – Office
11. Monday 7<sup>th</sup> July – Full Council Meeting – Ashurst Village Hall

**14/149 ITEMS FOR INFORMATION:**

Cllr Mrs Hull requested that Speldhurst Pram Race Committee is asked to strictly enforce the road closures on pram race day in future years.

Cllr Milner said that the finger post at the end of Furzefield Avenue is in poor condition. The Clerk confirmed that he is in discussion with Kent Highways.

Cllr Mrs Soyke said that the fingerpost at the junction of Old House Lane and Fordcombe Lane by Silcocks Farm is badly damaged. The Clerk confirmed that he is investigating a replacement.

Cllr Mrs Horne said that there is a lot of local concern and a pressure group has been set up in connection with the planning applications at Salomons.

Cllr Owen said that shale oil/fracking could become more of an issue locally (Cllr Mrs Hull had previously mentioned this in the Environment Report for the APA).

There being nothing further to discuss the meeting closed at 9.20pm

Chairman