



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

Minutes of an Amenities Committee Meeting held in the Council Office, Langton Green Recreation Ground on Monday 18th September 2017 at 7.30pm

MEMBERS PRESENT: Cllr Mrs Podbury (Chair), Mrs Soyke, Allen, Kerby and Parker

IN ATTENDANCE: Cllr Mrs Lyle

OFFICER PRESENT: Mr C May – Clerk

1. **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.
2. **To accept and approve apologies and reasons for absence:** Cllr Mrs Jeffreys, holiday; Cllr Turner, previous engagement
3. **Disclosure of Pecuniary or Non-Pecuniary Interests:** There were none.
4. **Declarations of Lobbying:** There were none
5. **Minutes: RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting held on **17th July 2017** be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.
6. **Public Open Session:** No members of the public were present.
7. **Matters Arising and Correspondence:** There were no matters arising not on the agenda
8. **Boundary Change:** There was nothing to report at this stage. Cllr Mrs Podbury has spoken with Jane Clarke (TWBC) and will meet to discuss the impact on the precept. She said that the decision in the end will be down to the wishes of the majority of residents.
9. **Financial Review:** The Clerk circulated the finance sheets. Cllr Mrs Podbury queried a figure in brackets and the Clerk will give her an explanation by email.
10. **Parish Plan** – Councillors confirmed that they are continuing to monitor the action plan. There had been a meeting that afternoon of the Implementation Committee and no major points were highlighted.

11. Parish Council Land

a. Langton Green Recreation Ground (LGRG)

1. Langton Green Village Hall – no issues to discuss.
2. Pavilion – Cllr Mrs Lyle attended the meeting as SPC representative on the Management Committee. She said that there were two active members on the management Committee who had no real expertise or time to get involved with maintaining the building and therefore have looked in to having a company manage the maintenance of the building on their behalf. So far they have only managed to find one company to submit a planned maintenance agreement and they were struggling to find another. The company that had tendered for the contract was involved with the build so knew the building. This was discussed by members who agreed that having one company to manage risk and maintain the building was the right way forward. It was agreed that a more local company might reduce the response time and minimum hours. The Clerk said he could contact other Parishes via the Clerks to see if they knew of any companies. **RESOLVED** that the Clerk would try and source other companies and the findings would be put before the Finance Committee before a final decision at Full Council. Cllr Mrs Lyle asked the Clerk for a copy of the pavilion maintenance schedule and up-to-date banking details.
3. Sports Clubs – Cllr Mrs Lyle said that the club was not happy with the number of cuts to the grass and asked if line painting could be included. She said the club was willing to contribute 50% of the increased cost. The Clerk will contact Landscape Services to get the relevant information.
4. Play area – The Annual Inspection had been received and there were four areas of concern: 1) the wet pour surface was showing signs of wear and needed repairs 2) the area by the picnic tables was worn and a “mulch” surface was recommended 3) at the teen area some branches were too low and needed raising to 2 metres 4) the pedal roundabout and other minor repairs were needed. Cllr Mrs Podbury will speak with the Groundsman about the minor repairs and it was **RESOLVED** that the Clerk seek quotes for the work and submit them to the appropriate committee.
5. Car Park – The clerk confirmed that the white-lining has been completed and new signs have been erected but there are just too many cars at certain times (mainly afternoon school pick up).
6. Groundsman – There was a request for two pieces of equipment 1) an exterior plug for the Groundsman’s use which will be outside the office and housed within a locked cabinet 2) an extension pole pruner – kombi tool. Both items were agreed and it was **RESOLVED** to recommend to either Full Council or the Finance Committee
7. Trees – there was a small addition to the Ash Die Back report which will be monitored.

b. The Green at Langton Green

A request had been received from the owners of Lampington Cottage for a skip to be placed on Council land with the assurance that the land would be made good when the work was complete. Councillors agreed to this request.

c. The Green at Groombridge

Groombridge Place had sent a further planning application for a variation of condition of land use and retrospective alterations. Cllr Kerby commented that he hoped that the Planning Committee would ask questions of the Planning Department in TWBC and seek assurances on behalf of residents.

- d. **Pocket Park at Speldhurst** – Cllr Mrs Podbury had been to visit the Park after the work and said it was looking very good.
- e. **Signs on Council Land** – nothing to report
- f. **The Boundary** - Cllr Mrs Podbury will ask the Commons Conservators how they are dealing with duckweed.

12. Public Rights of Way –

1. Clearance of footpaths and hedges – The Clerk said that the growing season was almost over.
2. Signposts – the post opposite The Hare was being renovated
3. The graffiti in Shadwell Woods was noted

13. Items for Information

Cllr Mrs Podbury said that TWBC was in the process of purchasing land for more football pitches in Rusthall. Rusthall Parish Council were unhappy because it would involve more traffic and does not benefit Rusthall Football Club in any way.

There being nothing further to discuss, the meeting closed at 8.40pm

Chairman