



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

**MINUTES OF THE FULL COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON MONDAY, 5th SEPTEMBER 2011 at 7.30pm
IN THE COMMITTEE ROOM, LANGTON GREEN VILLAGE HALL**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Cllrs Mrs Jeffreys (Chairman) Mrs Hull, Mrs Podbury, Hemming, Langridge, Milner, Pendleton, Ringrose, Owen and Woodward

OFFICERS PRESENT: Mr C May – Clerk and Mrs M Flemington – Assistant Clerk
County Councillor John Davies

Mr A Saunders – Courier Representative; Mr C Blyth - St Martin's Church Ashurst; Mr P Soyke – St Martin's Church Ashurst and resident of Stone Cross; Mr K Frankum and Mr D Gillinder – residents of Stone Cross; Mr A Culverhouse and Mr G Lambert – Langton Green Sports Club (LGSC)

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:

Cllr Mrs Soyke (training course), Cllr Brown (prior engagement) and Cllr Parker (holiday)
Borough Councillor David Jukes and Borough Councillor Julian Stanyer

11/148 DECLARATIONS OF PERSONAL AND PREJUDICIAL INTEREST:

There were none.

11/149 DECLARATIONS OF LOBBYING:

Cllr Hemming has been spoken to by residents about the posts on the land outside the Old Watson Hall.

11/150 MINUTES:

The Minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on 1st August 2011, having previously been forwarded to Members, were approved and signed.

11/151 PUBLIC OPEN SESSION:

The meeting was adjourned.

County Councillor John Davies reported that he now has a Highways Manager, Earl Bourner, dealing with his area. The residents of Stone Cross spoke about the numerous accidents and incidents at Stone Cross and asked what could be done to improve this section of the A264 before further serious crashes resulted in a fatality. The Clerk advised that there is a proposal to reduce the speed limit on the whole section of road from Langton Green to Ashurst to 50mph, however it was recognised that this area warranted more attention and a lower speed limit. Both Cllr Ringrose and Cllr Mrs Hull expressed the opinion that the speed limit at Stone Cross should be 30mph. They were advised that there was to be a Highways Committee meeting on 16th September and Kent Highway Services (KHS) would be attending and the matter would be on the Agenda. They were advised to report all incidents to the Clerk and give a history of events to-date. Cllr Pendleton also suggested raising the issues at Stone Cross with Greg Clark MP when he is at Ashurst on 23rd September.

The meeting was re-opened.

11/152 FINANCE COMMITTEE – Report by Cllr Mrs Jeffreys

- i) Cllr Mrs Jeffreys reported that there have been no meetings or minutes circulated since the last Full Council meeting and that the next Committee meeting will be held on 26th September.
- ii) Cllr Mrs Jeffreys reported that there had been six email decisions by the Finance Committee. It was agreed to send Councillors and the Clerks on various courses in September and October at a total cost of £849 and to spend £4 at the Land Registry to find out who owned a house in Speldhurst. It was agreed to spend £165 to replace a damaged kerb on the new islands at The Green, to control the weeds at Langton Green War Memorial at a cost of £50 and to have a survey done of the Copper Beech tree on Parish Council land at Langton Green at a cost of £375 plus VAT. The Clerk's overtime of seven hours was approved.
- iii) After discussion it was unanimously **AGREED** to authorise expenditure on the Broadband surveys and posters up to a maximum of £650 pending agreement that a written survey was necessary – see 11/158 below.
- iv) Christopher Blyth, Treasurer of St Martin's Church, Ashurst referred to his email to the Clerk of 6th August with a request of a grant towards building works and with Peter Soyke gave more details. After discussion it was proposed by Cllr Pendleton that a letter of comfort be issued offering a maximum grant of £5,000. An amendment to the proposal was proposed by Cllr Mrs Hull who did not support exceeding the amount that was in the budget which was £4,500. Cllrs voted on the amendment which was passed by six votes to four. It was then **AGREED** by eight votes with two abstentions that a letter of comfort be issued for £4,500.00.
- v) It was **AGREED** to adopt the 'Grant Awarding Guidelines' which would be reviewed after one year, however, a standardized application form would be written if it was considered necessary.
- vi) Cllr Mrs Jeffreys proposed that the loan of £3,250 to LGCT, which will be to 30th June 2013, is at 0% interest. This was unanimously **AGREED**. Cllr Owen asked to see the original quotations for the building works. **The Clerk to ask Trevor Palmer to bring them to the next site meeting.**
- vii) After much discussion it was **AGREED** by nine votes, with one abstention, that £50,000 be invested for one year with a main UK High Street Bank with the final decision to be made by the Finance Committee.

11/153 ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT – Invoices verified by Cllr Pendleton

<u>Payee Name</u>	<u>Cheque Ref</u>	<u>Amount Paid</u>	<u>Transaction Detail</u>
RIP Cleaning Services	173	£167	Canine refuse
BT PLC	174	£31	Mobile
M R Lawrence	175	£320	Mowing LG & Speld
Joyce & Partners	176	£1,116	Professional Fees
C Worcester	177	£116	Dog Bin and Notice Board
Langton Green Charitable Trust	178	£35	Meeting rooms July
RBS Software Solutions	179	£119	Maintenance
Monson Engineering Ltd	180	£840	Engineering Consultancy
Greenbarnes Ltd	181	£1,308	Speldhurst Notice Board
Craigdene Ltd	182	£174	Annual Inspection Play Area
Mr L Cooper	183	£100	Groundsman
HMRC	184	£589	NI & Tax
M Flemington	185	£401	Salary
M Flemington	186	£58	Expenses
C May	187	£1,175	Salary
C May	189	£206	Expenses
	Total Payments	6,755.13	

11/154 HIGHWAYS REPORT:

Cllr Mrs Podbury referred to her written report on the meeting held on 4th August with Jonathan Dean the new KHS Steward. A Committee meeting is to be held on 16th September at which the KHS Steward will be present.

11/155 ENHANCEMENT OF THE LAND OUTSIDE THE OLD WATSON HALL:

The Clerk reported that the posts have been installed and that instructions had been given to replace the damaged kerbstone. Cllr Hemming considered that an accident would happen because cars were unsighted and were being forced together by parked cars. The Clerk advised that KHS have stated that they would monitor the situation before installing double yellow lines. Councillors decided that KHS should be lobbied now for their installation given the likelihood of an accident. **Clerk to write to KHS.**

2249 PARISH COUNCIL OFFICE:

Cllr Mrs Jeffreys referred to her written report on the progress of the building works and confirmed that completion is scheduled for the week commencing 24th October.

11/156 LOCAL SCHOOLS:

It was reported that neither Langton Green nor Speldhurst Primary School required the bicycle shelter from the LGCT and that it might be more appropriate for a Secondary School. **The Clerk will ask Paul Harvey whether Speldhurst Village Hall want the bicycle racks.** The new classrooms have been installed at Langton Green Primary School. Cllr Pendleton reported that three girls from Groombridge living on the Kent side of the border had gained places at TWGGS following appeals, but none of the children from East Sussex won their appeal. The barrier was still to be installed by KHS at Speldhurst School.

11/157 LGRG SPORTS PAVILION:

(This item was discussed on the evening at an earlier juncture – after 11/152vi)

Guy Lambert of Langton Green Sports Club spoke in detail of the LGSC and the Club's wishes to improve the pavilion and its facilities. He described the grants available from the Football Foundation advising that they were only available if the applicant has a minimum tenure of a twenty five year lease on the site. He said that the Football Foundation offers a free legal service for drawing up appropriate leases and that there may be other funding available depending on the terms of the lease.

After much deliberation and many questions Cllr Mrs Jeffreys proposed that a vote be taken on approval in principle to lease land to the LGSC to match the footprint of a new pavilion. This would be subject to the negotiation of a satisfactory lease. This was unanimously **AGREED.**

The Clerk was asked to contact LGCT to see if a copy of the lease of the Village Hall could be given to LGSC to use as a model for drafting the agreement.

11/158 BROADBAND:

Cllr Woodward reported that the working party had met and there had been considerable email "traffic" on the subject. The working party had decided that a paper survey was the only way to catch all users and potential users. Parish Vision volunteers were going to be asked to help with distribution and collection. He said that one survey would be used for residential and business users and spoke of the reasons for using a paper survey. Councillors **AGREED** that it was the best way to communicate to residents of the Parish. Cllr Owen reminded members of the data protection issues arising from data collected as part of the survey.

11/159 SHOPS IN THE PARISH:

Cllr Pendleton advised that a new Flower Shop is opening in the Black and White Shop on Groombridge Hill.

11/160 QUEEN'S DIAMOND JUBILEE: Cllr Mrs Jeffreys reported that this is on the Agenda to be discussed at the Parish Council Chairman's meeting on 6th September and therefore it should be deferred until the October meeting when more information would be available.

11/161 ANNUAL PARISH MEETING: The new format proposed by Cllr Mrs Jeffreys was **AGREED.** A new Working Party consisting of Cllr Mrs Jeffreys, Cllr Mrs Podbury and Cllr Langridge was formed.

11/162 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT:

Cllr Mrs Jeffreys is attending the Parish Council Chairman's meeting on 6th September

11/163 COMMITTEE REPORTS

- i) Governance Committee – No report.
- ii) Planning – Cllr Mrs Podbury referred to her written report.
- iii) Amenities – A Committee meeting was held on 10th August. The revised Terms of Reference were **AGREED.**
- iv) Footpaths – Cllr Milner referred to his written report. County Councillor John Davies reported that he has agreed Member funding for work on the eroded link path which runs from the end of St Chad's Lane into Shadwell Wood. However he had not heard anything further about it from Jonathan Bibby (KCC PROW)

Officer). Nor had Cllr Milner, who said that he would follow up the matter with Mr Bibby. He was thanked by the Council.

- v) KALC – The next meeting of the Tunbridge Wells Area Committee is on 21st September.
- vi) Local Needs Housing – Cllr Woodward referred to his written report. A Committee meeting is being held on 6th September.
- vii) Environment – No report. The next Committee meeting has been re-arranged for 28th September.

11/164 OTHER MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF 1st AUGUST 2011:

Cllr Mrs Jeffreys recommended that work on the cash flow referred to in the minutes of the 1st August Full Council meeting be deferred.

Cllr Mrs Jeffreys asked for thought to be given to the Opening Ceremony for the Parish Office. **The Clerk to see if Greg Clark MP has any dates available in November/December.**

Cllr Mrs Jeffreys reported that she has completed 'Vision for Kent'.

Cllr Mrs Jeffreys asked Councillors to start giving consideration to a Queen's Jubilee fund-raising event.

11/165 CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED:

- i) CPRE "Field Work" Summer 2011 magazine
- ii) ACRK Rural News 105
- iii) University of Kent – courses available
- iv) RHS letter dated 5th Aug re RHS Britain in Bloom
- v) Email from Andrew Baurer – a company dealing with fingerposts (joinery company)
- vi) Letter from Mrs Hitchings dated 14th Aug acknowledging our letter of condolence (copies sent to Speldhurst Cllrs)
- vii) KCC letter dated 10th August re Consultation on KCC's Countryside Access Improvement Plan – review 2012
- viii) Invitation from CAB re an event to be held on 6th Sept
- ix) Letter dated 17th August from Mrs Robson 12 Bird-in-Hand Street regarding an overgrown hedge at No.11 – this has been dealt with
- x) Letter from ACRK dated 22nd August – 88th Annual Meeting of ACRK on 13th October at Lenham at 5.30pm
- xi) CPRE "Countryside Voice" Magazine – Summer 2011 (to Cllr Mrs Hull)
- xii) Email from DEFRA regarding a consultation on the Registration of New Village Greens – urgent consultation (no response required)
- xiii) Email from Greg Clerk's office regarding his visit to Ashurst and Surgery on Friday 23rd September
- xiv) Email from Alan Legg, Planning Policy TWBC - "Local Heritage Partnership" - "List of Local Heritage Assets: Selected Stakeholder Early Engagement Monday 5th September to Friday 21st October 2011 (passed to Planning Committee for consideration)
- xv) Email from TWBC regarding "Older People's Day 2011 to be held at the Camden Centre on Monday 10th October
- xvi) Email from TE CAB – invitation to their 2011 AGN at Vestry Hall, Stone Street, Cranbrook, Kent on Wednesday 28th September at 4.30pm (Cllr Mrs Jeffreys attending)
- xvii) Email from TWBC regarding Overview and Scrutiny E-bulletin Summer 2011
- xviii) Email from KALC regarding consultation from The Department for Communities and Local Government on Local Planning Regulations; Draft National Policy Framework and proposals for Business Rates Retention (passed to Planning and LNH Committees for comments)
- xix) Issue 106 ACRK Rural News

11/166 DIARY DATES:

Tuesday 6th September – Local Needs Housing Committee meeting – Ashurst 2pm

Tuesday 6th September – Parish Chairmen's meeting – TWBC 7pm

Thursday 8th September – Planning Committee meeting –

Friday 16th September – Highways Committee meeting – Ashurst 10.30am

Wednesday 21st September – Clerks attending KALC training – Minutes and Record Management

Thursday 22nd September – Clerks attending KALC training – FOI and Data Protection

Thursday 22nd September – Cllrs Langridge and Woodward attending NALC Conference in London

Monday 26th September – Finance Committee meeting – Ashurst (upstairs)

Wednesday 28th September – Environment Committee meeting - Ashurst

Monday 3rd October – **Full Council Meeting** – Speldhurst Village Hall Committee Room

11/167 ITEMS FOR INFORMATION:

Cllr Langridge reported that he has written an article on the Broadband Meeting for Langton Life.

The CPRE are having an interesting debate on the pros and cons of the 'Big Society.'

Cllr Pendleton reported that the new flower shop in Groombridge Hill may ask for consent to place a board on the Green.

Cllr Mrs Jeffreys advised that the format for the Open Meeting will be similar to last year. **Cllr Langridge will obtain quotations for the advertising boards.**

There being nothing further to discuss the meeting closed at 9.48pm

CHAIRMAN