



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

**MINUTES OF THE FULL COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY, 8th MAY 2017 at 7.30pm
IN THE PALMER ROOM, LANGTON GREEN VILLAGE HALL**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Cllrs Milner (Chairman until 8.00pm), Barrington-Johnson (Chairman from 8.00pm), Mrs Price, Mrs Soyke, Mrs Podbury, Mrs Lyle, Turner, Kerby, Mercieca, Parker and Allen

OFFICERS PRESENT: Mr C May – Clerk and Mrs K Harman – Assistant Clerk

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC: There were two members of the public present.

17/087 ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN - Cllr Barrington-Johnson was absent but had indicated prior to the meeting that he was willing to stand again if elected. His re-election was proposed by Cllr Mrs Horne and seconded by Cllr Kerby and it was **RESOLVED** to elect Cllr Barrington-Johnson as Chairman of the Parish Council. He signed the declaration of office at 8.00pm which was counter-signed by the proper officer.

17/088 ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIRMAN: Cllr Milner was proposed by Cllr Allen and seconded by Cllr Mrs Podbury. It was **RESOLVED** to elect Cllr Milner as Vice-Chairman of the Parish Council. He signed the declaration of office which was counter-signed by the proper officer.

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.

17/089 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE Apologies received from Cllr Mrs Jeffreys, Borough Cllr David Jukes and County Cllr James McInroy (all prior engagements).

17/090 DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS: There were none.

17/091 DECLARATIONS OF LOBBYING: There were none.

17/092 MINUTES: It was **RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the Full Council Meeting on **3rd April 2017** be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

17/092 BOROUGH AND COUNTY COUNCILLORS' REPORTS:

- Borough Cllr Mrs Soyke said that she had attended her last Planning Committee meeting at TWBC before she becomes Mayor of Tunbridge Wells at the end of May. She noted the difficulties being experienced at TWBC due to positions not being filled when Officers leave.
- Borough Cllr Mrs Podbury said that the draft plans for the layout of the new cultural centre in Tunbridge Wells look good. She also said that she had attended a workshop by SE water at Bewl Bridge which was excellent and very informative. SE Water are working hard to prevent water shortages and also trying to find out how they can help the more vulnerable members of society.

17/093 PUBLIC OPEN SESSION: Mr Coffin and Mrs Harrison were attending representing Speldhurst Cricket Club. It was agreed that the grant application would be discussed under item 17/095f.

17/094 APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEES INCLUDING KALC REPRESENTATIVE:

- Committee Members - The list of Councillors belonging to each Committee had been distributed in advance of the meeting, which is attached as an appendix. It was **RESOLVED** that Cllr Parker would join the Planning Committee.
- KALC representatives - It was **RESOLVED** that Councillor Barrington-Johnson would remain as SPC's KALC Representative with Cllr Milner as Deputy.
- Training – It was agreed that the Clerk would investigate local training courses/seminars and report back to Councillors. Councillors would then be able to decide which ones to attend.

17/095 FINANCE COMMITTEE:

- a) Cllr Mrs Lyle said there had not been a Finance Committee meeting since the last Full Council meeting.
- b) There were no virements.
- c) Interim payments - the following interim payments have been made from the current account with Unity Trust Bank - £236.24 and Unity Trust MasterCard; £99.07.
- d) The following payments have been made under delegated authority since the last Full Council meeting: £18.00 additional keys cut; £13.12 petrol and £64.95 APM Refreshments.
- e) Cllr Mrs Lyle advised that a new SID had been ordered by the Clerk at a cost of £3,757.18.
- f) It was **RESOLVED** to grant £3000 from the Sports Capital Fund Budget to Speldhurst Cricket Club for new nets, subject to planning permission being received from TWBC.
- g) It was **RESOLVED** to instruct Maria Cook to investigate the new total cost of the playground at LG for insurance and asset register purposes, at a cost of £95 + VAT.
- h) It was **RESOLVED** to grant ABSA £172.18 to cover raft race insurance.
- i) The Clerk confirmed that the precept had been received from TWBC on 2nd May.

17/096 ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT: Invoices verified by Cllr Mrs Lyle

To authorise the payment of invoices as listed

Date Paid	Payee Name	Reference	Amount	Detail
04-May	BT PLC	DD	30.00	Mobile
09-May	Ashurst McDermott Hall Trust	MT1020	24.00	Meeting room
09-May	Knockout Print	MT1021	180.00	APM Boards
09-May	Langton Grn Charitable Trust	MT1022	27.00	Meeting room
09-May	RIP Cleaning Services	MT1023	172.80	Canine Refuse Collection
09-May	Langton Life	MT1024	250.00	Contribution to magazine
09-May	Prestige Web Marketing	MT1025	60.00	Maintenance
09-May	Langton Grn Charitable Trust	MT1026	396.30	Office electricity
09-May	M R Lawrence	MT1027	320.00	Mowing
09-May	Simon Goacher	MT1028	300.04	Salary Admin
09-May	Viking Direct	MT1029	104.70	Stationery
09-May	Ashurst McDermott Hall Trust	MT1030	1,500.00	Grant – churchyard and mag
09-May	PCC All Saints Church	MT1031	1,000.00	Grant – churchyard maintenance
09-May	West Kent Mediation	MT1032	250.00	Grant
09-May	Tate Fencing Ltd	MT1033	11.93	Posts
09-May	C May	MT1034	36.82	Expenses
09-May	Kate Harman	MT1035	9.45	Expenses
09-May	Mr L Cooper	MT1036	13.50	Expenses
09-May	Ranger Electrical	MT1041	66.00	Office lighting repair

09-May	Ashurst Mc Dermott Hall Trust	MT1030	-1,500.00	Change re payee
09-May	St Martin's Church, Ashurst	MT1030	1,500.00	Grant – churchyard and mag
20-May	NEST Pension Scheme	MT1037	25.36	Pension Contributions
20-May	C May	MT1038	2,297.89	Salary
20-May	Mr L Cooper	MT1039	640.70	Salary
20-May	Kate Harman	MT1040	572.14	Salary
30-May	UK Debt Management Office	DD	2,985.89	Repayment PWLB

It was **RESOLVED** to pay the invoices listed above, authorise the electronic payments and sign the cheques drawn on Unity Trust Bank.

17/097 HIGHWAYS COMMITTEE: There had not been a Highways meeting since the last Full Council meeting. Cllr Milner reported the following:-

- Gateways – the gateway installed on the approach to Langton is as requested, the one at Groombridge has not been installed as ordered. The Clerk advised that he is waiting to hear back from KCC and will chase them up. He said that SPC has not yet been charged for the work.
- 20mph – Kirstie Williams has asked the Clerk for a list of residents to consult for the consultation.
- Speedwatch – training is being held on Wednesday 10th May at 3pm in the Gallery Room, LGVH. Cllr Mrs Lyle asked for an evening session to additionally be arranged to cater for volunteers with school age children.
- Cllr Milner said that there is a large caravan that is regularly parked at the side of the road in Ferbies. He will investigate the legality of it being parked there.
- 60-40mph on Langton Road - the Clerk advised that this is being progressed but mapping is an issue.

17/098 LANGTON GREEN RECREATION GROUND (LGRG): Cllr Mrs Lyle reported the following:-

- Emma Howden is now the sole proprietor of the café and she is currently recruiting help serving customers and in the kitchen, in addition to her team of bakers. The rent has been increased from £800 to £1,100 pcm for the next six months on the condition that wifi is installed. The Sports Association has agreed to act as guarantor for the broadband charges.
- The Cricket Club contract has been signed and they have made their first payment.
- Burglar alarm activation – Cllr Mrs Lyle will discuss with Chris Allen.
- The outgoings in April were slightly higher than the income due to a high electricity bill which should now be resolved. Surplus funds over the year will be kept in the RRIM account for use towards future maintenance.

17/099 PARISH PLAN:

Parish Plan working party – Cllr Barrington-Johnson reported the following:-

- Following on from the excellent speech by Inspector Mayers at the APM, Cllr Barrington-Johnson will arrange a meeting with him to discuss the particular issues faced by the parish. He said that he hopes to keep communication regular and current with the Inspector.
- Arriva bus services – nothing has been received since the acknowledgement letter from them in January. To be chased up.
- Post Office – response received.
- Southern Trains – no response received. To be chased up.
- KCC – response received.
- Each Committee has 'Parish Plan' as an item on its Agenda which will ensure these items are investigated and kept current.
- The Amenities Committee recommended that an article be published in Langton Life to support the shops in Langton. Langton Life asked for a contribution towards this double-page spread. It was **RESOLVED** by a majority vote to grant £250 towards this article providing it includes the additional two shops in the parish and that the article is offered to the Ashurst, Groombridge and Speldhurst broadsheets for wider publication.

17/100 REQUEST FROM A RESIDENT OF THE BOUNDARY TO PURCHASE LAND: After careful consideration Councillors agreed not to allow any land recently purchased by SPC to be sold.

17/101 LOCAL PLAN: ISSUES AND OPTIONS AND DRAFT LANDSCAPE CHARACTER ASSESSMENT SPD: TWBC Public Consultations: 2nd May-12th June 2017.

Local Plan: Cllr Barrington-Johnson requested to defer this item until June's Full Council meeting in order to give Councillors an opportunity to review the documents. Cllr Mrs Horne said that the Planning Committee would look into a response from SPC and report back with guidance to Full Council.

Call for additional sites: Cllr Mrs Horne said that this will go to TWBC Full Council on 20th July. It was agreed that SPC should abstain from commenting until an option to build had been agreed. Cllr Barrington-Johnson said that SPC needs to consider the feedback from the Parish Plan when compiling its response to TWBC.

17/102 NEW PARISH COUNCIL WEBSITE: The Clerk suggested that a new SPC website was necessary. A new up to date and interactive website would enable SPC to provide much more information to the public. Cllrs Mrs Lyle and Mrs Price volunteered to form a working party with the Clerk to look into the website and report back to the Council in the next few months with ideas.

17/103 CHAFFORD LANE SLUICE – THE WEIR: The Clerk said he had been informed that there was unlikely to be any action taken on the weir for several years. It was therefore agreed to remove this item from the agenda until ABSA contact SPC with further information.

17/104 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT: Cllr Barrington-Johnson said that he was disappointed at the lack of attendees to the APM (approximately 40 including 12 Councillors). It was agreed that a different approach could be tried for the APM – Cllr Mrs Lyle suggested asking local food and drink entrepreneurs to attend with samples of their wares for members of the public to try. Cllr Kerby suggested that the success of Withyham's recent APM may be because it was held at midday on a Saturday which contravenes the guidelines but could encourage more families to come along. Cllr Milner said that the meeting is an ideal opportunity to make residents aware of the work SPC does and the current projects and hopefully encourage them to sign up as volunteers. It was agreed that further consideration would be given to SPC's meeting in October.

17/105 COMMITTEE REPORTS

- a) **Governance** – Cllr Parker reported that there has been no meeting since the last Full Council. A new Internal Auditor has been appointed and his re-appointment will be considered at the next Governance meeting when the Annual Report will be checked and submitted for Full Council approval at the June meeting.
- b) **Planning** – Cllr Mrs Horne reported the following:-
 - A response to the Government's White Paper "Fixing our broken housing market" had been submitted on behalf of SPC.
 - The Planning Committee would be monitoring the TWBC Local Plan and Call for Sites.
 - The Old Dairy on Barden Road has had its planning application granted for three houses. The land is now up for sale.
 - She asked Councillors who attend the Village Society meeting in Langton to feedback any planning issues to the Planning Committee.
- c) **Amenities** – Cllr Mrs Podbury advised that there would be a meeting of the Amenities Committee on Thursday 11th May at 7.30pm.
- d) **Air Traffic** – Cllr Barrington-Johnson said that there was currently nothing to report.
- e) **Footpaths** - Cllr Milner advised that he will be joining the Kent High Weald Project working party mending gates, fences and styles on the TWC footpaths between Southborough and Stockland Green.
- f) **KALC** – Cllr Barrington-Johnson said that there was nothing currently to report.
- g) **Environment Workshop** – Cllr Mrs Price said that the group's policies had been set out at the last meeting and that they were carrying out an audit of the current practices to ascertain if they were consistent with the policies. She welcomed the new website saying that it would enable links to environmental information, local

history, listed building information and possibly a blog by Alan Ford. She asked Councillors for ideas regarding what they want the working party to look into as well as feedback and comments on the new policy. Cllr Milner suggested a strategy regarding fly-tipping as well as signs in the parish. Cllr Mrs Price suggested an audit of street clutter taking into account mobility and appearance of the parish which could then be reported back to TWBC. It was **RESOLVED** to agree the new Environment Policy.

17/106 OTHER MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF 3RD APRIL 2017 – there were none.

17/107 – CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED

1. KALC Parish News – previously circulated to Councillors
2. A “twitter” thank you from WKM for our grant
3. Email 24 April KentCan – Fundraising opportunities from grant-making bodies
4. Email 21 April KentCan – REVAMP Quality mark
5. Email 20 April KentCan advertising a “Stronger Kent Communities” roadshow on Thursday 22nd June
6. TWOFF newsletter
7. Came & Co “Council Matters” Insurance advice
8. HAGS brochure for play equipment
9. KALC email 11 April Channel 4 Best Village 2017
10. Norris & Fisher Insurance Brokers
11. Kent Community Foundation email 10 April Funding Newsletter
12. Email 7 April from groundwork South regarding sheds. An invite to a Shed Open Day on 2nd June
13. Active Places Data Platform Newsletter
14. CPRE Field Work magazine
15. CPRE Countryside Voice magazine
16. Email 5 April from DCC at St Martins thanking SPC for their continued support grants
17. Letter (via email) from All Saints’ Church thanking SPC for maintenance support grant
18. Wicksteed play brochure
19. Email newsletter from High Weald AONB team
20. Letter dated 5th April (received 2nd May) from hospice in the Weald advertising new fund raising events

17/108 – DIARY DATES:

Wednesday 10th – Speedwatch Training Gallery Room 3pm

Thursday 11th – Amenities Committee meeting

Monday 15th – HWCAAG meeting – Leigh VH

Tuesday 16th - Langton Green Village Society AGM 8pm in LGVH main hall

Wednesday 17th – Planning Committee meeting

Wednesday 31st – Governance Meeting – 3pm

17/109 – ITEMS FOR INFORMATION:

- Cllr Kerby suggested possibly having a schedule of committee meetings throughout the year. Cllr Barrington-Johnson said that the existing system allows for more flexibility. Cllr Mrs Horne suggested each committee decide the system that would work best for them.
- Cllr Mrs Price advised that she has retired from the Royal Town Planning Institute and that all her comments are therefore now personal rather than professional.
- Cllr Mercieca said that there has been a spate of inconsiderate parking in Dornden Drive recently. Cllr Barrington-Johnson reminded all Councillors to put the Council fliers onto cars they see parked in an anti-social manner and to take a photo of the car and send it into the Clerk.
- Cllr Milner said that he had experienced irate drivers outside Speldhurst School. He also queried the new fencing and gates that have been erected along Lower Green Road.

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

Chairman