



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

**MINUTES OF THE FULL COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 4TH JUNE 2018 AT 7.30PM
IN ASHURST VILLAGE HALL**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Cllr Barrington-Johnson (Chairman), Milner, Mercieca, Ellery, Mrs Soyke, Mrs Lyle, Mrs Price, Mrs Podbury, Mrs Woodliffe and Allen

OFFICERS PRESENT: Mr C May - Clerk, Mrs K Harman - Assistant Clerk.

IN ATTENDANCE: there were no County or Borough Councillors in attendance.

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC: there was one member of the public present.

18/122 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.

18/123 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: Apologies were received from Cllr Rowe (holiday), Cllr Mrs Jeffreys (prior engagement)
County Cllr McInroy also sent his apologies

18/124 DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS: there were none.

18/125 DECLARATIONS OF LOBBYING: there were none.

18/126 MINUTES: It was **RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the Annual Statutory Meeting on **14th May 2018** be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman, with one amendment suggested by Cllr Mrs Price; on page 5 the word parish be deleted and village inserted.

18/127 BOROUGH AND COUNTY COUNCILLORS' REPORTS:

- a) Cllr Mrs Soyke said that she has not been assigned to the TWBC Planning Committee and is therefore able to remain on the SPC Planning Committee.
- b) Cllr Mrs Podbury reported the following:
 - She has managed to obtain access to Scriventon Farm so that the TWBC Planning members can properly assess the application
 - Groombridge Place are applying for a Certificate of Lawfulness
 - There is to be an article on single-use plastic in the Local magazine however she hoped SPC would do more to raise awareness.

18/128 PUBLIC OPEN SESSION: there was nothing to report.

18/129 FINANCE COMMITTEE: Cllr Mrs Lyle reported the following:

- a) There had not been a meeting of the Finance Committee since the last Full Council meeting.
- b) Virements – there were none.
- c) Interim payments since the last Full Council meeting. From the current account: £138.26 transfer to clear MasterCard account. From MasterCard: £6.00 Bank charges; £15.77* Stihl parts; £12.70* petrol; £26.05* stationery.
- d) Payments made under delegated authority are starred above.
- e) It was **RESOLVED** to grant £1,000 to All Saints Church, Langton Green towards churchyard maintenance.
- f) It was **RESOLVED** to grant £1,000 to St John’s Church, Groombridge towards churchyard maintenance.

18/130 ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT: Invoices verified by Cllr Mrs Price.To authorise the payment of invoices as listed

Payee Name	Reference	Amount	Detail
Katrina Lyle	MT1311	82.90	Expenses – Pavilion keys
Paul Cheater	MT1312	112.00	Pavilion cleaning
BeSure	MT1313	575.40	Alarm inspections
St Martin’s Church, Ashurst	MT1314	1,500.00	Grants various
M R Lawrence	MT1315	320.00	Mowing
M R Lawrence	MT1316	485.00	Maintenance
CWCS	MT1317	11.99	Web hosting
Hadene	MT1318	235.20	New pressure switch
Speldhurst Village Fund	MT1319	331.43	Grant re Fete insurance
Alan Ashby	Chq244	75.00	Recapping stone pillar
West Kent Mediation	MT1322	250.00	Grant
Mr L Cooper	MT1323	22.23	Expenses
C May	MT1324	20.70	Expenses
RIP Cleaning Services	MT1330	216.00	Canine refuse
Speldhurst News	MT1321	14.00	Postage
Kate Harman	MT1320	25.20	Expenses
Langton Green Charitable Trust	MT1331	24.00	Room hire
C May	MT1327	1,843.71	Salary
N.E.S.T. Pension Scheme	MT1328	66.08	Pension contributions
HMRC	MT1329	2,645.86	NI Tax
Kate Harman	MT1325	653.50	Salary
Mr L Cooper	MT1326	630.03	Salary
Total:		£10,140.23	

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

18/131 HIGHWAYS COMMITTEE: In the absence of a Chairman, the Clerk confirmed that there had not been a meeting of the Highways Committee since the last Full Council meeting and reported the following:

- a) The second round of gateways are being installed. It was noted that the Ashurst gateway is mostly covered by vegetation in the verge and not visible. He explained that it is too dangerous for the Groundsman to cut it back and it is not a priority for Highways. The Clerk asked Councillors for feedback about the gateway by the Water Tower in Langton Green as he had already received adverse reports about the the installation. The gateway installed on Etherington Hill in Speldhurst, where the 30mph starts has, according to the landowner, been installed on private land without prior notice or permission.

The Clerk has visited the landowner to resolve the issue and will be bringing it to Highways attention. Cllr Ellery confirmed that the last Speldhurst gateway has been installed on Barden Road.

- b) 20mph in Speldhurst Village is still on course. He reported that he is awaiting an update for Langton Green.

18/132 LANGTON GREEN RECREATION GROUND (LGRG): Cllr Mrs Lyle reported the following: -

- a) Comments had been received that further maintenance is required on the Pavilion (in particular gutter clearing).
- b) There was nothing to report regarding the agreement between SPC and SPC Pavilion Ltd.
- c) A meeting would be held to discuss the drainage report of the recreation ground in due course.
- d) Cllr Mrs Woodliffe said that the LG football fiesta had been extremely successful. The café proprietor had complained about the poor state the pavilion had been left in following the fiesta. LGCSA was to organise a clean-up.
- e) Cllr Mrs Lyle noted that the front door to the Pavilion can no longer be opened from the outside using the key however this is not a bad thing as it ensures users enter by the correct entrance with the alarm pad, which is now in use, and keep this door open until they leave as it is a fire exit.

18/133 PARISH PLAN: The Chairman reported the following:

- Following requests from residents to investigate the provision of tennis courts in Langton Green, the owners of the private court in Little Footway were approached, however it will not be opened for public use. The Chairman said he felt that the matter had now been investigated thoroughly by SPC and unfortunately no suitable facilities were available. It was noted that tennis courts are available in Southborough and Tunbridge Wells.
- No progress had been made regarding reopening the post office in Langton Green. The idea of a visiting post office in the Pavilion had been suggested by a resident however Councillors agreed this was unsuitable. Cllr Mrs Podbury said that residents will have made other arrangements by now. The Chairman will continue to contact the Post Office but it is unlikely the Post Office will agree to open a sub-post office in Langton Green.
- Local businesses reported the lack of available parking in Langton Green which is affecting business, however there is no longer a Parking Officer in TWBC. The Chairman will see what, if any, alternative route is available to pursue this issue with TWBC.
- The Neighbourhood Watch newsletter draft was considered. Councillors noted some minor grammatical and format changes which would be incorporated.

18/134 NEWSLETTERS: Councillors considered the following subjects: New website with sign-up option for future newsletters and news; progress on gateways; new Councillor profiles; air traffic; apology to David Jukes for his misspelt name in the last newsletter; Parish walk (assuming ready before 29th July). The Chairman asked Councillors to let the Clerk have any other articles, including the draft wording, for inclusion.

18/135 BATTLE'S OVER: A NATION'S TRIBUTE: The Chairman said that he and Cllr Millner met to discuss the idea of a beacon tribute. To carry out the tribute properly would need a beacon in each village in the parish which would be expensive, nor was there a suitable site. It was **RESOLVED** take no further action.

18/136 ELECTRIC VEHICLE CHARGING STATIONS: A resident had recently contacted the Clerk requesting facilities be installed in the LG carpark. It had been considered by the Amenities Committee who were concerned the system could be open to exploitation. Cllr Milner asked if SPC could learn from other parishes to avoid this happening. Cllrs Mrs Soyke and Lyle said that during a recent trip to Scotland, they noted facilities were available which required a credit card, however they did not see the facility being used. Councillors were doubtful about the demand for such facilities within the parish and noted that the provision of parking spaces for the school and hall was the priority. The cost of installation was also a concern and that it would be for the benefit of infrequent visitors. Cllr Mercieca said that details of charges were included in the UKPN conference report he produced earlier in the year. Cllr Ellery queried whether more people would buy electric cars if charging facilities are more

widely available and said it is important to consider the environmental impact. It was **RESOLVED** by a majority decision of 8 to 3 to refrain from immediate action or investigation but to revisit the matter if demand increased.

18/137 ASH DIEBACK: The Assistant Clerk explained that a survey had been completed a year ago to identify the Ash trees in the parish which were affected with the disease and the Amenities Committee had considered whether a new survey was required. Treeworks have agreed to carry out a further survey free of charge to establish the extent of the disease in the parish. It was agreed the Clerk would also obtain a quote for a more detailed assessment to be carried out for the Council to consider.

18/138 DOG BINS: The Amenities Committee had referred this matter to Full Council. LGVS would pay for the supply and installation of a bin on Langholm Road, Langton Green and asked SPC if they would consider adding it to the service contract to be emptied. The Clerk confirmed that a dog bin costs £4.50 per week to be emptied, however there was some confusion with regards to whether the request was for a litter bin or dog bin. It was **RESOLVED** that the Chairman and Clerk would decide once the type of bin had been clarified.

18/139 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT: The Chairman said that there is a TWBC Chairmen's meeting next week and that Cllr Milner will attend in his absence. He is attending a KALC course on Employment Law and will report back. He had sent a personal note to Trevor Parker thanking him for his services and noted there is an article on him in Langton Life magazine.

18/140 COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- a) **Governance** – Cllr Milner said that there had not been a meeting of the Governance Committee since the last Full Council meeting.
 - i. It was **RESOLVED** to approve the amendments to the Standing Orders which had been updated to reflect the new GDPR regulations.
- b) **Planning** – Cllr Mrs Price said that she will attend the Planning meeting at TWBC on Wednesday on behalf of SPC to object against the Scriventon Farm application.
- c) **Amenities** – Cllr Mrs Podbury said a meeting had been held on 24th May and there was nothing further to report.
- d) **Air Traffic** – A meeting had been held on 21st May. The Terms of Reference (TOR) of the committee had been amended and Cllr Barrington-Johnson will remain as the Chairman. The meeting agreed to vote to withdraw from the Noise Management Board (NMB) at the HWCAAG AGM because no progress had been made in the past two years. At the AGM a further amendment was proposed to remove the existing chairman and change the TOR. The Chairman said that he had therefore voted for HWCAAG not to withdraw from the NMB and see if the changes were effective. The Tonbridge and Malling MP, Tom Tugendhat said that support among fellow MPs was faltering and it was important to continue to lobby them to generate their support because MPs around Heathrow were still focussed.
- e) **Footpaths** – Cllr Milner said that there are a growing number of old and broken stiles in the parish, particularly in Ashurst. He had spoken to Jonathan Bibby of KCC who confirmed that the current policy is to replace wooden stiles with metal gates which they will supply but not install – this would need to be done by volunteers. Cllr Milner said that the number of footpath volunteers is dwindling, mainly due to age and Cllr Mrs Price suggested putting a request in the newsletter for apprentices for the Footpath Working Group and Cllr Milner volunteered to write it.
- f) **KALC** – the Chairman attended a meeting on 23rd May in Goudhurst. A detailed report of the meeting was circulated prior to the meeting but the Chairman noted the following points.
 - The TW Police Chief Inspector attended who said resources were not available for regular speed checks and he encouraged the use of the Kent Police website to report crimes.
 - Several parishes have embarked on neighbourhood Plans (NDP) and are at various stages of completion (one is finished). He has asked for NDP to be added to an Agenda of a future meeting for debate. He said that the five parishes that are taking the burden of additional housing are coordinating responses to TWBC. He warned that any success will increase pressure on other parishes and this needs to be discussed.

- The September meeting is to be held in Rusthall.
- g) **Website Working Group** – The Clerk said that the website company Hugo Fox has been employed. They have transferred the old website onto their system and it is hoped to have a mock-up of the new website by the July meeting. It was noted that GDPR has slowed progress down.

18/141 OTHER MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF 14th May 2018 – there were none.

18/142 – CLERK'S REPORT: The Clerk reported that the Co-option period would end on Wednesday 6th June. There are currently four candidates. Cllrs Barrington-Johnson, Milner and Mrs Lyle will carry out the interviews.

18/143 DIARY DATES:

Monday 4th	Full Council meeting in Ashurst Village Hall Unaudited Annual Return to be posted
Wednesday 6th	NBJ attending Employment Law course Co-option period ends
Tuesday 12th	Parish Chairman's meeting TWBC 7pm
Wednesday 13th	Planning Meeting
Wednesday 20th	Rude Mechanicals outside play on LGRG
Monday 25th	Environment WG
Wednesday 27th	Finance Meeting
Monday 2nd July	Full Council meeting at Palmer Room, LG Village Hall

All meetings are in the office and start at 7.30pm unless otherwise stated

18/144 ITEMS FOR INFORMATION:

- Cllr Milner noted that no strimming had been done in Pocket Park. The Clerk would investigate. He also enquired about the current situation with planning permission for Bradley's Mill.
- Cllr Mrs Lyle gave an update on the fundraising for the new toilet facilities in Langton Green Primary School. The target was £50,000 and the PTA had raised £36,000 and the school could raise £15,000 from the capital budget, however quotes were coming in at £60,000. Work will be started over the summer.

There being nothing further to discuss the meeting closed at 9.10 pm.

Chairman