



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

**Minutes of the Amenities Committee Meeting**

**held on Monday 30<sup>th</sup> September 2024 at 7.30pm In the Council Offices, Langton Green Recreation Ground (LGRG)**

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**MEMBERS PRESENT**

Cllrs Lyle (Chair), Rowe (Vice-Chair), Leach and Norton

**OFFICERS PRESENT**

Mrs K Harman – Assistant Clerk (AC).

1. **To enquire if anyone present intends to film, photograph and/or record the meeting**  
The Clerk would be recording the meeting for the purpose of accuracy of the minutes. The recording would be deleted once the minutes had been signed off at the next meeting.
2. **To accept and approve apologies and reasons for absence**  
Apologies had been received from Cllr Turner due to a family commitment.
3. **Disclosures of Interest**  
There were none.
4. **Declarations of Lobbying**  
There were none.
5. **Minutes of the Amenities Committee meeting held on 20<sup>th</sup> May 2024**  
**RESOLVED** that the minutes, previously forwarded to Members were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.
6. **Public Open Session**  
There were no members of the public present.
7. **Financial Review**  
The finance sheets were noted.

8. **Proposed/Planned/Planned Non-repeating expenditure of the Amenities Committee**

All committees had been asked by the Finance Committee to consider future expenditure to assist with budgeting. The following items of expenditure were discussed:

- Bollards in the Langton Green Recreation Ground (LGRG) carpark: 20 per year at a cost of approximately £5,500 until all the wooden posts in the carpark had been replaced with steel versions.
- Outer fence around the junior playground: £20K (to include installation) in 2026/27. The AC would speak to the Groundsman about how much longer he thinks the existing fences will last following his recent repairs.
- Carpark bay repainting: The AC was asked to obtain quotes.
- SPC's responsibilities regarding maintenance of the inner fencing between the nursery patio and the junior playground would be considered in more depth at the next committee meeting. The AC was asked to circulate a copy of the lease or licence between the Village Hall Trustees and SPC.
- Cricket net: The AC was asked to investigate if it needs to be periodically checked for safety.
- Playground equipment: This was a much longer-term plan. The maintenance company had advised that the existing equipment could last a further ten years if properly maintained.

9. **Policy for Use of Council Land**

Consideration was given to setting rates for hirers of the Pavilion who wished to extend their booking to include use of the recreation ground or carpark for example for food vans and gazebos. It was **RESOLVED** that each future enquiry would be dealt with on a case-by-case basis and that recent charges made for bookings of this nature would be used as a benchmark.

10. **Parish Council Land**

a) **Langton Green Recreation Ground (LGRG) including carparks and playgrounds**

- The annual playground inspection had been completed in July. The report showed that the facilities were in a good, safe condition with only a few items of low risk which the AC was in the process of resolving with the help of the Groundsman and Capel Groundcare. The exception to this was the rubber matting which would be replaced as soon as the Spring Moon was repaired which it was hoped was imminent.
- The installation of the first steel bollards in the centre of the carpark was complete.
- It was **RESOLVED** to book a playground inspection for July 2025 with The Play Inspection Company at a cost of £176 excluding VAT.
- Playground Risk Assessment: Cllr Leach had carried out inspections of both Langton Green and Speldhurst recreation grounds and reported no issues as far as she could ascertain. The AC was asked to put a risk assessment for another item on the next meeting agenda.
- Request from Beginners2Runners to hire a section of the carpark: After much discussion, it was **RESOLVED** that the request should regretfully be declined. Members felt it important to support initiatives that encouraged physical exercise within the parish however concerns were raised regarding primarily health and safety matters and strain on parking resources at the beginning of the school day.
- Flooding of the LGRG behind the pavilion: The groundsman had alerted the AC to flooding by the teenage play equipment which, on further investigation, appeared to be coming from a drain at the front of 10 Winstone Scott Avenue which had been diverted onto the LGRG. It was believed the drain was on land belonging to Town and Country Housing and the AC had written to them asking for the

issue to be resolved with the drain unblocked and the diversion removed. She would chase them for a response.

b) **The Green at Langton Green**

There was nothing to report.

c) **The Boundary at Langton Green**

The AC had received an email from the daughter of residents of The Boundary near to the pond explaining that it was in poor condition and required maintenance. This had historically been carried out by the residents, but many were now of more advanced years and unable to continue. Cllr Lyle offered to speak to members of the Langton Green Village Society to see if a working party could be organised to clean it up. If this was not possible, it would be necessary to investigate getting the works done professionally. The AC would ask the groundsman to check the pond overflow was not blocked.

d) **The Green at Groombridge**

- Trevor Myles was progressing with the refurbishment of the benches.
- The Clerk was in the process of chasing insurers to pay for the SID post which had been knocked down by a motorist.

e) **Pocket Parks at Speldhurst**

Cllr Turner, Chair of the Environment Working Group (EWG) had provided an update on planned works in Pocket Park. It was **RESOLVED** that the EWG should proceed with the following works at Pocket Park which were all fully funded by grants or a donation. It was noted that the Rowan bush would be donated by a resident of Roopers and that the Governance Committee should be advised in order to remain transparent.

- The planting of 3 Crab Apple and 1 Rowan bushes as well as 1 cherry tree.
- The clearing of brambles from the rear section to enable the planting of wildflower seeds.
- The removal of various laurels, as detailed by the EWG.
- To replant the hedge including any necessary preparatory works.

12. **Items for Information**

- Disabled parking notice: The AC advised that complaints had been received from disabled motorists that they are occasionally unable to park in the carpark because non-blue badge holders were parking in the disabled bays. Leaflets had been printed by the clerks asking offending motorists to move their vehicles.
- It was noted that the redundant festoon lights previously used to light up the Green in Groombridge at Christmas would be sold and the proceeds given to either the Crown pub as reimbursement for the electricity used for the lights or to Trevor Myles towards refurbishment costs for the benches.
- The LG Village Hall Trustees had agreed to reimburse SPC for repairs to fencing around the nursery patio of the village hall which had been carried out by the groundsman.

There being nothing further to discuss, the meeting finished at 8.42 pm.

**Chairman**