



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

**MINUTES OF THE FULL COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 1<sup>ST</sup> JULY 2019 AT 7.30PM IN THE GALLERY ROOM,  
LANGTON GREEN VILLAGE HALL**

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**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Cllrs Barrington-Johnson (Chairman), Mrs Soyke, Mrs Podbury, Mrs Price, Mrs Woodliffe, Milner, Ellery, Pate, Round and Turner

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

**IN ATTENDANCE** County Cllr McInroy, Borough Cllr Stanyer and Borough Cllr Mrs Willis (7.47pm)

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

**19/130 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.

**19/131 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:** Apologies had been received from Cllr Mrs Lyle (illness), Cllr Rowe (family commitments) and Cllr Scarbrough (work commitment)

**19/132 DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS:** Cllr Pate is a member of the Valley Conservation Society and declared an interest in item 11 on the agenda.

**19/133 DECLARATIONS OF LOBBYING:** Cllrs Mrs Price and Mrs Podbury had both been approached regarding the possible visit from residents of Marchiennes (see Chairman's report).

**19/134 MINUTES:** It was **RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on **3<sup>rd</sup> June 2019** be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman. The Confidential minutes of the meeting regarding TWBC Planning Department's plans were amended to show the correct meeting heading.

**19/135 BOROUGH AND COUNTY COUNCILLORS' REPORTS:** There were no reports

**19/136 PUBLIC OPEN SESSION:** There were three members of the public present. It was agreed that Mr Martin Russell who was representing the Langton Green Cricket Club would speak under item 10 on the agenda – LGRG.

**19/137 FINANCE COMMITTEE:** In the absence of Cllr Mrs Lyle, Vice-Chairman Cllr Ellery reported the following: -  
a) There had not been a meeting of the Finance Committee since the last full council meeting – the next meeting was scheduled for Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> July 2019.

- b) **Budget virements:** There were none.
- c) **Interim payments made since the last meeting:** Interim payments since the last Council meeting: Unity bank current account: transfer to Mastercard £1,000.05 Mastercard: £9.00 charges; £8.95 badge\*; £44.58 Pavilion toilet roll\*; £14.99 laptop mouse\* and £12.89 Petrol\*.
- d) **Payments made under delegated authority** are starred above.
- e) **Bicycle Mill Roundabout Replacement:** After much discussion it was **RESOLVED** that the bicycle mill roundabout in the LG playground would be replaced with a similar item up to a maximum value of £11,758. The Assistant Clerk was to obtain two further quotes for its replacement and the expenditure would be agreed at the next appropriate meeting.
- f) **Pavilion redecoration:** Three quotations had been received from decorators and it was **RESOLVED** that the redecoration of the Pavilion be carried out. **RESOLVED** that Mr Alex Cooper be asked as first choice based on his quote and availability.

Mr Russell queried the cricket wicket subscriptions being paid whilst the recreation ground was out of action. The Clerk advised him that SPC had not received any money from the cricket club since the Pavilion had been built and that he should check with LGCSA.

**19/138 ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT:** Invoices verified by Cllr Mrs Podbury

To authorise the payment of invoices as listed

Payee Name	Reference	Amount £	Detail
BT PLC	DD	9.60	Mobile
Barge Group Ltd	MT1585	2,071.20	Repairs to Playground equipment
LGCT	MT1586	21.25	Meeting rooms
MR Lawrence	MT1587	640.00	Mowing and Strimming
Speldhurst VH	MT1588	68.90	Meeting rooms
Commercial Services Trading	MT1589	1,320.23	LGRG Maintenance
Commercial Services Trading	MT1590	618.85	Groombridge Green Maintenance
GeoXphere Ltd	MT1591	240.00	Annual Mapping
Langton Life	MT1592	250.00	Magazine article
Zurich Municipal	MT1593	2,125.60	Annual Insurance
The Living Forest Ltd	MT1599	8,262.00	Tree maintenance
Mr L Cooper	MT1600	23.49	Expenses
Paul Cheater	MT1601	122.99	Pavilion Cleaning
C Barrett	MT1602	21.60	Expenses
N.E.S.T. Pension	MT1598	150.97	Pension Contributions
C Barrett	MT1594	406.90	Salary
L Cooper	Mt1595	961.08	Salary
K Harman	MT1596	749.67	Salary
C May	MT1597	1,567.07	Salary
KCC (KCS)	DD	151.19	Photocopier

**Total: 19,781.60**

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

**19/139 LANGTON GREEN RECREATION GROUND (LGRG):**

Cllr Mrs Woodliffe reported as a member of the Pavilion Management Committee the following:

- Residents felt that they were not given enough notice before the pesticides were sprayed.
- The Cricket Club had agreed the new wicket which was to be installed by Agrifactors.

- Timeline: the fencing would be installed on the 22<sup>nd</sup>/23<sup>rd</sup> June with the groundworks commencing on the 24<sup>th</sup> July once the LG primary school had broken up for the summer holidays. The aim was to get the grass seed sewn ready for the autumn growing season with the hope the pitch would be useable by early next year.
- Cricket fixtures had all been successfully relocated and next season's games would be organised away for the first half of the season.
- Parking is proving to be a serious issue. SPC's grant would be withheld until a traffic plan had been agreed. Cllr Mrs Woodliffe would work with LGCSA to resolve this issue as a matter of urgency. Cllr Pate advised that community event organisers are available to offer advice on such matters and that he would share his contacts with Cllr Mrs Woodliffe. He also said that it was important to treat the issue not just regarding the nuisance it creates but also to consider the health and safety implications.
- Mr Russell enquired about the on-going maintenance costs and Cllr Mrs Woodliffe advised that LGCSA had been looking at quotes of circa £25K pa. This matter would be investigated further and confirmed.

**19/140 VALLEY CONSERVATION SOCIETY** – Cllr Pate introduced Mr Eric Maude from the Valley Conservation Society and said he had been a member since the end of last summer 2018. Mr Maude explained that the Society came about when some concerned locals were alarmed with the TWBC Call for Sites and in particular the pastoral field labelled 346 including the Scriventon Farm area. He said the Society was fully funded and constituted and was formed to protect the integrity of the valley. He said that they were not anti-development and were prepared to work with developers. He said they had engaged lawyers and consultants and several proposals had been objected to successfully. They wish to work with developers to ensure the valley is not open to inappropriate development.

The appeal for the development of Scriventon Farm had been rejected. Cllr Pate said he was grateful for the huge synergy from colleagues on the SPC Planning Committee and Cllr Mrs Price noted that a Planning Committee decision against an Officer's recommendation was quite difficult to obtain. She went on to say that Cllr Mrs Podbury had also been key in the rejection of the appeal. The Chairman thanked Mr Maude for giving up his evening to talk to Councillors about the Society and thanked Cllr Pate for organising the talk.

**19/141 NEWSLETTER** – The draft copy of the newsletter was approved by Councillors (minor change re Cllr Milner) and it was **RESOLVED** that the summer newsletter be printed.

**19/142 TWBC LOVE WHERE WE LIVE AWARDS** – After careful consideration and discussion it was **RESOLVED** not to make a nomination for 2019.

**19/143 TWBC PLANNING DEPARTMENT'S PLANS** – The Chairman declared this item as confidential to be discussed after the meeting was closed.

**19/144 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT** –

- A letter had been received from residents of Marchiennes, a village near the Belgium border regarding twinning activity, instigated about 20 years ago, which was focused principally on the schools and walking groups and has involved school exchanges. The Chairman said that they would like to revive the twinning but said that both Speldhurst and Langton Green Primary Schools felt unable to participate in exchanges at the present time. It was agreed that the Chairman write to them informing them that the Parish Council was not able to take it further. It was noted that some residents of Marchiennes were visiting Speldhurst in September on a private visit.
- The Chairman had visited, along with the Clerk, both primary schools in the parish and there were no major matters raised.
- The Jubilee Awards for Olympic Spirit were currently being engraved and would be presented to the worthy recipients in the last week of school terms.
- The Chairman had attended the Parish Chairmen's Group meeting and would circulate his meeting notes.

**19/145 COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

- a) **Governance** – There was nothing to report.
- b) **Planning** – Cllr Mrs Price said that a meeting of the Planning Committee had taken place on 19<sup>th</sup> June and that there was a new item on the agenda 'Compliance'. The Committee wanted to be more proactive in raising compliance issues with the Borough Council and asked councillors to be vigilant and identify anything inappropriate to them.
- c) **Highways** - A meeting had been held on Monday 10<sup>th</sup> June when Cllr Pate took over as the new Chairman. The submission for the pot-hole blitz was discussed and sent. Cllr Pate was working on some good news stories. He noted that the list of consultants supplied by KCC was out-of-date but he was obtaining a quote for consultation advice for Groombridge Hill.
- d) **Amenities** - A meeting was held on Friday 7<sup>th</sup> June when many issues were discussed which were being actioned.
- e) **Air Traffic** - The Chairman reported that SPC had delegated to the Air Traffic Committee the responsibility to respond to Aviation 2050 consultation and the response had been submitted. Gatwick had made it increasingly difficult for members of public to report aircraft noise. The easiest and best way for residents to complain was via Greg Clark MP. A note to this end was included in the newsletter.
- f) **Footpaths** – Cllr Milner reported. It had been noted that residents were taking more care of overgrown vegetation themselves. He was hoping to have another day with the Groundsman to carry out repairs to stiles and a request for more volunteers had gone out via the website. Cllr Mrs Podbury said that volunteers from Rusthall were available to get involved.
- g) **Environment Working Group** - A meeting was held on Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> June. Cllr Mrs Price said the group is reinvigorated with the addition of Cllr Turner, Cllr Scarbrough and Mrs Jenny Cooper. They had started to investigate the practises SPC uses to manage its land in the hope of making it more environmentally friendly and had visited Pocket Park in Speldhurst. A report would be submitted to Full Council which would suggest tweaks it could make to become more bio diverse. Cllr Milner said that a resident was offering two benches which he would discuss with Cllr Mrs Price. The last of the Village Walks would be on Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> July at 3pm around Langton Green. They were looking for someone with good local knowledge to talk about the history, ecology and landscape and Cllr Barrington-Johnson said he would approach a resident he felt appropriate.
- h) **KALC** – there was nothing to report.

**19/144 OTHER MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF 3<sup>RD</sup> JUNE 2019:** there were none.

**19/145 CLERK'S REPORT:** there was nothing to report.

**19/146 DIARY DATES:**

**Monday 1<sup>st</sup> July** – Full Council meeting – Gallery Room, Langton Green Village Hall

**Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> July** – Langton Green Village Fete

**Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> July** – Planning Committee Meeting

**Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> July** – Finance Committee Meeting

**Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> July** – Clerks Lunch (12pm Matfield)

**19/147 ITEMS FOR INFORMATION:**

- Cllr Turner said he and Cllr Barrington-Johnson had held a meeting with the proprietor of the Pavilion café. Cllr Barrington-Johnson explained that she was running at a loss which was being exacerbated since the spraying of the recreation ground. She had lost her entire custom and is in a completely unviable position. It had been agreed that she would keep the café open for the following week however if custom did not improve, she would shut for the rest of July and August with the hope of starting afresh in the Autumn. The rent for July will be discussed at the Finance Meeting and Cllrs Turner and Barrington-Johnson would sit down with her to try and work out solutions.
- Cllr Milner advised that the Village Society were looking at mending or removing benches around the parish.

There being no further matters for discussion the meeting closed at 9.18pm

Chairman