



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

**MINUTES OF THE FULL COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY, 2ND NOVEMBER 2015 at 7.30pm
IN ASHURST VILLAGE HALL**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Cllrs Barrington-Johnson (Chairman), Mrs Horne, Mrs Lyle, Mrs Podbury, Mrs Soyke, Allen (arrived 7.36pm), Mercieca, Milner, Parker, Turner and Woodward

IN ATTENDANCE: County Councillor John Davies and Borough Councillor Julian Stanyer

OFFICERS PRESENT: Mr C May – Clerk and Mrs M Flemington – Assistant Clerk

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

15/240 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.

15/241 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: Cllrs Mrs Hull, Mrs Jeffreys (prior engagement) and Borough Cllr David Jukes

15/242 DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS: Cllr Barrington-Johnson disclosed an interest in minute item 15/253a). He is a member of the Langton Green Village Society (LGVS) Committee. Cllr Mrs Lyle declared an interest in minute item 15/248e). She is a Governor of Langton Green Primary School. Cllrs Mrs Soyke and Mrs Podbury declared and interest in minute item 15/247. They are both on the Tunbridge Wells Borough Council Planning Committee.

15/243 DECLARATIONS OF LOBBYING: There were none.

15/244 MINUTES: It was **RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on **5th October 2015** be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman. It was **RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the Open Meeting held on **12th October 2015** be deferred for approval and signing at the Full Council Meeting on 7th December.

15/245 BOROUGH AND COUNTY COUNCILLORS REPORTS:

Cllr John Davies said that the KCC budget consultation is in progress and they are looking at having to make £80 million savings having already reduced expenditure by £400 million over recent years.

Cllr Julian Stanyer had nothing to report.

Cllr Mrs Soyke said there are some exciting proposals for the centre of Tunbridge Wells.

15/246 PUBLIC OPEN SESSION: Two of the members of the public spoke in connection with the Salomons Centre planning application.

Cllrs Mrs Soyke and Podbury left the meeting for the duration of the discussion and decision

15/247 PLANNING APPLICATION: 13/03531/FULL

Location: Salomons Centre, David Salomons Estate, Broomhill Road, Southborough, Tunbridge Wells, TN3 0TG

Proposal: Erection of hotel building in the Walled Garden, including demolition of two existing buildings and creation of new car park

After discussion it was **RESOLVED** to make the following recommendation and comment to TWBC:

Decision: Remain neutral – leave to Planning Officer

Comments:

It has been difficult to formulate a considered response because we were not consulted on this additional information until very recently.

Concern that the site is within an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and the Metropolitan Green Belt and outside the limits to build, and this proposal would be in contravention of the national and local planning policies. The roads accessing this very rural site are narrow country lanes with numerous pinch points. The visibility splays at the exit are a considerable danger for other road users, pedestrians, horses etc. Concern about the number of large vehicles, which cannot safely pass through these lanes, which will be required during construction and on an ongoing basis for events. This together with visitors' vehicles will be far in excess of the number of parking spaces which have been allocated. All of these traffic issues will seriously impact the surrounding villages in the parish. Concern expressed that the parking spaces indicated at Mill Farm would necessitate use of the unauthorised link road, part of which the applicant has been told they must remove. As far as we are aware this has not been done. We also have concerns about adverse environmental impacts:

- Noise
- Light pollution
- Effect on protected wildlife species and overall biodiversity

Cllrs Mrs Soyke and Mrs Podbury re-joined the meeting

15/248 FINANCE COMMITTEE – Report by Clerk for Cllr Mrs Soyke

- A Committee meeting was held on 19th October and the minutes have been circulated.
- There has been one budget virement; £650 cost saving in connection with CCTV has been transferred back into contingency.
- There have been two interim payments since the last meeting; £10.87 for petrol and £7.25 for postage – both on the ALTO card.
- The above payments were authorised under the Clerk's delegated authority.
- Langton Green Primary School grant request for security fencing: This had been considered by the Finance Committee and it was their recommendation that this grant request be agreed. Cllr Turner considered that a grant towards the cost was sufficient. After discussion it was **RESOLVED** by a majority vote of 9-1 to grant £5,539.68 to Langton Green Primary School to cover the total cost of fencing. Cllr Mrs Lyle took no part in the discussion and abstained from the vote. Funding would come from the contingency account and be paid under s137.
- It was **RESOLVED** to spend up to £733 on Christmas lights for Groombridge Green which will be put up and taken down by Old Groombridge Community Group. Speldhurst Parish Council will cover the cost of the necessary electrician's certificate.
- It was **RESOLVED** to grant £100 to The Mayor's Christmas Toy Appeal.
- The Clerk clarified the main points of the Finance Committee's decision to recommend an increase of 3.7% to the precept. He said that expenditure could be higher than this percentage but any over-expenditure should come from reserves and be replaced in later years. Cllr Turner suggested that the Council should reduce expenditure in line with County and Borough restrictions. Cllr Mrs Soyke said that it was because of the reduction in County services that more was needed to be available at parish level. After discussion and a vote with 9 in favour, 1 against and 1 abstention it was **RESOLVED** that the precept for 2016-2017 is increased by £5,000 to £137,500.

15/249 ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT – Invoices verified by Cllr Mrs Podbury

<u>Payee Name</u>	<u>Cheque/Ref</u>	<u>Amount Paid</u>	<u>Transaction Detail</u>
<u>Notification of additional payments in October</u>			
Langton Green Charitable Trust	MT653	50.00	Underlease payment
The Green Parrot Studio	MT654	65.61	Balance of grant re case for quilt
BT PLC	DD	33.00	Mobile
<u>Payment made by ALTO pre-paid card</u>			
Sainsbury's	AO75	10.87	*Petrol
Post Office	AO76	7.25	*Postage
<u>To authorise the payment of invoices as listed</u>			
South East Water	DD	79.48	Water bill
Alan D Ashby	203	140.00	Pocket Park wall repair
RBL Poppy Appeal	204	125.00	Remembrance Wreaths
Langton Green Charitable Trust	MT655	16.00	Meeting room hire
Streetlights	MT656	24.24	Street light contract
Langton Life	MT657	250.00	Langton Life magazine
Langton Green Charitable Trust	MT658	82.00	Office electricity
Treework	MT659	456.00	LGRG tree cutting
Premiere Digital	MT660	180.00	Open Meeting boards
KALC	MT661	9.20	Publications
M R Lawrence	MT662	865.00	Mowing strimming hedge cutting
Viking Direct	MT663	305.68	Stationery
SLCC	MT664	118.00	SLCC membership 12613
SLCC	MT665	187.00	SLCC membership 11976
Mr L Cooper	MT670	404.00	Groundsman's duties
Sunstone IP Systems Ltd	MT671	3,630.00	50% CCTV
Prestige Web Marketing	MT672	180.00	Website hosting cost
RIP Cleaning Services	MT673	216.00	Canine refuse collection
Tunbridge Wells Borough Council	DD	56.00	Non-domestic rates
C May	MT666	1,467.20	Salary
C May	MT667	45.90	Expenses
M Flemington	MT668	700.48	Salary
M Flemington	MT669	22.05	Expenses
UK Debt Management Office	DD	3,115.24	PWLB repayment
Total payments		£ 12,674.47	

*Payment made under the Clerk's delegated authority

It was **RESOLVED** to pay the invoices listed above, sign the cheques and authorise the BACS in Unity Trust Bank

15/250 COMMITTEES: It was **RESOLVED** that Cllr Mercieca joins the Planning and Highways Committees.

15/251 HIGHWAYS: There has been no meeting since the last Full Council. The next meeting is on 9th November. Several Councillors and the Clerk attended the quarterly JTB meeting which was held on 19th October at which

20mph outside schools was discussed. Cllr Mrs Lyle addressed the meeting Cllr Milner and the Clerk are attending the KCC Highways Conference on 9th November.

15/252 APPOINTMENT OF AN ASSISTANT CLERK: The interview panel consisting of Cllrs Barrington-Johnson, Milner and Mrs Jeffreys interviewed four candidates in total. All four were highly qualified but a decision was made to offer the job to Mrs Kate Plunkett from Speldhurst.

15/253 LANGTON GREEN RECREATION GROUND (LGRG):

- a) It was **RESOLVED** to defer this discussion until the December Full Council meeting.

15/254 TRANSFER OF LAND FROM TWBC: The Clerk reported that the remaining transfer of the land at Ashurst will complete soon.

15/255 DATES FOR FULL COUNCIL AND FINANCE MEETINGS 2016: It was **RESOLVED** to agree to the circulated dates and venues for the 2016 meetings – these are listed as an addendum to the minutes.

15/256 ASHURST MCDERMOTT HALL TRUST: It was **RESOLVED** that Cllr Mrs Soyke is re-appointed as Speldhurst Parish Council representative on the Management Committee of the Ashurst McDermott Hall Trust.

15/257 KALC COMMUNITY AWARDS SCHEME: It was **RESOLVED** to participate in the 2016 Awards Scheme and the Clerk asked for nominations prior to the next Full Council meeting.

15/258 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT: The Chairman reported briefly on the open meeting held on 12th October. There would be a change of venue next year with the AGM and Open Meeting switching between LGVH and SPVH. The format may be considered ahead of next year's Open Meeting.

15/259 COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- a) **Governance** – there had been no meeting since the last Full Council. The next meeting is on 26th November.
- b) **Planning** – a meeting was held on 26th October and the minutes have been circulated. The next meeting is on 23rd November.
- c) **Amenities** – there had been no meeting since the last Full Council. The next meeting is on 30th November.
- d) **Air Traffic** – there had been no meeting since the last Full Council. Cllr Mrs Soyke said that she is cautiously optimistic about the current independent review of westerly arrival flight paths, and Gatwick Airport Ltd.'s communication strategy, being carried out by Bo Redeborn and Graham Lake.
- e) **Footpaths** – Cllr Milner reported that there are several ongoing repair jobs. There is an issue with bonfires at Peacocks Farm and with parking at the entrance to the Shadwell Wood bridleway from Lower Green Road. The hedge cuttings left in the footpath by Ryders by a resident have now been removed.
- f) **Kent Association of Local Councils (KALC)** – There was nothing to report.
- g) **Parish Plan Working Group** – a working group meeting was held on 21st October and the meeting notes have been circulated. The questionnaires are currently being delivered throughout the Parish.
- h) **Environment Working Group** – Cllr Mrs Hull had submitted a report on her response to the TWBC cycle consultation. There was no consensus view from the Council and Councillors were encouraged to submit their views online as individuals.

15/260 OTHER MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF 5TH OCTOBER 2015: There were none.

15/261 CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED:

1. CPRE Kent Voice magazine Autumn/Winter 2015
2. Unity Trust Bank Newsletter Autumn 2015
3. Letter dated 29th September from the Local Government Boundary Commission for England with details of a further limited consultation for Sevenoaks as part of the electoral review of Kent

4. Letter dated 7th October from KALC with details of the AGM on Saturday 21st November at Ditton Community Centre
5. Letter dated 9th October from ACRK with details of the AGM on Tuesday 10th November at Barham Village Hall and Elections to the Trustee Board
6. Letter dated 12th October from Victim Support thanking SPC for the grant
7. Letter dated 13th October from KCC Highways regarding the trees at LGRG overhanging Speldhurst Road (cut back by Treework on 10th October)
8. Email dated 15th October from KALC regarding KCC consultation on the draft budget 2016/2017
9. Email dated 25th October from Speldhurst Village Hall advising the new email address speldhurstvillagehall@gmail.com and new website for bookings www.speldhurstvillagehall.co.uk

15/262 DIARY DATES:

Monday 2nd November – Full Council meeting – Ashurst Village Hall

Tuesday 3rd November – Annual Parish Meeting discussion meeting – Office – **11am**

Wednesday 4th November – Police Contact Point – St Mary’s Lane, Speldhurst – **12-1pm**

Friday 6th November – Internal Audit – Office – **1.30pm**

Monday 9th November – KCC Highways Seminar – **9am–1pm** – Clerk and Cllr Milner attending

Monday 9th November – Highways meeting – Ellis Room, LGVH

Monday 16th November – Cllr Milner and Clerk to meet OGC to discuss Highways Issues

Wednesday 18th November – Police Contact Point – St Mary’s Lane, Speldhurst – **12-1pm**

Monday 23rd November – Planning meeting – Office

Tuesday 24th November – Parish Chairmen’s meeting – TWBC – **7pm**

Thursday 26th November – Governance meeting - Office

Monday 30th November – Amenities meeting – Office

Wednesday 2nd December – Police Contact Point – St Mary’s Lane, Speldhurst – **12-1pm**

Monday 7th December – Full Council meeting – Ellis Room, LGVH – 7pm followed by Christmas drinks

15/263 ITEMS FOR INFORMATION:

Cllr Mrs Soyke reported that a meeting is being held on 12th November to discuss TWBC disaggregation from Mid Kent Planning Support.

Cllr Woodward reported that TWBC are discussing parish enabling reserves.

Cllr Milner reported that the Speldhurst volunteers are holding a working party at Speldhurst School on 28th November.

The Clerk advised that the Full Council meeting on 7th December at Langton Green Village Hall will start at 7pm and there will be drinks afterwards at the George and Dragon, Speldhurst.

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

Chairman

MEETINGS OF THE PARISH COUNCIL – 2016

January 4 th	Ashurst Village Hall – Main Hall
February 1 st	LGVH – Ellis Room
March 7 th	Speldhurst Village Hall Committee Room
April 4 th	Ashurst Village Hall – Main Hall
April 25 th	ANNUAL PARISH MEETING – Speldhurst Village Hall – Main Hall and Committee room – 7.30 for 8pm
May 9 th	ANNUAL STATUTORY MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL – LGVH – Ellis Room
June 6 th	Ashurst Village Hall – Main Hall
July 4 th	LGVH – Ellis Room
August 1 st	Speldhurst Village Hall – Committee Room
September 5 th	Ashurst Village Hall – Main Hall
October 3 rd	LGVH – Ellis Room
October 10 th	AUTUMN OPEN MEETING – LGVH – Main Hall - 7.30pm for 8pm
November 7 th	Speldhurst Village Hall Committee Room
December 5 th	LGVH – Ellis Room – 7pm

All meetings start at 7.30pm unless otherwise stated.

MEETINGS OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE - 2016

January	Monday 18 th			
March	Monday 21 st			
June	Monday 20 th			
September	Monday 26 th			
October	Monday 17 th			
November	Monday 14 th	or	December	Monday 12 th

All meetings will be held in the Parish Office and start at 7.30pm unless otherwise stated.

Finance meetings will also be called on an ad hoc basis when they are deemed necessary

Committee			Committee	
Finance			Planning	
Julia Soyke			Joanna Horne	
Rupert Milner			David Turner	
Joy Podbury			Rosemary Hull	
Joanna Horne			Harry Allen	
Lynn Jeffreys			Lynn Jeffreys	
Trevor Parker			Katrina Lyle	
Katrina Lyle			George Mercieca	
Amenities			Highways	
Rosemary Hull			David Turner	
Joy Podbury			Rupert Milner	
Harry Allen			Joanna Horne	
David Turner			Harry Allen	
Lynn Jeffreys			Katrina Lyle	
Julia Soyke			George Mercieca	
			Plus 4 MoP	
Governance			Air Traffic	
Trevor Parker			Neil Barrington-Johnson	
Lynn Jeffreys			Julia Soyke	
Rupert Milner			Joy Podbury	
Neil Barrington-Johnson			Rosemary Hull	
Julia Soyke			Plus 2 MoP	
Working Group			Working Group	
Environment			Parish Plan	
Rosemary Hull			David Turner	
Joy Podbury			Harry Allen	
Plus 2 MoP			Joy Podbury	
			Chris Woodward	
			Plus 8 MoP	
APM			First World War	
Julia Soyke			Joanna Horne	
Rupert Milner			Rupert Milner	
Trevor Parker			Plus 1 MoP	

¹ The Chairman and Vice-Chairman are ex-officio members of **all** committees and can attend any meeting in a voting capacity

