



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

**MINUTES OF THE FULL COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 6th AUGUST 2018 AT 7.30PM
IN THE COMMITTEE ROOM, SPELDHURST VILLAGE HALL**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Cllr Barrington-Johnson (Chairman), Milner, Mrs Soyke, Mrs Jeffreys, Mrs Price, Mrs Lyle, Mrs Podbury, Mrs Woodliffe, Ellery, Allen (left 9.39) and Rowe

OFFICERS PRESENT: Mr C May - Clerk

IN ATTENDANCE: Borough Councillor Julian Stanyer was in attendance (left 9.30)

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

18/167 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.

18/168 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: Apologies were received from Cllr Pate (prior engagement) and Cllr Mercieca (illness)
Borough Councillor David Jukes also sent his apologies.

18/169 DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS: there were none

18/170 DECLARATIONS OF LOBBYING: there were none.

18/171 MINUTES: It was **RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the Full Council Meeting on **2nd July 2018** be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman with a minor amendment changing wording on page 4 under 18/162b) Planning: "planning application" was changed to "enforcement order".
Marianne Buckley clarified that the showers in the Langton Green Village Hall had been cut off.

18/172 BOROUGH AND COUNTY COUNCILLORS' REPORTS: Cllr Stanyer said that he was Chairman of the JTB this year and two items from this Parish would be on the next agenda: Groombridge Hill and Penshurst Road where there is pressure to reduce the speeds on both roads. The next meeting will be held on 15th October.
Cllr Mrs Podbury is having a telephone conference with the Head of Packaging and Head of Publicity of Sainsbury's to discuss reducing plastic in packaging. She was disappointed that TWBC is not doing more inhouse and that the new recycling contract does not do more to encourage plastic recycling.

18/173 PUBLIC OPEN SESSION: Marianne Buckley highlighted the need for plastic recycling at the Recreation Ground as hall users were putting it in general waste. The Clerk will contact TWBC to see if a facility can be installed. He will also ask about the re-instatement of a cardboard facility.

Mrs Buckley also said that Angela Moss was willing to take over her role as Trustee for the Parish Council, should the Council agree.

Lynsay Bischoff was there to represent a community group which had been formed to keep the local Speldhurst shop and post office open. She said they had had an initial meeting with the owner who has put the freehold up for sale but has had no interest from a buyer. She said that an online survey had been sent out to an initial 90 people and have had 69 responses of which 95% had said that the shop was important or very important to them. Thirteen were willing to serve with 23 volunteering for other duties.

A meeting was held with the shop owner and the financials were discussed. One possible direction was for her to lease the shop back with an upfront payment of £65,000 and £12,000pa for the lease. There was also a salary for a manager to be considered. She said that the shop will close in October/November and the post office licence would be more difficult to retain if the shop closed.

She asked if this was something the Parish Council would support because the community group would probably be approaching the Council for a grant.

Cllr Mrs Soyke asked how many households there were in the village (about 500) and suggested that the whole village should be included in the survey which would strengthen their case when requesting help and advice.

Cllr Milner asked if any of the volunteers were trained to manage a post office and Lynsay Bischoff replied that a small number had been trained.

Cllr Mrs Podbury suggested approaching Action for Communities in Rural Kent (ACRK) for advice and the Clerk said he had already been in contact with them.

Overall Councillors said they supported the work that the community group was doing to keep the shop going and would consider a grant when more information was available.

Mrs Bischoff then left the meeting.

18/174 FINANCE COMMITTEE: Cllr Mrs Lyle reported the following:

- a) There had been no meeting of the Finance Committee since the last Full Council meeting in July
- b) Virements: The Clerk reported that the transfer of £3,000 from the Contingency Account to cover the grant to Langton Green Primary School had been made.
- c) Interim payments since the last Full Council meeting: From the current account: £105.66 pavilion water bill; £1,974.00 a cheque for the installation of 20mph advisory in LG; £474.00 legionella's report for pavilion; £91.08 waste collection (pavilion) and £30 mobile
From MasterCard: £6.00 monthly fee; £48.92* miscellaneous maintenance; £71.82* toilet rolls (pavilion); £139.70 key safe (pavilion); £82.20 annual school awards; £14.00* black sacks; £7.84* miscellaneous maintenance; £12.23* petrol; £6.00* Land Registry enquiry; £21.45* badge and keys cut and £63.06* repair to Stihl hedgecutter combi tool and spark plugs
- d) Payments made under delegated authority are starred above.
- e) **RESOLVED** to approve the cleaning, repairs and new inscriptions on the Langton Green War Memorial at a total cost of £3,553.63 plus VAT
- f) **RESOLVED** to accept the Amenities Committee recommendation to fell a tree and re-instate at The Boundary at a cost of £700.00

18/175 ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT: Invoices verified by Cllr Rowe.

To authorise the payment of invoices as listed

Payee Name	Reference	Amount	Detail
ICO	DD	35.00	Annual Registration
David Bucket	MT1358	394.35	Internal Audit
Dave's Computer Repairs	MT1359	45.00	Anti-virus software
Paul Cheater	MT1360	112.00	Pavilion cleaning June

Paul Cheater	MT1361	112.00	Pavilion cleaning July
LCPAS	MT1362	150.00	DPO annual fee
M R Lawrence	MT1363	320.00	Mowing LG & Speldhurst
Sac-O-Mat	MT1364	488.83	Canine refuse bags
LGCT	MT1365	486.85	Office electricity
K.O. Print	MT1366	550.00	News & Security letter
CWCS	MT1367	11.99	Web hosting
Treework	MT1368	336.00	Cut back vegetation
Comm Services Trading	MT1369	976.09	6 mths maintenance Groombridge
Comm Services Trading	MT1370	1773.08	6 mths maintenance LG
Comm Services Trading	MT1371	785.48	Verti drain 2 pitches
Viking Direct	MT1372	194.02	Stationery & postage
RBS Software	MT1373	142.80	Annual bookkeeping maintenance
RIP Cleaning Services	MT1374	172.80	Canine Refuse Collection
Langton Green Primary School	MT1382	8,000.00	Grant re refurb toilets
Kate Harman	MT1375	18.00	Expenses
C May	MT1376	27.00	Expenses
Mr L Cooper	MT1377	40.45	Expenses
LGCT	MT1383	65.88	Meeting rooms
C May	MT1378	1,843.71	Salary
Kate Harman	MT1380	653.50	Salary
Mr L Cooper	MT1379	630.03	Salary
N.E.S.T. Pension Scheme	MT1381	66.08	Pension payment

Total: £18,430.94

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

18/176 HIGHWAYS COMMITTEE: Cllr Mrs Podbury said that a meeting had been held on 26th July and the minutes had been circulated. She reported the following:

Cllr Barrington-Johnson had updated the Parish Plan Highways action points but she had not had time to read it. When done so she will circulate to the committee.

She said that KCC Highways had held a consultation on rural transport called “Join The Big Conversation” and Cllr Mrs Soyke and the Clerk had attended. It was a difficult survey to respond to but Cllr Mrs Woodliffe and Cllr Pate had met to review it in more detail. Cllr Mrs Woodliffe said there were 3 options being put forward:

- A feeder service which had a timetable and connected with other services
- A bookable flexible bus service using new technology (Apps)
- A Taxi-bus style service

She said they considered the feeder service could serve the community because it could link up with the Rusthall service for example, but everyone’s needs were different, and it was difficult to respond to on behalf of the council. It was agreed that Councillors should respond individually and that the Clerk should send an email stating that the Council was in favour of the project.

18/177 LANGTON GREEN RECREATION GROUND (LGRG): Cllr Mrs Lyle reported the following: -

- a) She had sent the pavilion finances to LGCSA but had not had any feedback.
- b) LGCSA has been asked to consent to a formal amendment to the sub-lease to allow a further sublease from SPC to SPC Pavilion Limited, but no substantive feedback has been received. This will be followed up and reported on at the next meeting.
- c) An alternative drainage proposal has been put forward by the expert who carried out the survey. A meeting will be held to understand the proposal more fully. Cllr Mrs Podbury and Cllr Mrs Woodliffe had both heard positive feedback about the extensive use of sand.

- d) LGCT has been approached to hold a “Christmas Market” in November on a Saturday which could be good income for the hall but they have concerns that the parking situation will inevitably mean that bookings such as this cannot be held.

Councillors asked if it could be held on a Sunday and the Clerk will enquire. If not Cllr Mrs Woodliffe will ask LGCSA if the club would consider training elsewhere that day to enable the booking to be held.

18/178 PARISH PLAN: The Chairman reported that the pavilion was considered an inappropriate venue for the pop-up post office and the Church hall was now being considered.

18/179 ENVIRONMENT WORKING GROUP: Cllr Mrs Price reported that the inclement weather had reduced numbers on the Burrswood walk, held on 29th July, to 18. This was still considered a good turn-out. She said the next walk will be late October/early November.

18/180 TWBC CONSULTATION ON LOCAL GREEN SPACES: The Chairman thanked Cllr Mrs Price for the considerable amount of work she had put in the document on behalf of the Council. There was much discussion and it was suggested that stronger responses were required for 269 and 272 pointing out that the area is not a formally designated Village Green. Cllr Rowe asked if the land at The Boundary should be included, especially as we are being asked by residents if they can build on it. It was agreed to add the two main tracts of land in The Boundary and the sports field at Ashurst.

18/181 SPELDHURST POST OFFICE AND VILLAGE SHOP: There was further discussion on the subject. Cllr Barrington-Johnson said it was right that this was a community-led project and the Council understand what sort of support is required when the group reports.

Cllr Ellery said that in his opinion the Parish Council should take the lead in the project and he believed this is exactly what a Parish Council is for: to support projects such as this and form a working group to work with the Community Group.

Cllr Mrs Soyke said in Ashurst they were urged to have a village shop (with post office facilities) in the hall but in retrospect she was glad they did not owing to the big increase in online supermarket shopping.

Cllr Mrs Lyle said she understood how critical the shop and post office is but would not advise SPC taking the management role with the associated liability, given her experience with the Pavilion – this should be community led, with SPC supporting where it was able to within its expertise and resources.

The Clerk said he would try and arrange a meeting at the end of the month with ACRK and it will be held in the office with minutes taken.

Cllr Mrs Price was in favour of some involvement.

After much discussion the Chairman summed up by saying that he believed all Councillors supported the shop remaining open but, in his opinion, it was right that the community led this.

18/182 SPC TRUSTEE ON LANGTON GREEN VILLAGE HALL: RESOLVED to ask Mrs Angela Moss to be our next Trustee on the Village Hall

18/183 OCTOBER OPEN MEETING: This was deferred until the September meeting

18/184 CHAIRMAN’S REPORT: Cllr Barrington-Johnson said that he was prepared to attend the annual NALC conference and see what relevance it had for SPC. **RESOLVED** that he attend the conference.

He asked Councillors to consider whether this Parish should have a Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP). He said the Council needs to give it serious consideration and that no decision could be taken tonight but that Councillors should think about it for the September meeting. He suggested that the project had to be community led with SPC involved and steering it.

18/185 COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- a) **Governance** – Cllr Milner said that there had not been a meeting of the Governance Committee since the last Full Council meeting and there was nothing to report.

- b) **Planning** – Cllr Mrs Price had nothing to report.
- c) **Amenities** – Cllr Mrs Podbury said that a meeting had been held on 24th July, the minutes having been previously circulated. There was nothing further to report.
- d) **Air Traffic** – There was nothing to report. It was **RESOLVED** to approve the change to the Terms of Reference
- e) **Footpaths** – Cllr Milner thanked the Groundsman for his work clearing the pavement along Speldhurst Road.
- f) **KALC** – There was nothing to report.
- g) **Website Working Group** – The Clerk said that a meeting of the working group is to be arranged.

18/186 OTHER MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF 2nd July 2018 – there were none.

18/187 CLERK'S REPORT: There was nothing to report.

18/188 DIARY DATES:

Thursday 9th – Playground annual inspection

Monday 13th – Planning Meeting

Monday 20th – Finance Meeting

Monday 27th – BANK HOLIDAY

Friday 30th – ACRK meeting (tbc)

Monday 3rd September – Full Council meeting at Ashurst VH

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

18/189 ITEMS FOR INFORMATION:

Cllr Milner asked if there were any other possible parking sites in Langton Green near the school/recreation ground.

Cllr Ellery asked when deer signs would be installed on Barden Road as requested.

There being nothing further to discuss the meeting closed at 9.45 pm.

Chairman