



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

Minutes of an Amenities Committee Meeting held in the Council Office, Langton Green Recreation Ground on Thursday 11th May 2017 at 7.30pm

MEMBERS PRESENT: Cllr Mrs Podbury (Chair), Allen, Kerby, Parker and Turner

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

1. **Election of Chairman** – It was **RESOLVED** to elect Cllr Mrs Podbury as Chairman.
2. **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.
3. **To accept and approve apologies and reasons for absence:** Cllr Mrs Jeffreys (holiday), Cllr Mrs Soyke (prior engagement)
4. **Disclosure of Pecuniary or Non-Pecuniary Interests:** There were none.
5. **Declarations of Lobbying:** Cllr Kerby advised that he had received lobbying from residents of Groombridge regarding the Joy Festival.
6. **Minutes:** **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting held on **27th February 2017** be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.
7. **Public Open Session:** No members of the public were present.
8. **Matters Arising and Correspondence:** There were none.
9. **Boundary Change:** There was nothing to report at this stage
10. **Financial Review:** The Clerk circulated the finance sheets. Cllr Mrs Podbury noted the £1,100 received from the Pavilion café rental and cricket club in the Pavilion income figures.
11. **Parish Plan** – Councillors confirmed that they are continuing to monitor the action plan.
 - Supporting local businesses – it had been agreed at Full Council to ask the editors of Langton Life, Speldhurst magazine and the Ashurst broadsheet to include an article on all the shops in the parish in an attempt to raise residents' awareness and improve business.
 - Broadband – Councillors felt that unfortunately they are unable to assist residents regarding increased broadband speeds in the parish - residents will need to purchase a broadband package from their

supplier which allows them to have the broadband speed that suits their own individual requirements.
Action: The Clerk is to put an article in the village magazines.

12. Parish Council Land

a. Langton Green Recreation Ground (LGRG)

1. Langton Green Village Hall – no issues to discuss.
2. Sports Clubs –
 - Councillors were pleased at the success to date of the pavilion and it was confirmed that any surplus funds will be kept in the RRIM account.
 - Consideration was given to installing a sign directing members of the public to the pavilion and it was decided to monitor the situation for the time being.
3. Play area – The Clerk advised that all works are up to date and that the annual inspection will take place in July.
4. Car Park –
 - Signs on Council land: the Clerk advised that he has not ordered any signs as yet however they will be ordered in time to be put up in the summer. The signs for the walking bus will wait until the scheme is ready to start.
 - The Clerk confirmed that the white lining had not been done during Easter as originally planned. It was agreed to wait until August when the pavilion café and the school are shut.
5. Groundsman – The Clerk confirmed that work on the Pocket Park was now finished. See item 12d) below.
6. Trees – The Clerk confirmed that all tree work is currently up to date.
7. Benches – Cllr Barrington-Johnson had sent an email enquiring about the upkeep of the benches on the Recreation Ground. It was **RESOLVED** to ask the Groundsman to clean the Council bench installed to celebrate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee

b. The Green at Langton Green

- The Clerk confirmed that SPC owns the whole area and not just the grass and Councillors therefore considered it appropriate to put up a sign in an attempt to stop motorists using the private road in front of the cottages. **RESOLVED** to ask Full Council for approval to erect two signs with the SPC logo saying 'Private. Access only' at a cost of £87 + VAT.
- The Clerk said that a number of cars had been parking on the grass outside the cottages. Bearing in mind SPC's duty to protect the grass area which is registered as a Village Green, Councillors decided the situation should be monitored and if the parking persists, residents will be written to.

c. The Green at Groombridge

- Cllr Kerby confirmed that the hospital signs have been removed.
- Joy Festival – Cllr Kerby said that at the recent 'Extreme' event at Groombridge Place there had been several cars parked in front of the houses near the entrance, for the whole weekend – instead of in the car parks provided. Concern is also being raised by residents regarding the noise the Joy Festival will make and how late it will go on into the night. It was agreed that the licence would be checked to see the timings the event organisers have applied for.

d. Pocket Park at Speldhurst – The Clerk advised that he had received a quotation of £500 for a 3 tonne skip to take away all the debris resulting from the clean-up. Cllr Turner said that a grab-lorry may be a cheaper and better option and Cllr Mrs Podbury suggested a garden clearance firm. Action: Clerks to investigate the costs for comparison of different methods of removing the debris.

e. Signs on Council Land – There was nothing to report.

f. The Boundary

- The Clerk said that he had got a quote for £380 to carry out the necessary works to the trees. It was **RESOLVED** to recommend this expenditure to Full Council.

13. Public Rights of Way – The Clerk informed Councillors that an inspection had been carried out by Till Hill Forestry Ltd on behalf of the owners of Shadwell and Sprouts Wood and that a Woodland Management Plan has been produced. Till Hill Forestry had asked SPC for their feedback. The Clerk said that a copy of the plan

is being kept in the offices for reference. It was **RESOLVED** to forward the enquiry to Cllr Milner for a response on behalf of SPC.

14. KCC Landscaping – The Clerk advised that he had a schedule from KCC of visibility cuts to be carried out on roads in the parish. It was **RESOLVED** to pass the report onto the Highways Committee.

15. Items for Information – Cllr Mrs Podbury said that she had received a green spaces enquiry which she would forward to Cllr Price and the Environment Working Group.

The meeting closed at 8.30pm

Chairman