



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 Monday 19th May at 7.30pm

MEMBERS PRESENT: Cllrs Mrs Hull, Milner, Owen, Parker, Turner and Mrs Jeffreys (ex-officio)

OFFICER PRESENT: Chris May – Clerk and Mrs Meirion Flemington – Assistant Clerk

1. **Election of Chairman:** Cllr Mrs Hull was nominated by Cllr Mrs Jeffreys and seconded by Cllr Milner. Cllr Mrs Hull duly accepted and was elected Chairman.
2. **To receive and approve apologies and reason for absence:** There were none.
3. **Disclosure of Pecuniary or Non-Pecuniary Interests:** Cllr Parker declared a non-pecuniary interest in 11. ii) – Langton Green Village Hall and the Football Fiesta. Cllr Mrs Jeffreys declared a non-pecuniary interest in 14. – Transfer of land from TWBC
4. **Declarations of Lobbying:** There were none.
5. **Minutes: RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the meeting held on **17th March 2014** were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman
6. **Public Open Session:**
Members of the public are invited to make representations to the Committee on any matters relating to the work of the Committee or to raise any issues of concern.

There were no members of the public present.

7. Matters Arising and Correspondence:

The Clerk advised that future agendas for amenities committee meetings will follow a standardised format.

The Clerk reported that someone has cut the bank by the Vicarage but that it was not A1 Garden Services.

The clerk advised that there has been fly-tipping adjacent to Burrswood, Groombridge which has been reported to TWBC and the Police.

Cllr Milner raised the discoloration of the fingerpost at The Hare crossroads. The Assistant Clerk is discussing this with Harry Stebbing Workshop who manufactured the fingerpost.

The Clerk advised that KCC Highways are gradually cleaning dirty signposts starting on the A264.

8. Financial Review: The clerk circulated the figures and details of expenditure. He advised that £350 rental will be paid out to Ashurst Place this year for the additional football pitch. He will discuss the issue with the Sports Club and report.

9. The Green at Langton Green:

- i. Extension of footpath – There was nothing further to report at present.
- ii. Planting of a tree – The Yew tree will be planted at the notice board end of The Green when all the South East Water works are completed.
- iii. Tree to replace the Copper Beech - The Assistant Clerk reported that it has been agreed with the TWBC Tree Officer that the replacement species will be a Hornbeam and the tree will be planted adjacent to the old stump in the next planting season.
- iv. Reinstatement of land by South East Water – The Clerk is speaking to the Project Manager about the reinstatement required and will report back.

10. Trees on Council land: Treework have cleared the timber detritus from the emergency work at Pocket Park and will clear the timber detritus from LGRG once the ground has dried up sufficiently.

11. Langton Green Recreation Ground:

- i. Sports Pavilion – The Clerk reported that he has advised the Football Club of the decision of Full Council that the funds allocated by KCC for the improvements of the car parks and footpaths will remain and none be transferred to the pavilion project.
- ii. Langton Green Village Hall and the Football Fiesta – The Trustees have advised that they are unable to take any bookings this weekend and will suffer a loss of revenue. The Football Club and LGVH will be asked to liaise with each other to see if the issues can be resolved and bookings go ahead.
- iii. Sports Clubs – The Cricket and Football Clubs to resolve between themselves any potential issues with the end of football and start of cricket on those Saturdays where the seasons overlap.
- iv. Car parks – It was noted that the Groundsman is keeping the car parks in excellent condition.
- v. Dog mess – The dog bin by Langton Green Primary School is often full or overflowing by the time RIP come to empty it. It was **RESOLVED** to recommend to Full Council the purchase an additional bin. Dog mess at the access to Shadwell Woods from Langton Road was discussed and consideration will be given to a dog bin there, subject to the landowner's consent, in due course.
- vi. Recycling – The situation with the bottle banks is still much improved with the two extra bottle banks provided by TWBC.
- vii. Pressure Washer – It was **RESOLVED** to recommend to Full Council the purchase of a pressure washer for use by the Groundsman and others.
- viii. Access to LGVH during South East Water works – The Clerk advised that he will be discussing this with the Project Manager for South East Water and it will be on the agenda for the Full Council meeting on 2nd June. South East Water is holding an information day on 19th June in LGVH.

12. Groombridge Christmas Lights: The Clerk has contacted a resident of The Green to seek feedback from the residents.

13. New Notice Board at Speldhurst Chapel: The Assistant Clerk reported that the new double notice board is on order and will be installed by the Groundsman. The Chapel have confirmed

their agreement. It is proposed that the single notice board will be used in Ashurst possibly at the entrance to Station Road.

14. Transfer of land from TWBC: The transfer has not yet been completed. There is money in the budget for maintenance of this land once it has been transferred. It was noted that there is an outstanding maintenance issue with the pond at The Boundary.

15. Public Rights of Way:

- i. Cllr Milner reported that the repair of the bridge in Shadwell Woods is still to be carried out by KCC. Cllr Milner and Cllr Mrs Horne are organising the clearing work to be carried out by Speldhurst Scouts on 6th June. Dr Powell has to clear the cut timber once ownership of the field adjacent to the Woods has been established.
- ii. Cllr Milner will take the map down from the Old Post Office and it will be installed at The Green by the notice board.
- iii. Langton Green Village Society is paying for 30 hours of the Groundsman's time to clear footpaths in Langton Green. Peter Brown of the Society is organising this with the Groundsman. Consideration will be given to an article in village magazines regarding adjoining landowners' duty to cut back their vegetation which is overhanging a footpath.
- iv. The Assistant Clerk advised that safety equipment required by the Groundsman to attend the Chainsaw course is likely to cost £350. After discussion it was **RESOLVED** that he will not attend the course on 9th and 10th June and this decision will be reviewed in due course.

16. Asset Register: The definitive asset register is work in progress.

17. Items for information:

Mowing of Pocket Park will be on the agenda for a decision at Full Council on 2nd June. The Assistant Clerk reported that various items of repair work may be required on LGRG playground following Maria Cook's inspection in July.

The meeting closed at 8.45pm

Chairman