



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

**Minutes of an Environment Committee Meeting held in the Committee Room,
Ashurst Village Hall on Wednesday 1st June 2011 at 7.30pm**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Cllr Brown, Cllrs Mrs Hull and Mrs Podbury, Mrs Debbie Siddle and Mr Alan Ford.

OFFICER PRESENT: Mrs M Flemington, Assistant Clerk

1. **Election of Chairman:** It was unanimously **AGREED** that Cllr Brown be re-elected as Chairman.
It was unanimously **AGREED** that Mrs Debbie Siddle and Mr Alan Ford be re-elected as public members of the Committee.
2. **Apologies for Absence:** Cllr Ringrose (prior engagement)
3. **Declarations of Personal and Prejudicial Interest:** There were none
4. **Declarations of Lobbying:** There were none
5. **The Minutes of the Meeting held on 30th March 2011**, having previously been forwarded to all members, were approved and signed.
6. **Public Open Session:** There were no members of the public present.
7. **Matters Arising and Correspondence:**
 - a. It was agreed that a link from the Environment page of the SPC website to TWBC Recycling information would be useful.
 - b. Cllr Mrs Hull reported that she has now has twenty volunteers in connection with the Big Tree Fund which may grant aid replanting trees in Furzefield Avenue and Southfields.
 - c. The Committee would like to have appropriate drawings accompanying Alan Ford's Nature Watch in Village Magazines. Cllr Mrs Hull offered to produce some drawings.
 - d. There has been no correspondence since the last meeting.
8. **Current update on schools:**

Cllrs Mrs Jeffreysl and Mrs Podbury are attending a meeting at Speldhurst School on 15th June. Cllr Mrs Podbury advised that the School is doing a lot in respect of environmental matters.
The possibility was discussed of joint and/or concurrent projects at Speldhurst and Langton Green Schools, which we are informed work closely together. When Cllrs Mrs Hull and Mrs

Podbury meet with Speldhurst School they will discuss this joint project concept and will also ask what kind of environmental campaign or project the School would prefer.

It was noted that it may be possible for Schools to obtain an Energy Meter for monitoring consumption from their Energy Supplier. Cllr Brown will contact his power supplier to find out the possibilities of obtaining 'smart meters'.

9. Awareness in the Parish:

- a. Cllr Mrs Hull's Eco-Saver tip regarding using only reputable brand energy saving light bulbs will be used as Eco-saver No. 7 for the Village Magazines.
- b. Eco-Savers and Nature Watch for Langton Life will now be submitted by the Assistant Clerk via Cllr Langridge.
- c. Cllr Brown will write further Eco-Savers for publication in future editions of the Village Magazines.

10. Items for Information:

The Terms of Reference will be reviewed and amended at the next meeting.

Cllr Mrs Hull raised the matter of cross-referencing between Environment and other Committees such as planning in respect of Metropolitan Green Belt consultations and planning applications for solar power installations.

Mrs Siddle reported on a village in Devon that operates its own collection and composting of garden waste for local people with grant aid. **The Assistant Clerk to find out about the compost sold at the North Farm Waste Disposal Site.**

The next meeting will be **Wednesday 7th September 2011** in the Committee Room, Ashurst Village Hall

The meeting closed at 8.37pm.

Chairman