



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 29<sup>th</sup> October 2018 at 7.30pm**

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**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Cllr Mrs Podbury (Chair), Mrs Soyke, Mrs Woodliffe and Rowe

**OFFICER PRESENT:** Mrs K Harman – Assistant Clerk

1. **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.
2. **To accept and approve apologies and reasons for absence:** apologies received from Cllr Mrs Jeffreys (holiday).
3. **Disclosure of Pecuniary or Non-Pecuniary Interests:** There were none.
4. **Declarations of Lobbying:** There were none.
5. **Minutes: RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting held on **24<sup>th</sup> July 2018** be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.
6. **Public Open Session:** No members of the public were present.
7. **Matters Arising and Correspondence:**
  - The Assistant Clerk had received an email from one of the joint owners of Shadwell Woods giving permission for SPC to put up a sign in an effort to alleviate the problems with access to the bridleway by horse riders. It was **RESOLVED** that SPC pays for a polite notice to be erected.
  - The Assistant Clerk advised that she had visited Speldhurst School with the Groundsman to assess the rear entry path to the school. It was agreed that the Groundsman could undertake the repairs needed however it was a big job and the fencing running along the side of the adjacent property would also need repairs before the pathway could be considered safe to use. The school was trialling a new system at drop off and pick up times which, if successful, could mean the rear path would not need to be used. It was agreed that this item would be monitored until further information had been received from the school.
8. **Financial Review** – The finance sheets had been circulated and were discussed. Councillors noted the anticipated large expenditure on trees during the next six months following the tree survey and that the 'Tree' budget looked healthy accordingly. Councillors were however concerned that the budgeted figure of

£300 for the LG playground was a bit low and suggested £1,000. It was **RESOLVED** that the Assistant Clerk raise this matter with the Clerk.

9. **Parish Plan** – Councillors considered all matters had now been investigated and fulfilled where possible.

## 10. Parish Council Land

### a. **Langton Green Recreation Ground (LGRG)**

- i. Langton Green Village Hall – there were no issues to discuss.
- ii. Pavilion – Cllr Mrs Podbury said that she had not yet spoken to Gary Stevenson at TWBC regarding a facility to recycle cardboard but would continue to chase to resolve the matter.
- iii. Sports Clubs – Cllr Mrs Woodliffe said that the LG Cricket Club had agreed in principle to join with LGCSA in the pitch drainage project. She said that she would find out the current position and report back to Councillors.
- iv. Play Area – The playground inspection had been carried out. There were no major items needing urgent attention. The Groundsman had reviewed the report and indicated which items he would be able to carry out. It was **RESOLVED** that the Assistant Clerk take the necessary action to get the outstanding items on the report repaired.
- v. Use of Recreation Ground – The Assistant Clerk said that she had heard from the resident who had sought SPC's permission to use the Recreation Ground to paraglide. Unfortunately, the weather conditions were unsuitable and he would not be continuing.
- vi. Car Park – The Clerks had received an email from a company regarding placing a textile bank in the carpark and to carry out roadside collections. It was **RESOLVED** to continue with the existing bank and not carry out roadside collections.
- vii. Groundsman – there was nothing to report.

b. **The Green at Langton Green** – there was nothing to report.

c. **The Green at Groombridge** – Cllr Rowe noted parking problems around the entrance to Burrswood which had been discussed at the Highways Committee meeting.

d. **Pocket Park at Speldhurst** – The Assistant Clerk advised that works to fell and replace the trees in Roopers were planned for 14<sup>th</sup> November and a letter had been sent to residents advising them of this. Complaints had also been received regarding bonfires being lit on SPC land there and the letter had also reminded residents that this was not allowed. Cllr Mrs Podbury asked the Assistant Clerk to remind the Clerk to ensure that the three areas of SPC land in Roopers are added to the Green Spaces register.

e. **The Boundary** – The Assistant Clerk said that she had received an email from one of the residents of the Boundary asking if the ground around the drains could be levelled out when the tree works were being carried out. The land has been eroded away leaving the drains protruding which was considered dangerous. Photographs of the drains were circulated. Councillors considered the request and it was **RESOLVED** to ask the Groundsman to visit the site and consider if he could do anything to alleviate the situation but in the longer term to wait for the trees to be felled then assess the drains.

f. **Signs on Council Land** – there was nothing to report.

g. **Groundsman** – there was nothing to report.

## 11. Trees

a) **Ash Die Back** – The Tree Condition Assessment had been received from Connick Tree Care which had been circulated to Councillors. Councillors discussed the results. There were a large number of trees that needed attention within the next six months. It was **RESOLVED** that Cllr Mrs Podbury would look through the report and write a list of the trees that need urgent attention, paying particular priority to those in public spaces. This would create an action plan. The Assistant Clerk would then obtain quotes for the work to be carried out. Councillors agreed that in the longer term, an annual maintenance survey would need to be carried out.

b) **Insurance liabilities** – The Clerk had received advice when at a recent conference regarding Parish Council's responsibility to make sure trees in the parish are healthy and regularly maintained. Councillors noted this guidance.

**12. Public Rights of Way** – The Assistant Clerk said that a couple of the footpath adopters had recently retired from their voluntary roles and consideration needed to be given to replacements. It was **RESOLVED** to wait until the Spring to get another campaign going in the parish.

**13. Items for Information** –

- Cllr Rowe asked if there was a policy in place restricting the lighting of bonfires as they could be a nuisance. Cllr Mrs Podbury advised Cllr Rowe to ask TWBC Environmental Health for advice.
- An email had been received from a resident of Speldhurst requesting permission to put a slim trough of flowers near to the lychgate as part of the Community project 'Speldhurst in Flower'. Councillors asked the Assistant Clerk to respond to the resident advising them to approach KCC Highways for consent.
- The Clerk had read and circulated an article on the use of certain weedkillers and how they can be dangerous to health. Councillors asked the Assistant Clerk to contact TWBC for guidance on which weedkillers are safe to use.

There being nothing further to discuss, the meeting closed at 8.28pm.

Chairman