



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

**MINUTES OF THE FULL COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY, 7TH DECEMBER 2015 at 7.00pm
IN THE ELLIS ROOM, LANGTON GREEN VILLAGE HALL**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Cllrs Barrington-Johnson (Chairman), Mrs Horne, Mrs Hull (arrived 7.18pm), Mrs Jeffreys, Mrs Lyle, Mrs Podbury, Mrs Soyke, Allen, Mercieca, Milner, Parker and Turner

IN ATTENDANCE: Borough Councillors David Jukes and Julian Stanyer (arrived 7.55pm)

OFFICERS PRESENT: Mr C May – Clerk, Mrs K Plunkett and Mrs M Flemington – Assistant Clerks

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC: There were three members of the public present, Peter Soyke, Marianne Buckley and Steve Benbow.

15/264 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.

15/265 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: Cllr Woodward (prior engagement)

15/266 DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS: Cllr Barrington-Johnson declared his interest in Minute item 15/273. He is a member of the Langton Green Village Society (LGVS) Committee.

15/267 DECLARATIONS OF LOBBYING: There were none.

15/268 MINUTES: It was **RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on **2nd November 2015** be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman. It was **RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the Open Meeting held on **12th October 2015** be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

15/269 BOROUGH AND COUNTY COUNCILLORS REPORTS:

Borough Councillor David Jukes reported that there are plans in progress for the future of Council buildings in the centre of Tunbridge Wells and for the Assembly Hall Theatre but that these plans are still at a relatively early stage. This is likely to be a five year process given the public consultation requirements.

15/270 PUBLIC OPEN SESSION:

Mr Benbow said that now the defibrillators have been set up at the Village Halls, it was very important to start training before the Christmas season starts. The Clerk will coordinate dates and further interest will be determined aside from interest already shown by several residents. Training sessions will be for one hour. Cllr Barrington-Johnson thanked Mr Benbow for his commitment

15/271 FINANCE COMMITTEE – Report by Cllr Mrs Soyke

- a) There has been no Committee meeting since the last Full Council. The next meeting is on 14th December.
- b) There have been two budget virements; transfer from the contingency account to s137 for the grant to LGPS for security fencing £5,540 and a virement from the Parish Plan to Admin to compensate for printing and 2,000 envelopes £340.
- c) There have been several interim payments since the last meeting; from the current account two payments were authorised at the November meeting £5,539.68 for the security fencing at LGPS and £594 for the lighting at Groombridge. On the pre-paid credit card the following payments were made; £2.96 postage, £13.90 badges, £35.65 stationery, £190.80 shelving in our container and £129 for a new salt bin for LGRG. From the HSBC current account a payment of £50,000 was transferred to the new account at the Cambridge Building Society.
- d) The following payments were authorised under the Clerk's delegated authority; £2.96 postage, £13.90 badges, £35.65 stationery. The shelving was agreed by the Vice Chairman and the Clerk; the salt bin was agreed earlier this year.
- e) The Clerk noted that the official calculation of SPC's precept increase is 4.3% rather than the 3.7% reported at the November Full Council meeting. He said that this is due to an adjustment to the tax base and that this would be explained further at the Finance Committee meeting.

15/272 ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT – Invoices verified by Cllr Allen

<u>Payee Name</u>	<u>Cheque/Ref</u>	<u>Amount Paid</u>	<u>Transaction Detail</u>
<u>Notification of additional payments in November</u>			
Cambridge Building Society	100005	£50,000	New Account
<u>Payment made by ALTO pre-paid card</u>			
Post Office	AO77	2.96	*Postage PPWG
Comfoot & Keys	AO78	13.90	*Cllr badges
WH Smith	AO79	35.65	*Postage and stationery
BigDug	AO80	190.80	Shelving for container
Reece Safety Products Ltd	AO81	129.00	Salt bin LGRG
<u>To authorise the payment of invoices as listed</u>			
BT PLC	DD	33.00	Mobile
Chiddingstone Parish Council	206	40.39	Clerk's contribution
The Mayor's Charity Account	207	100.00	Toy Appeal
Langton Life	MT675	250.00	Magazine contribution
Premiere Digital	MT676	108.00	Highways signs
Langton Green Charitable Trust	MT677	24.00	Meeting Room Hire October
Langton Green Charitable Trust	MT678	28.00	Meeting Room Hire November
Mr L Cooper	MT679	404.00	Groundsman's duties
Mr L Cooper	MT 680	46.26	Expenses
Commercial Services Trading Ltd	MT681	1,210.98	Half yearly contract LGRG
Commercial Services Trading Ltd	MT682	457.51	Half yearly contract Groombridge
SR Electrical	MT683	260.00	Defibrillator fitting Speldhurst
Viking Direct	MT684	68.10	Stationery
Viking Direct	MT685	32.27	Stationery
Premiere Digital	MT686	1,944.00	Parish Plan Questionnaires
Alison Hillman	MT687	161.50	Internal Audit services
KALC	MT688	144.00	Finance conference
SLCC Enterprises Ltd	MT689	72.30	CAB 9 th Edition

M Flemington	MT690	12.60	Expenses
K Plunkett	MT691	20.25	Expenses
C May	MT692	42.75	Expenses
Tate Fencing Ltd	MT697	180.84	Posts and Dry mix
RIP Cleaning Services	MT698	172.80	Canine Refuse
Harroway Tree Services	MT 699	1,584.00	Tree Survey
K Plunkett	MT694	934.61	Salary
BT PLC	DD	285.42	Broadband & telephone
Tunbridge Wells Borough Council	DD	56.00	Non domestic rates
M Flemington	MT695	700.48	Salary
C May	MT696	1,467.20	Salary
KCC (KCS)	DD	380.20	Photocopier
HMRC	MT693	1,611.92	Tax and NI
Total payments		£12,833.38	

*Payment made under the Clerk's delegated authority

It was **RESOLVED** to pay the invoices listed above, sign the cheques and authorise the BACS in Unity Trust Bank

15/272 HIGHWAYS: A meeting was held on 9th November and the minutes have been circulated. Cllr Mrs Podbury noted that the minutes require correction as they include Stockland Green Road under 'Speldhurst' whereas it should be included under 'Langton Green'.

- a) Councillor Speedwatch volunteer – The Clerk said more Councillors were needed to join Cllr Allen on the Speedwatch team. Cllrs Barrington-Johnson, Mrs Lyle and Mrs Soyke volunteered.
- b) It was **RESOLVED** to carry out a traffic survey along the 60mph area of the Speldhurst Road at a cost of approx. £550.

Cllr Mrs Lyle questioned the status of Cllr John Davies endorsement of 20mph speed limits outside schools. The Clerk reported that this has been agreed.

Cllr Mrs Hull said that she has been lobbied by a Speldhurst resident on the 20mph issue. The letter was passed to the Clerk.

The Clerk reported that there is only one Speed Indicator Device (SID) but there are several poles. The best sites have been identified but costings are higher than expected. Cllr Milner reported that a meeting had taken place on 16th November with the Old Groombridge Community Group who now felt more informed about what they could expect to achieve for their Highway issues.

At 7.25pm Cllr Barrington-Johnson left the room and Cllr Milner acted as temporary Chair. Cllr Barrington-Johnson returned at 7.30 and resumed as Chairman.

15/273 LANGTON GREEN RECREATION GROUND (LGRG):

- a) Pavilion report – Cllr Mrs Jeffreys referred to her report on the Pavilion rebuild. She said she now had further information to add, namely the pros and cons of air source heat pumps. She said that the priority now is to identify who are going to be users of the Pavilion as the type of heating will depend on the users. Cllr Mrs Jeffreys suggested advertising in village publications.

Cllr Mrs Jeffreys also noted that there is a provisional sum for carpet tiles or other flooring but that with the sum allocated this may only be enough for carpet tiles. If an alternative flooring was considered more appropriate further funding would be considered. Cllr Mrs Jeffreys noted that a timeline has not yet been received from the Contractor.

Cllr Parker said that Trustees of the Village Hall may be concerned about advertising the new Pavilion without advertising the Village Hall but Cllr Turner stated that the advert is just to gauge interest in the new Pavilion.

Marianne Buckley, who is a Trustee of the Village Hall, stated her concern about conflicts of interest between the two venues. She was concerned at the loss of football parties

Cllr Merceica noted that caution was needed over the heat pump as this would not work well in low temperatures.

Cllr Mrs Lyle asked whether the Cricket Club were being fully involved and Cllr Mrs Jeffreys confirmed that she is their representative and that she ensures they are fully informed.

Cllr Mrs Jeffreys confirmed that three storage containers are needed, two for the sports clubs and one for the Village Society. She said it would be wise to consider the timber clad containers as visually these would be an improvement on metal containers. Cllr Mrs Lyle noted that timber cladding the containers would increase maintenance requirements. The two containers for sports clubs would need to be next to the Pavilion but the third container could go against the wall of the Village Hall which is currently not used.

It was noted that the Sports Clubs have expressed an interest in having a third container.

Marianne Buckley expressed concern that the Recreation Ground was in danger of becoming a building site. Cllr Mrs Podbury agreed that metal containers have been the subject of much criticism.

Cllr Barrington-Johnson said that storage is required for the sports clubs and so the only alternative to storage containers would be a shed or a permanent building which may not be as secure.

Cllr Milner said that two 20ft containers would be visually better than one 40ft container.

It was **RESOLVED** with all members voting in favour, to apply for planning permission for three timber-clad 20ft containers.

15/274 TRANSFER OF LAND FROM TWBC: The Clerk reported that all the land transfers have now completed. Borough Councillor David Jukes asked if Speldhurst Parish Council had been paid the £1,000 maintenance figure that was agreed. The Clerk reported that the money had not been received but this was in hand. The Clerk will investigate if an outstanding invoice from our solicitor relating to the transfers of land has been settled by TWBC.

15/275 DATES OF FINANCE MEETINGS 2016: It was **RESOLVED** to agree to the circulated revised dates for the 2016 Finance meetings and these are listed as an addendum to the minutes.

15/276 KALC COMMUNITY AWARDS SCHEME: It was **RESOLVED** to participate in the 2016 Awards Scheme and to nominate one candidate who had previously been put forward as no other nominations were forthcoming.

15/277 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT:

Cllr Barrington-Johnson referred to his written report included in the papers for the meeting. He also said that he had attended meetings at both local schools recently which had been very positive.

15/278 COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- a) **Governance** – a meeting was held on 26th November and the minutes have been circulated.
- b) **Planning** – a meeting was held on 23rd November and the minutes have been circulated. The next meeting is on 21st December. Cllr Turner noted that Bradleys Mill was discussed at some length and the Committee had been in favour of the development.
- c) **Amenities** – a meeting was held on 30th November and the minutes have been circulated.
- d) **Air Traffic** – there had been no meeting since the last Full Council. It was noted that a High Weald meeting was held last week and Greg Clark had also held a public meeting recently. Cllr Barrington-Johnson felt that the individuals responsible for the independent review were committed to providing an impartial review, uninfluenced by Gatwick. Their report is due at the end of January 2016. Cllr Parker said that decision making for the second runway has been put back by 6 months.
- e) **Footpaths** – Cllr Milner reported that there are two fallen trees at Danemore Park and that maintenance is required on the steps down to Shadwell Woods.
- f) **Kent Association of Local Councils (KALC)** – Cllr Barrington-Johnson gave a brief summary of a recent meeting.
- g) **Parish Plan Working Group** – a working group meeting was held on 24th November and the meeting notes have been circulated. The next meeting is on 7th January 2016. The questionnaires are currently being

analysed. It was noted that the survey return rate was almost 50% which was considered a success. The working group are keen to keep people informed about the progress of the plan. Cllr Mrs Podbury showed an example of a poster, produced by Ed Langridge, to go in focal points in each village and also in village publications.

The progress of local business surveys was discussed. Cllr Mrs Podbury noted that more business surveys were needed in Speldhurst.

15/279 OTHER MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF 2ND NOVEMBER 2015: It was noted that Bartholomew Wren has volunteered to speak about extending the cycle path from Langton Green to Speldhurst. Cllr Barrington-Johnson requested that this be arranged for the January meeting.

15/280 CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED:

1. Markerstudy Leisure News October 2015.
2. Letter dated 30th October from EDF Energy asking if we wish to change the frequency of our electricity smart meter readings.
3. Letter dated 9th November from The Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal thanking SPC for the donation.
4. Letter dated November 2015 from KCC Trading Standards with information on their 'Shred that scam' scams awareness campaign.
5. CPRE Countryside Voice magazine
6. Hospice in the Weald Newsletter
7. Letter from St. Mary's Church dated 17th November thanking SPC for the grant of £2,000 towards the clock chime repairs.
8. ACRK Annual Summary 2014-15

15/281 DIARY DATES:

Monday 14th December – Finance meeting – Office

Monday 21st December – Planning meeting - Office

Monday 4th January 2016 – Full Council meeting – Speldhurst Village Hall

15/282 ITEMS FOR INFORMATION:

Cllr Mrs Horne said that Speldhurst Post Office had been awarded a 'runners up' prize in a local shop competition recently and LG Netball Club had also won an award.

Cllr Mrs Podbury said that the Environment Agency is now looking into the problems at Peacocks Farm.

Cllr Parker noted that the farm shop at Langton Green has been placed 2nd out of all farm shops in the area in a recent competition.

There being nothing further to discuss the meeting closed at 8.06pm.

Chairman

MEETINGS OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE - 2016

January	Monday 18 th			
March	Monday 21 st			
June	Monday 20 th			
September	Monday 26 th			
October	Monday 17 th			
November	Monday 14 th	or	December	Monday 12 th

All meetings will be held in the Parish Office and start at 7.30pm unless otherwise stated.

Finance meetings will also be called on an ad hoc basis when they are deemed necessary