



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

**MINUTES OF THE FULL COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 7<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 2019 AT 7.30PM  
IN THE GALLERY ROOM, LANGTON GREEN VILLAGE HALL**

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**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Cllrs Milner (Chairman), Mrs Podbury, Mrs Price, Mrs Lyle, Mrs Woodliffe, Ellery, Rowe, Pate, Turner and Mrs Soyke (8.27pm)

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

**MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC:** There were no members of the public present.

**19/185 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.

**19/186 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:** Apologies were received from Cllr Barrington-Johnson – illness; Cllr Round – prior engagement and Cllr Scarbrough – work commitments

Apologies had additionally been received from County Councillor McInroy, Borough Cllrs Mrs Willis and Stanyer

**19/187 DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS:** There were none

**19/188 DECLARATIONS OF LOBBYING:** There were none.

**19/189 MINUTES:** It was **RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on **2<sup>nd</sup> September 2019** be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

**19/190 BOROUGH AND COUNTY COUNCILLORS' REPORTS:** Cllr Mrs Podbury said that there had been a few issues with the new waste recycling contract which had been resolved quickly and her recommendation was to report any problems with TWBC online.

**19/191 PUBLIC OPEN SESSION:** There were no members of the public present.

**19/192 FINANCE COMMITTEE:** Cllr Mrs Lyle reported the following: -

- a) There had been a meeting of the Finance Committee on 30<sup>th</sup> September 2019, the draft minutes having been circulated.
- b) Budget virements: **RESOLVED** that £13,500 be transferred from the Ear Marked Reserves to pay for the repairs to playground flooring and a new bicycle mill roundabout.
- c) Interim payments made since the last meeting: Interim payments since the Finance Committee meeting:  
Unity bank current account: None Mastercard: £29.99\* kettle for pavilion hirers.

- d) **Payments made under delegated authority** are starred above.  
 e) The second half of the precept had been received from TWBC.

**19/193 ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT:** Invoices verified by Cllr Pate.

To authorise the payment of invoices as listed

| Payee Name              | Reference | Amount £         | Detail                           |
|-------------------------|-----------|------------------|----------------------------------|
| SLCC Enterprises Ltd    | MT1645    | 52.00            | Updated Clerk's Manual 2019      |
| Speldhurst Village Hall | MT1646    | 29.40            | Meeting Rooms                    |
| Mr M Steibelt           | MT1647    | 95.93            | Grant re Marchiennes Visit       |
| Viking Direct           | MT1648    | 98.36            | Toilet roll dispenser – Pavilion |
| Viking Direct           | MT1649    | 293.90           | Toilet roll dispensers and rolls |
| Veolia                  | DD        | 79.20            | Waste disposal                   |
| Knockout Print          | MT1651    | 180.00           | Open meeting posters             |
| Paul Cheater            | MT1652    | 168.00           | Pavilion cleaning month          |
| KALC                    | MT1653    | 120.00           | Dynamic Cllr Course x 2          |
| KALC                    | MT1654    | 120.00           | Dynamic Cllr Course x 2          |
| Tate Fencing Ltd        | MT1655    | 22.90            | Posts and mix                    |
| SKF Contractors Ltd     | MT1656    | 552.00           | Footpath repair – LG             |
| M R Lawrence            | MT1657    | 400.00           | Mowing and strimming             |
| SLCC                    | MT1658    | 350.00           | CiLCA fees                       |
| SSALC Ltd               | MT1659    | 320.00           | CiLCA Support Programme          |
| C May                   | MT1660    | 46.20            | Expenses                         |
| Kate Harman             | MT1661    | 63.65            | Expenses                         |
| Mr L Cooper             | MT1662    | 25.29            | Expenses                         |
| Castle Water            | DD        | 262.87           | Water charges month              |
| Catherine Barrett       | MT1663    | 406.90           | Salary                           |
| Mr L Cooper             | MT1664    | 641.08           | Salary                           |
| Kate Harman             | MT1665    | 749.67           | Salary                           |
| C May                   | MT1666    | 1,567.07         | Salary                           |
| NEST Pension Scheme     | MT1667    | 115.97           | Pension scheme                   |
| EDF Energy              | DD        | 324.00           | Pavilion electricity month       |
| <b>Total:</b>           |           | <b>£7,084.69</b> |                                  |

It was **RESOLVED** to pay the invoices listed above, authorise the electronic payments and sign the cheques drawn on Unity Trust Bank.

**19/194 LANGTON GREEN RECREATION GROUND (LGRG):** Cllr Mrs Lyle reported the following:

- a) The Permitted Development Certificate (PDC) application for additional parking on the grass beyond the five-bar gate was being investigated by Cllr Barrington-Johnson and Cllr Mrs Price, although Cllr Mrs Lyle remained uncertain as to whether the PDC was the appropriate submission.  
 A draft agreement regarding the traffic management plan has been drawn up and will be forwarded to LGCSA for approval. This will be a binding contract and once agreed the grant will be paid.
- b) Drainage project: due to the very wet weather conditions work was behind and a new seeding schedule was being considered which could mean full seeding next spring, delaying any football use for the season. The Pavilion Café had seen an increase in business since the end of the school holidays. Cllr Pate mentioned a recent successful campaign in Tunbridge Wells to increase footfall into the shops in areas hit by the continual roadworks, which he said could be relevant for the pavilion.

A meeting had been held with the proprietor of the pavilion cafe and the working group were investigating a future strategy with LGCSA which could include a lunch club and youth group using the Pavilion.

- c) Purchase of land available by Town & Country adjacent to the Recreation Ground – it was **RESOLVED** not to purchase all the land for sale. The Clerk was to advise Town & Country that if they should change their mind about selling SPC just the two small pieces of land identified, they should make contact again.

**19/195 TWBC PLANNING DEPARTMENT'S DRAFT LOCAL PLAN** – Councillors discussed the comments agreed by the Planning Committee and it was **RESOLVED** that they should form the response to the consultation for SPC. Cllr Mrs Price said that the sustainability appraisal looked acceptable. It was agreed that the percentage of affordable housing needed to be clarified.

**19/196 ASHURST MCDERMOTT VILLAGE HALL: RESOLVED** that Cllr Mrs Soyke continue in her role as SPC's appointed Member and Trustee.

**19/197 OPEN MEETING:** It was considered important to make it clear that TWBC were leading the Draft Plan at the Open Meeting and not SPC. Stephen Baughen, TWBC Head of Planning would be attending to address residents' questions regarding the Draft Local Plan. It was suggested he be contacted to see if he was bringing any presentation aids to the meeting. It was also agreed that the Open Meeting poster would be sent to the schools in the parish to be circulated via parentmail.

**19/198 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT:** In Cllr Barrington-Johnson's absence the Clerk said that he had four councillors attending the KALC Dynamic Councillor training. Cllr Pate may attend if there is any availability.

**19/199 COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

- a) **Governance** – Cllr Milner said it was hoped there would be a meeting in November.
- b) **Planning** – Cllr Mrs Price said there had been two meetings of the committee in the past month. She said the planning committee had agreed not to discuss routine tree maintenance applications as they felt they did not have the professional knowledge and always leave comment to the Tree Officer. The felling of trees would still be considered and the Chair would review all the applications and the committee would comment if necessary. It was noted that several large trees had been removed from Holmewood Ridge.
- c) **Highways** – Cllr Pate said there had been a meeting on the 24<sup>th</sup> September 2019 which was attended by two residents from Ashurst. They had experienced an accident which had damaged their property and asked what could be done to reduce speeding. It was agreed that this matter would be addressed at a later date. He said Speedwatch would be starting again soon with training starting tomorrow.  
The main topic for discussion was how to reduce speeding on Groombridge Hill and he asked Councillors to approve expenditure to employ a consultant to provide recommendations of a plan that could be sent to Highways for installation. Two consultants had been approached and there were still some outstanding questions to be asked, however he requested that approval be given to spend up to £8,000 of the committee's budget to progress the issue. After some questions regarding value for money and what was expected it was **RESOLVED** that the Highways Committee spend up to £8,000 on consultancy on the stretch of road from the River Grom in Old Groombridge to Langton Green subject to a satisfactory contract. The Clerk was asked to circulate the contract and the original brief to all Councillors
- d) **Amenities** – **RESOLVED** that the suggested changes to the Terms of Reference as circulated be made with PROW in capitals.
- e) **Air Traffic** – in the absence of the Chairman, there was nothing to report.
- f) **Footpaths** – Cllr Milner reported that he would be visiting sites with the Groundsman to carry out repairs. He would liaise with Cllr Mrs Soyke to use her trailer.
- g) **Environment Working Group** – Cllr Mrs Lyle was concerned that following the removal of the bottle banks in the Langton Green Recreation Ground, that there is no longer anywhere to put recycling from the Pavilion and it may be put into general waste. It was agreed to monitor the situation for a few weeks and then

approach TWBC. It was agreed that the Council should encourage recycling and the Clerk will ask Veolia what the charges would be for recycling for pavilion and village hall.

h) **KALC** – in the absence of the Chairman there was nothing to report.

**19/199 OTHER MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF 2<sup>ND</sup> SEPTEMBER 2019:** Cllr Mrs Lyle said that she had mentioned the concrete caps to the drains in the LGRG would weigh 40 tons. She clarified this to their load bearing capacity not their weight.

**19/200 CLERK'S REPORT:** He advised the following:

- Remembrance Sunday is 10<sup>th</sup> November 2019.
- The Mayor's Toy appeal is starting again and a grant is to be put to the Finance Committee.
- He has ordered 5 wreaths, one for LGVS (to be reimbursed). The following will lay the wreaths: Groombridge – David Crundwell; All Saints – Cllr Barrington-Johnson (to be confirmed), St Marys – Cllr Milner; St Martins – Cllr Mrs Lyle.

**19/201 DIARY DATES:**

Monday 7<sup>th</sup> – Full Council meeting – Gallery Room, Langton Green Village Hall

Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> – Speedwatch training 10.30

Monday 14<sup>th</sup> – **Open Meeting** – Speldhurst Village Hall 7.15pm

Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> – Planning Committee Meeting

Monday 28<sup>th</sup> – Finance Committee Meeting (this will probably be cancelled and moved to Monday 11<sup>th</sup> November)

Monday 28<sup>th</sup>/Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> – **NALC Conference** (Rupert attending)

**19/202 ITEMS FOR INFORMATION:**

Cllr Mrs Lyle advised the Council about possible charitable functions being held in the pavilion which was covered under 19/194b)

There being no further matters for discussion the meeting closed at 8.57pm

Chairman