



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

**MINUTES OF THE FULL COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 5<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER 2018 AT 7.30PM  
IN THE COMMITTEE ROOM, SPELDHURST VILLAGE HALL**

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**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Cllrs Barrington-Johnson (Chairman), Mrs Soyke, Mrs Podbury, Mrs Price, Mrs Woodliffe, Milner, Mercieca, Ellery, Rowe, and Pate

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

**IN ATTENDANCE:** County Councillor James McInroy and Borough Councillor David Jukes

**MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC:** There was one member of the public present.

**18/234 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.

**18/235 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:** Apologies were received from Cllrs Mrs Jeffreys and Mrs Lyle – both holidays.

**18/236 DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS:** There were none.

**18/237 DECLARATIONS OF LOBBYING:** There were none.

**18/238 MINUTES:** It was **RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the Full Council Meeting on **1<sup>st</sup> October 2018** be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

**18/239 CO-OPTION OF NEW COUNCILLOR** Mr Round was co-opted onto the Council. Cllr Round then took his seat with Councillors, signed the declaration of acceptance of office and it was **RESOLVED** under item 18/242 that he be assigned to the Highways and Planning Committees. The Chairman welcomed Cllr Round to the Council and said that he was looking forward to working with him.

**18/240 BOROUGH AND COUNTY COUNCILLORS' REPORTS:**

- County Cllr McInroy said that KCC had appointed Cllr Harry Rayner as its new representative for KALC following the resignation of Mrs Paulina Stockell. The budget for 2019/20 was being put to members the following week and decisions would therefore need to be made on spending.
- Borough Cllr Jukes advised that TWBC had received a clean audit letter for the eighth year running. He noted that a member of public had challenged the accounts.
- Cllr Mrs Soyke said that judging by her recent experiences, she had confidence in the TWBC Planning Department – they appear to be working well together as a team.

- Cllr Mrs Podbury said she was concerned about recent developments at Gatwick which was on the agenda for discussion later in the meeting.

**18/241 PUBLIC OPEN SESSION:** Mrs Angela Moss introduced herself as SPC's new representative for the LGCT which manages the Village Hall. She said that she has been a Trustee of the Hall for the last eighteen years. The Chairman thanked Mrs Moss for agreeing to take on the position and said he looked forward to working with her in the future.

**18/242 COMMITTEES:** It was **RESOLVED** to accept the updated list of Committee members as circulated by the Clerk (attached). Cllr Round is to join the Planning and Highways Committees; Cllr Mrs Woodliffe is to join the Planning Committee and Cllr Pate is to become the new SPC Police Representative. The Chairman asked for new volunteers for the APM Working Group to allow a different perspective and new ideas to be brought to the event.

**18/243 FINANCE COMMITTEE:** In the absence of Cllr Mrs Lyle, Cllr Barrington-Johnson talked through the finance sheets which had been circulated.

- There had been a meeting of the Finance Committee on 17<sup>th</sup> October 2018.
- Interim payments since the Finance Committee Meeting: there were none from the current account. Mastercard: Poppy wreathes £75.00\*; Badge £7.95\*; Garden sacks £12.00\*; maintenance to chain saw £32.65\*; Petrol £13.19\*; Toilet rolls pavilion £38.59\*; Keys cut £18.00\*; Additional Poppy wreath £25.00\* and Overnight stay for the Chairman at NALC conference £99.00\*.
- Payments made under delegated authority – are starred above\*.
- Speldhurst Post Office and Shop: it was agreed to wait until further information had been received from the Steering Group before any decisions regarding grants would be made.
- The Clerk explained the accounts, which had been circulated and after discussion it was **RESOLVED** to accept the recommendation of the Finance Committee that the precept remain at £148,000.
- Budget virements: It was **RESOLVED** to approve the following virements: £6,000 from Pavilion maintenance to Capital Grants for drainage purposes; internal transfers within Highways section of £2,500 from Gateways project and £13,300 from the 20mph project to general Highways; £2,500 from contingency to Conservation (memorials) for refurbishment of the War memorial; £3,000 from contingency to SPVH capital grant towards decking; £5,000 from contingency to capital grant section for schools and £15,000 from contingency to capital grants towards the community shop.

**18/244 ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT:** Invoices verified by Cllr Mercieca.

To authorise the payment of invoices as listed

Payee Name	Reference	Amount	Detail
Langton Life	MT1417	250.00	Advertisement LL
Paul Cheater	MT1418	140.00	Pavilion Cleaning
Langton Green Charitable Trust	MT1419	71.00	Meeting Rooms
Speldhurst CofE Primary School	300249	5,000.00	Grant
KALC	MT1420	360.00	Training
Paul Cheater	MT1421	96.00	Pavilion Cleaner
M R Lawrence	MT1422	320.00	Mowing and strimming
St Thomas' PCC, Groombridge	MT1423	10.00	Village magazine
Langton Pavilion Café	MT1424	296.40	Plumbing dishwasher
Speldhurst Village Hall	MT1425	40.10	Meeting Rooms
Langton Green Charitable Trust	MT1426	50.00	Office rental
CWCS	MT1427	11.99	Web hosting
LexisNexis	MT1428	110.00	Arnold Baker Edition 11
Langton Green Charitable Trust	MT1429	164.32	Office Electricity Quarter
RIP Cleaning Services	MT1430	172.80	Canine Refuse Collection

BeSure	MT1431	72.00	Rechargeable lead acid battery
Streetlights	MT1432	25.96	Street Lighting contract
ALCC	MT1433	30.00	KH Annual Membership
SLCC	MT1434	115.00	KH Membership
ALCC	MT1435	30.00	CM Membership
SLCC	MT1436	208.00	CM SLCC Membership
Kate Harman	MT1437	93.95	Expenses
Mr L Cooper	MT1438	43.50	Expenses
C May	MT1439	50.85	Expenses
C May	MT1440	1,843.51	Salary
Kate Harman	MT1441	653.50	Salary
Mr L Cooper	MT1442	693.00	Salary
N.E.S.T.	MT1443	70.32	Pension contributions
UK Debt Management Office	DD	2,856.54	PWLB repayment

**Total: £13,879.72**

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

**18/245 HIGHWAYS COMMITTEE:** Cllr Mrs Podbury said that there had been a meeting of the Highways Committee on 24<sup>TH</sup> October 2018, the minutes having been distributed. She and the Clerk had attended a Highways seminar which had been very informative. They had been given a booklet explaining the criteria for implementing traffic calming measures.

**18/246 LANGTON GREEN RECREATION GROUND (LGRG):**

- a) Pavilion – In the absence of Cllr Mrs Lyle, there was nothing to report.
- b) Formal agreement between SPC and SPC Pavilion Ltd – there was nothing further to report.
- c) Drainage proposal – The Clerk confirmed that the Cricket Club have agreed in principle to join the LGCSA. Cllr Mrs Woodliffe said that the FA had given an initial indication that they are happy with the application submitted to them however they will require further information which may cause delays. The Cricket Club still have some concerns. A meeting to discuss the matter further is to be arranged as soon as possible.

**18/247 PARISH PLAN:** there was nothing to report.

**18/248 REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY:** Cllrs Barrington-Johnson, Milner and Mrs Lyle will lay wreathes at Langton Green, Speldhurst and Ashurst respectively. Mr David Crundwell (ex-Chairman) will lay a wreath in Groombridge on behalf of SPC.

**18/249 AIR QUALITY ACTION PLAN CONSULTATION:** The Environment Working Group (EWG) suggested a response to the consultation and this had been circulated and it was **RESOLVED** to accept their recommendation as follows, with the addition of a comment regarding idling engines, in particular buses and taxis:

- The current air quality management area (AQMA) should be retained because levels still exceed the standards in some locations. Additional pressure from development under the new Local Plan will increase traffic levels.
- Support action to improve standards for buses.
- Believe monitoring stations should be installed along A264 Langton Road.
- Do not understand why aircraft pollution from increased traffic from Gatwick is not considered.
- We are concerned about the pollutants from idling engines e.g. buses and taxis.

**18/250 KALC COMMUNITY AWARD SCHEME 2019:** The Clerk asked Councillors to consider any suggestions they may have for nominations and it was agreed to defer a decision until the December meeting.

**18/251 KALC AGM:** This is to be held on Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> November in Ditton. Any Councillors wishing to attend should advise the Clerk.

**18/252 KCC BUDGET CONSULTATION:** It was **RESOLVED** that residents be encouraged to respond individually to this consultation. A discussion was then held regarding different ways to engage residents to find out their views. Cllr Mrs Woodliffe suggested consulting residents during the Open Evening; Cllr Mrs Soyke suggested putting links to articles in the village magazine. Cllr Mrs Price said it was important to flag up matters that are going to affect residents e.g. the recent refuse disposal consultation.

**18/253 MEETING DATES 2019:** Suggested meeting dates were circulated and agreed. The Annual Parish Meeting would be on the 29<sup>th</sup> April to avoid school holidays. The Chairman asked Councillors to consider whether an Autumn Open Meeting was necessary. Cllr Mrs Price suggested that social media might be a more effective way of canvassing residents' views and Cllr Ellery suggested asking residents at the April meeting whether they felt the October meeting was useful.

**18/254 REPORT ON THE MEETING WITH TWBC PLANNING DEPARTMENT:** The Chairman asked that this agenda item be deferred to the end of the meeting as it is confidential.

**18/255 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT:** Cllr Barrington-Johnson had circulated a report from the NALC conference he had attended recently in Milton Keynes. He thought it would be useful for other Councillors to attend in future. Cllr Mrs Podbury enquired about GDPR and Cllr Barrington-Johnson said that there is a requirement for not just Parish Councils to be registered as Data Managers but also individual Councillors. The cost of the registration fee for the Data Management needs to be compared with the fees for providing Councillors with SPC email addresses. It appears that Parish Councils are considered at low risk for data breaches. Cllr Mrs Woodliffe asked if a central database which Councillors could access confidentially, could be an option for consideration. Cllr Rowe asked if the Parish Council should stop including the names of members of public who attend meetings in their minutes and the Clerk said that it would depend on the circumstances.

**18/256 COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

- a) **Governance** – A meeting had been organised for 14<sup>th</sup> November 2018.
- b) **Planning** – It was **RESOLVED** to accept the change in the Planning Term of Reference with the removal of the word 'the' as detailed in the Planning Committee minutes of 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2018, item 8.
- c) **Amenities** – Cllr Mrs Podbury advised that there had been a meeting of the Amenities Committee on 29<sup>th</sup> October 2018, the minutes having been distributed. She has spent a lot of time investigating the tree survey and would produce an action plan.
- d) **Air Traffic** – The Chairman updated Councillors on the current situation after the Air Traffic meeting on 29<sup>th</sup> October 2018. Gatwick had published their masterplan and are applying to use their emergency runway as a second runway, boosting flights from 46 to 72 million passengers per year. He said that they anticipated some changes in the organisation of the action groups and would report back once more information is known. The current consultation finishes in January and it was **RESOLVED** to delegate responding to the consultation to the Air Traffic Working Group on behalf of SPC. Cllr Round noted that there is a presentation on this matter on Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> November in Royal Victoria Place.
- e) **Environment Working Group (EWG)** – Cllr Mrs Price said that it had been a very busy working group meeting and she welcomed new member Cllr Pate. They are currently reviewing some of the draft material for the website in the 'Our Parish' section as well as practises used for the management of Parish Council owned land. The parish walk had gone ahead, despite a last-minute change of plan and was considered successful. The Chairman thanked Cllr Mrs Price for all her hard work. The EWG are planning an event on plastics in the new year.

- f) **Footpaths** – Cllr Milner said that the number of footpath adopters were dwindling. It was agreed that another push to get more volunteers would be needed in the Spring. He advised that Derek Robinson has a record of all the jobs outstanding on the footpaths.
- g) **KALC** – there was nothing to report.
- h) **Website Working Group (WWG)** – The Clerk reported that the website was moving forward with basic information being gathered. He suggested SPC should open up Facebook as an information page before the website is ready. County Cllr McInroy said he would start a twitter feed for information on consultations and he would let the Clerk know once it was active.

**18/257 OTHER MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF 1<sup>st</sup> October 2018** – There were none.

**18/258 CLERK'S REPORT:** The Clerk reminded Councillors that in December the meeting is at 7pm and not 7.30pm to allow time for the Christmas drinks at The Hare in Langton Green.

**18/259 DIARY DATES:**

**Monday 5<sup>th</sup>** Highways Seminar – Hadlow Hotel 9am  
**Full Council Meeting** – Committee Room, SPVH  
**Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup>** – Governance Meeting – 2pm  
**Friday 23<sup>rd</sup>** - Highways meeting with KALC 10.30am  
**Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> December – Full Council Meeting – 7pm** – Palmer Room, LGVH

**18/260 ITEMS FOR INFORMATION:**

Cllr Mercieca is meeting the Groundsman to organise legionella checks  
The chairman has received the Mayor's Annual Toy Appeal which will be on December's agenda.

The public meeting closed at 8.50pm

Chairman