



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

MINUTES OF THE FULL COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 4th DECEMBER 2017 AT 7.00PM IN THE PALMER ROOM, LANGTON GREEN VILLAGE HALL

MEMBERS PRESENT: Cllr Barrington-Johnson (Chairman), Milner, Mrs Lyle, Mrs Podbury, Mrs Soyke, Kerby, Mercieca, Parker, Ellery, Allen (7.42pm)

OFFICER PRESENT: Mr C May – Clerk, Mrs K Harman – Assistant Clerk

IN ATTENDANCE: Borough Cllr David Jukes and County Cllr James McInroy (both 7.18pm)

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

17/248 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.

17/249 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE Apologies received from Cllr Mrs Jeffreys (holiday) and Cllr Mrs Price (prior engagement).

17/250 DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS: There were none.

17/251 DECLARATIONS OF LOBBYING: There were none.

17/252 MINUTES: It was **RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the Full Council Meeting on **6th November 2017** and the **Open Minutes 9th October 2017** be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

17/253 BOROUGH AND COUNTY COUNCILLORS' REPORTS:

- Borough Cllr Mrs Soyke asked councillors if they had received a leaflet through their door from the Tunbridge Wells Alliance. She said that it contains incorrect and misleading claims ahead of the decision on the Civic Centre on Wednesday.
- Borough Cllr Jukes agreed that the leaflets circulated to residents gave incorrect information regarding the Civic Centre proposal. He said that there had been no discussion of compulsory purchases and everything is being done by negotiation. He said that the proposal has the backing of all the businesses in Tunbridge Wells and that all the financial projections are worse case scenario. He then noted several other towns who have undergone development of a similar scale successfully.
- County Cllr McInroy said that he was concerned about the lack of toilet facilities at Langton Green Primary School and noted their various fundraising activities to enable them to get new toilets built. He has spoken to KCC who will be visiting the school to investigate all the options. Cllr Mrs Lyle confirmed that the school had been shortlisted for an Aviva grant.

17/254 PUBLIC OPEN SESSION: there were no members of the public present.

17/255 FINANCE COMMITTEE: Cllr Mrs Lyle reported the following:

- a) There had not been a Finance Committee meeting since the last Full Council meeting – the next meeting is to be held on Tuesday 12th December.
- b) Virements – there were no virements.
- c) Interim payments – Interim payments since the Finance Meeting: Unity bank current account: £525.18 transfer to clear MasterCard; £69.60 Waste removal. Mastercard: £6 card charges; £93.41 Builder materials*; £9.87 Builder materials*; £60.43 Toilet rolls for pavilion*; £270.72 Microsoft annual subscription 365; £16.20 Microsoft monthly subscription 365; £15.00 padlocks*; £139.79 Key safe for office*.
- d) Payments made under delegated authority are starred above.
- e) Cllr Mrs Lyle said that she had received a letter from David Buckett (Internal Auditor) saying that SPC comes across as a well-run business. Cllr Barrington-Johnson thanked the Clerk for his excellent work preparing and managing the accounts.

17/256 ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT: Invoices verified by Cllr Mrs Lyle.

To authorise the payment of invoices as listed

Payee Name	Reference	Amount	Detail
BT Plc	DD	30.00	Mobile
Langton Green Charitable Trust	MT1175	28.00	Meeting Room
Simon Jeffreys	MT1176	22.80	Company registration charge
J Saunders	MT1177	60.00	Repair plumber pavilion
Paul Cheater	MT1178	140.00	Pavilion cleaning
Tate Fencing Ltd	MT1179	11.30	Materials Fence Repair
M R Lawrence	MT1180	260.00	Mowing services
Commercial Services Trading Ltd	MT1181	547.20	Herbicide application LGRG
CWCS	MT1182	11.99	Monthly Hosting
TWBC Mayor's Toy Appeal	MT1183	100.00	Donation
Emma Pye	MT1184	170.00	Refund of bookings
LJ Tostvein	MT1185	177.00	Refund of bookings
SLCC	MT1186	328.00	Clerks' Annual Membership
Mr L Cooper	MT1187	20.84	Expenses
Kate Harman	MT1188	12.15	Expenses
C May	MT1189	29.79	Expenses
N.E.S.T. Pension Scheme	MT1190	27.26	Pension contributions
Mr L Cooper	MT1191	640.70	Salary
Kate Harman	MT1192	676.72	Salary
C May	MT1193	1,807.47	Salary
HMRC	MT1194	2,626.92	Tax & NI contributions Oct-Dec
Total:		£7,728.14	

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

17/257 HIGHWAYS COMMITTEE: The Clerk reported the following:

- a) He had completed a TRO for the reduction in speed limit on the Speldhurst Road and submitted it along with a cheque for £2.2K six weeks' ago. He had not received an acknowledgement and had spoken to Kirsty Williams about it who had chased the matter for him.

- b) Cllr Milner noted the demolished gateway in Groombridge. The Clerk said that it had been an early morning incident when a motorist skidded on ice. The Police had attended the scene and insurance details obtained. He is waiting for confirmation of the replacement costings from Highways before submitting a claim to the insurers.
- c) Cllr Milner said that they are planning another Speedwatch session and asked councillors for suggestions on locations. The Clerk noted the accident on Burnt House Lane/Speldhurst Road recently and Cllr Mrs Soyke noted the serious accident on the A264 a few weeks' ago. Cllr Mrs Soyke said that she would like to volunteer for Speedwatch. Cllr Ellery asked the Clerk for a copy of the list of approved sites. Cllr Barrington-Johnson suggested in the lay-by at the top of Farnham Lane, LG. Cllrs Mrs Soyke commented on the effectiveness of the SID in Ashurst.

17/258 LANGTON GREEN RECREATION GROUND (LGRG): Cllr Mrs Lyle reported the following:

- a) It was **RESOLVED** that Cllr Mercieca join the Pavilion Management Committee along with Cllr Mrs Lyle.
- b) Cllr Mrs Lyle explained the need to establish a Pavilion Management Company to manage the pavilion and to be the ratepayer enabling small business relief to be claimed, which would save approximately £4,000. She proposed that SPC Pavilion Ltd be formed to this end. **RESOLVED** that Speldhurst Parish Council Ltd be established. She said there had been minimal setting up costs; Cllr Barrington-Johnson wanted it minuted that Simon Jeffreys be thanked for his hard work preparing the necessary paperwork, advice and registering of the new company. Cllr Mrs Lyle had circulated the proposed Articles of Association to all Councillors. SPC is to own two shares in the new company on the payment of £2.
- c) It was **RESOLVED** to appoint Cllr Barrington-Johnson, Cllr Mrs Lyle and Cllr Mrs Soyke as Directors.
- d) Cllr Mrs Lyle said that the Company would need to appoint an auditor. **RESOLVED** to approve the delegation to the Directors of SPC Ltd to appoint an accountant.
- e) Cllr Mrs Lyle went on to explain that the Clerk is the Company Secretary who can delegate to the Assistant Clerk.
- f) Following the formation of the new company, rates will fall to zero with a minimal amount owed for the previous financial year.

17/259 PARISH PLAN: Cllr Barrington-Johnson said that he had received a letter from the Post Office, apologising that their earlier response must have got lost in the post, but it was non-committal.

17/260 LANGTON GREEN ALLOTMENTS – Cllr Barrington-Johnson said that following his and the Clerk's meeting with Justin Bodle, owner of Groombridge Place, they had held a meeting with Anthony Flowers of the Allotments Association. He said that he had drafted a suggestion for an association that could manage the allotments however he has not heard back from Mr Bodle. It is nearing the deadline for the termination of the existing agreement, so Cllr Barrington-Johnson will chase this matter.

17/261 CO-OPTION – Cllr Barrington-Johnson said that the co-option process is underway having been no call for an election. The same three Councillors will interview candidates after the deadline passes on December 8th.

17/262 KALC COMMUNITY AWARDS SCHEME 2018 – Cllr Barrington-Johnson and the Clerk both made suggestions for the 2018 nomination. It was agreed that councillors would consider SPC's nomination and a decision would be taken at the January Full Council meeting.

17/263 SPELDHURST VILLAGE HALL – It was **RESOLVED** that Cllr Ellery would become the next SPC trustee for the Speldhurst Village Hall.

17/264 KENT POLICE & CRIME COMMISSIONER (KPCC) ANNUAL POLICY SURVEY – After consideration and discussion, it was **RESOLVED** not to respond to the survey as a Parish Council, but that councillors and residents should respond individually.

17/265 KENT FIRE & RESCUE SERVICE SAFETY & WELLBEING PLAN – After consideration and discussion, it was **RESOLVED** not to respond to the survey as a Parish Council, but that councillors and residents should respond individually.

17/266 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT: The Chairman said that he had attended a special Parish Chairmen's meeting regarding the Civic Development which included a very persuasive presentation. There is a normal Parish Chairmen's meeting next week and Cllr Milner will attend on his behalf and report back.

17/267 COMMITTEE REPORTS

- a) **Governance** – Cllr Milner said that there had not been a meeting of the Governance Committee since the last Full Council meeting and had nothing to report. There is a training course for the new GDPR regulations and the Clerk asked councillors to let him know if they wish to attend. The Chairman said that the issue of recruiting a Data Protection Officer jointly between parishes is to be discussed at the Parish Chairmen's meeting and that he will report back. Cllr Mercieca said that he had investigated GDPR for a charity he volunteers for and did not consider the task onerous. The matter will be discussed further when more is known.
- b) **Planning** – In Cllr Mrs Price's absence, there was nothing reported.
- c) **Amenities** – Cllr Mrs Podbury said that a meeting had been held on 15th November at 1.30pm, the minutes having previously been distributed. There were no issues to raise.
- d) **Air Traffic** – The Chairman said that he had been unable to attend the last HWAAG. Cllr Mrs Soyke said that she had attended however attendance seems to be depleting.
- e) **Footpaths** – There was nothing to report.
- f) **KALC** – There was nothing to report.
- g) **Environment Workshop** – There had been a meeting of the Working Group on 22nd November, the notes of which had been previously circulated. Cllr Mrs Podbury said that she would speak to Cllr Mrs Price regarding the Speldhurst village walk.

17/268 OTHER MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF 6th November 2017 – Cllr Mrs Soyke thanked SPC for its generous donation towards the Mayor's Toy Appeal.

17/269 CLERK'S REPORT:

- The Clerk reported that he had received letters of thanks for donations from Victim Support and the British Legion.
- A reminder of the Mayor's Charity Quiz. If councillors would like to attend they should organise teams.
- David Neve, a previous Mayor, had written a Book of Puns which he is selling – the proceeds of which will go to charity.
- The Clerk asked that the office is closed between Christmas and the New Year. This was agreed.

17/270 DIARY DATES:

Wednesday 6th – Planning Meeting, Office

Thursday 7th – Clerk attending Crime Prevention Seminar

Tuesday 12th – Finance Meeting 10.30am

Tuesday 19th – Meeting with Headmistress Speldhurst School 2pm (tbc)

Monday 25th – Christmas Day

Tuesday 26th – Boxing Day

Wednesday 27th – Office closed and re-opens Tuesday 2nd January

Monday 8th January – Full Council, Ashurst VH

All meetings are in the office and start at 7.30pm unless otherwise stated

17/271 ITEMS FOR INFORMATION: Cllr Parker queried the current attempt to reduce Members of Parliament from 650 to 600. Borough Cllr Jukes said that it is currently a proposition by the Boundary Committee. The Chairman said that the online consultation closes on 11th December 2017.

There being nothing further to discuss the meeting closed at 8.05pm.

Chairman

DRAFT