



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 Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2019 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 were received from Cllr Mrs Jeffreys.
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 **13<sup>th</sup> February 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:**
  - a) Groombridge Green picket fence - The Assistant Clerk was still waiting for a response from Tate fencing regarding repairing or replacing the picket fence and would chase.
  - b) Preservation of Groombridge Green – KCC had suggested kerbs be installed however Councillors were concerned about the visual amenity and asked the Assistant Clerk to write to residents asking them for suggestions to stop further erosion.
  - c) Land at entrance to LGRG – The Clerk had confirmed that the land in question belongs to Town and Country. The Assistant Clerk was to ask the Clerk to advise the current owners that SPC may be interested in purchasing the two small areas at the entrance to LGRG for a nominal fee.
  - d) A resident had reported that a car was loitering in the LGVH Carpark during the evenings with its headlights on and engine running. The Clerk was asked to report this matter to the PCSO.
  - e) Cllr Mrs Podbury advised that TWBC have appointed a new Tree Officer.
8. **Financial Review** – The finance sheets had been circulated and were discussed. It was noted that an underspend of £1,750 would be carried over to the next financial year for Treework that had not been completed before the year end.
9. **Review of Terms of Reference** - It was **RESOLVED** to change the Terms of Reference to include that the Groundsman should record all pesticide spraying in a log book.

**10. Parish Council Land**

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

- i. Langton Green Village Hall – there was nothing to report.
- ii. Pavilion – The Asst Clerk advised Councillors that problems had been experienced with the drains running along the back of the pavilion blocking, mainly with baby wipes. It appeared that the drains were badly designed and may need an additional manhole cover. The Clerk was to action a full investigation as a matter of urgency.
- iii. Sports Clubs – Cllr Mrs Podbury had circulated the quotation for maintenance costs at Rusthall sports club to assist SPC regarding maintenance costs for the LGRG. Cllr Mrs Woodcliffe would organise a meeting with the drainage project working group to discuss this matter and it was agreed that these would need to be confirmed before the project goes any further.
- iv. Play Area – Now that the playground was ten years old, a meeting had been organised with a playground consultant to obtain advice on which pieces of equipment should be replaced or repaired. Councillors considered the quotation for the repair of the pedal cycle and gyrospring and it was **RESOLVED** to pay for their repairs subject to the approval and advice received following the inspection.
- v. Use of the recreation ground – An enquiry had been received regarding the use of the LGRG by fitness classes. TWBC charge commercial users £154pa plus VAT for using their recreation grounds. After careful consideration it was agreed that a charge of £120 per year by standing order was appropriate to help cover maintenance costs with a free trial for the first two months. The Assistant Clerk was to find out about SPC's insurance liabilities from Zurich. The Administration Assistant was to set up the payments.
- vi. Cllr Mrs Podbury had spoken to Gary Stevens from TWBC about the bottle banks being emptied. They were experiencing problems with the lorries breaking down and were trying to keep going with the existing until the contract changes in October.

b. **The Green at Langton Green** – The Assistant Clerk was to check if the repairs to the path alongside the Green had been carried out.

c. **The Green at Groombridge -**

- Village Green erosion – see Item 7 Matters Arising.
- Repairs to picket fence – see Item 7 Matters Arising.

d. **Pocket Parks at Speldhurst** – The Groundsman would be asked to visit the parks and report back on the extent of work required to tidy them up.

e. **The Boundary** – It was noted that the Groundsman had cleared the waste using his car which had saved SPC £350.

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

g. **The Groundsman** – Councillors discussed the most cost-effective way to remove weeds according to health and safety regulations. It was **RESOLVED** to recommend to the Finance Committee that the Groundsman attend a course at Hadlow College at a cost of £495 to obtain a licence to spray pesticides. In the meantime the Groundsman would continue to use the existing pesticides and keep a log book.

**11. Trees** – The Assistant Clerk advised that the Living Forest were currently carrying out the maintenance works suggested in the tree report that needed doing within one year.

**12. Public Rights of Way** – It was noted that there is a shortage of volunteers both to carry out repairs and also footpath adopters. Cllr Milner would be addressing residents regarding this matter at the APM and it would be published via social media. The Admin Assistant would be asked to contact the existing volunteers thanking them for their help so far and asking them to confirm they are able to continue.

**13. Items for Information** – there were none.

There being nothing further to discuss, the meeting closed at 8.40pm.

Chairman