



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 28th August 2019 at 7.30pm**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Cllrs Rowe (Chair), Mrs Podbury, Mrs Soyke (7.37pm), Mrs Lyle (7.39pm) and Mrs Price (7.40pm)

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 Cllrs Turner and Mrs Woodliffe.
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 7th June 2019 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 Actions from the Previous Minutes:**
 - The Clerk had written to Town & Country Housing Group advising them that SPC may be interested in purchasing the pocket of land identified at the entrance to the LG carpark. They had responded confirming that they would only be willing to sell all the land identified on the map – not just the area that SPC had enquired about. It was **RESOLVED** that this matter be passed to Full Council for consideration with the recommendation by the Amenities Committee of refusal.
 - An email had been received from a resident of Stockland Green regarding a litter pick being carried out. It was agreed that an article would be put on the SPC website encouraging residents to carry a bag with them when out walking to collect litter. Articles would also be put in the parish magazines. The Environment Working Group had agreed to investigate organising a litter pick.
8. **Financial Review:** The finance sheets had been circulated. It was noted that the playgrounds would require substantial expenditure in the near future.
9. **Term of Reference:** The following changes were **RESOLVED:**

- Paragraph 4 be changed to read: “The purpose of the Committee is to look after the land, buildings and facilities featured in Speldhurst Parish Council’s Register of Assets and to ensure, (together with the Pavilion Management Committee where appropriate) that these are run.....”.
- Paragraph 7b): remove ‘ing’ from *maintaining*.
- Paragraph 8: The Committee will monitor the condition and maintenance of the public rights of way within the Parish be changed to read: “The committee will report on information received regarding the condition and maintenance of the public rights of way”.

10. Parish Council Land:

a. Langton Green Recreation Ground (LGRG)

- i. Langton Green Village Hall – there was nothing to report.
- ii. Pavilion – Cllr Mrs Lyle reported that the pavilion had been redecorated and that the decorator had done a good job. Regarding the drainage, there had not been a problem with blockages whilst the pavilion was shut during the summer. The Clerk was getting quotes to enable a survey to be undertaken.
- iii. Sports Clubs – there was nothing to report.
- iv. Play Area –
 - Gyrospiral Flooring– a quotation had been received by a recommended contractor for the replacement with Matta flooring at a cost of £2,725.80 following advice from the playground consultant. It was **RESOLVED** to recommend to the Finance Committee that the flooring be replaced.
 - Additional item for teenage play area – It was agreed that this item would be considered at the next meeting to give Councillors time to visit playgrounds to get ideas. The suggestions would be narrowed down to two items which the Assistant Clerk would then obtain quotations for. It was noted that the Gyrospiral was in full working order following recent repairs.
 - Bicycle Mill Roundabout – The Assistant Clerk had been able to obtain one further quotation however Sutcliffe Play remained the cheapest. It was **RESOLVED** to ask Sutcliffe Play to requote for just removal of the existing equipment and then to supply and install a replacement Bicycle Mill Roundabout excluding the flooring element. Barge Group would then be asked to quote for repairs to the rubber crumb flooring following installation of the equipment and this work would be carried out at the same time as any other flooring repairs. Councillors considered it important to have all flooring repairs carried out by the same supplier.
 - Repairs to flooring in LG playground – several splits had appeared and could be dangerous. Barge Group had quoted £2,401.50 to carry out the repairs piecemeal or £1,921.50 if all the work on the quotation was carried out at the same time. It was **RESOLVED** to recommend to the Finance Committee that all the repairs be carried out at the same time by the same supplier in addition to the infill work under the new bicycle mill.
- v. Recreation ground – an email had been received from a parent who uses the LG playground regularly complaining that she was showered with grass and bark by the tractor mowing the recreation ground. Landscape Services had been advised and were mowing the ground early in the morning to try and avoid the situation arising again. This matter would be monitored.
- vi. Car park – The Assistant Clerk advised that the top of the pillar on the right-hand side as you enter the carpark had been knocked twice within the past few months. A local stonemason had carried out repairs at approximately £165 each time however it is obviously an extremely dangerous situation. It was noted that the pillars are listed. It was agreed that the situation would be monitored using the CCTV footage and that the installation of metal posts just in front of the pillars be investigated. It was agreed that any further damage would be charged to the bus company responsible if they are able to be identified via CCTV. The Assistant Clerk was to contact Langton Green Primary School asking for the names of the coach companies they use so that they could be consulted regarding the positioning of the posts.
- vii. Installation of plastic grid matting for parking during busy periods. Cllr Mrs Price would investigate planning permission for the matting to be installed. It was noted that it was important to establish

the number of cars that the area could accommodate to make sure the exercise was viable. A commitment would be sought from LGCSA to marshal carparking during events. Cllr Pate had offered advice regarding contacts for dealing with traffic during events and it was agreed that the Assistant Clerk would ask him for details.

b) The Green at Langton Green –

- Patchwork repairs to the path adjacent to the Green at Langton Green: the Assistant Clerk advised that some patching work had been carried out however further work was needed to be done to make the pathway safe. She would liaise with the contractor.
- An email had been received from a resident of Stone Cottage which is adjacent to the Green asking for permission to tarmac her front drive which is currently shingled, in addition to her front lawn. Councillors were against the proposition however it was agreed that a decision would be made once further investigation of land ownership had taken place.
- A response had been received from Mr Shields regarding the dilapidated bench on the edge of the Green at Langton Green advising that he agreed to the bench's removal. The Village Society had offered to carry out this work so that SPC are not seen to set a precedent.
- Cllr Rowe queried why some of the grass verges had been cut whilst others had not. The Assistant Clerk was to investigate.

Councillors agreed that the meeting could continue past 9.30pm.

c) The Green at Groombridge -

- Repairs to picket fence – it was noted that the repairs had been carried out by Tate Fencing.
- Green Erosion – the Assistant Clerk had written to residents living in close proximity to the Green for suggestions on how to prevent further erosion of the Green. Six responses had been received. It was agreed that low wooden posts with reflectors would be costed and that the Assistant Clerk would respond to residents with this proposal before works were carried out.
- A request had been received from a resident asking for permission to turn the lower section of the Green into a wildflower meadow. Councillors considered the proposition and it was **RESOLVED** not to create a wildflower meadow due to the amount of maintenance involved.
- An email had been received from a resident of the Old Butchers, adjacent to Groombridge Green asking if SPC could start maintaining the strip of grass outside their property. Councillors considered the proposition and it was **RESOLVED** not to maintain the area so as not to set a precedent.

d) Pocket Parks at Speldhurst –Cllr Mrs Price said that the Environment group were working on cost-effective suggestions to improve the biodiversity of the area.

e) The Boundary – A request had been received by a resident of the Boundary to purchase a small amount of SPC's land which borders their plot to enlarge their garden. Councillors considered the proposition and it was **RESOLVED** not to sell SPC's land because the council considers it important to retain the open nature of the area and not set a precedent.

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

g) The Groundsman - The Groundsman had attended a pesticides course and his recommendations had already been discussed at Full Council.

11. **Trees:** It was **RESOLVED** to instruct The Living Forest to carry out the works identified on the tree survey which were needed to be completed within two years for 2020. The quotation for this work was £3,480. All action required within one year had been completed.
12. **Public Rights of Way:** A meeting had taken place between Cllr Milner, the Admin Assistant and the Assistant Clerk to discuss footpath adopters. The Admin Assistant had prepared a letter to be sent to all existing adopters thanking them for their work to date and asking them to confirm if they were willing to continue.
13. **Items for Information:** Cllr Mrs Price asked Councillors to look at the Local Plan which had now been published and in particular the recommendations for allocation of the developer's contribution payments. It was noted that this would be discussed at September's Full Council meeting.

There being nothing further to discuss, the meeting closed at 9.35 pm.

Chairman