



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

**MINUTES OF THE FULL COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 3RD SEPTEMBER 2018 AT 7.30PM
IN ASHURST VILLAGE HALL**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Cllr Barrington-Johnson (Chairman), Mrs Soyke, Mrs Jeffreys, Mrs Price, Mrs Lyle, Mrs Podbury, Mrs Woodliffe, Ellery, Mercieca and Pate

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

IN ATTENDANCE: Borough Cllrs Stanyer and Jukes were in attendance as well as County Cllr McInroy.

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC: there was one member of the public present – Mrs Marianne Buckley.

The Chairman advised Councillors that Harry Allen had resigned from Speldhurst Parish Council.

18/190 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.

18/191 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: Apologies were received from Cllrs Milner and Rowe – both prior engagements.

18/192 DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS: there were none

18/193 DECLARATIONS OF LOBBYING: there were none.

18/194 MINUTES: It was **RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the Full Council Meeting on **6th August 2018** be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

18/195 BOROUGH AND COUNTY COUNCILLORS' REPORTS:

- County Cllr McInroy advised that KCC is soon to announce a scheme which will enable rural households to access better broadband speeds. He said there had been instances of anti-social behaviour in Langton Green which had been dealt with and hopefully resolved.
- Borough Cllr Jukes said there had been a recent judicial review of the proposed civic complex which had been rejected by the Judge. Four out of the seven compulsory purchase orders had been issued and it was hoped the remaining could be undertaken by negotiation and the purchase orders were a fall-back. Office space had been reduced from 33,000 to 11,000 with plans for workers to hot-desk.
- Borough Cllr Stanyer said that he had been busy with the Planning Policy Working Party who have a huge amount to get through before the plan goes to public consultation in March 2019.
- Cllr Mrs Podbury advised that she was busy with the Licensing Committee.

18/196 PUBLIC OPEN SESSION: Mrs Marianne Buckley said that unfortunately the booking for the Christmas Fair in the LGVH in November had withdrawn their enquiry without explanation.

18/197 FINANCE COMMITTEE: Cllr Mrs Lyle reported the following:

- a) There had been a meeting of the Finance Committee on Monday 20th August 2018, the minutes having previously been circulated. She noted the Clerk's excellent work preparing the accounts for Internal and External Audit.
- b) Virements: There were none.
- c) Interim payments since the last Full Council meeting: £66.08 pension contributions (the original payment having been returned) and £30.00 for the mobile. Mastercard: a digital thermometer for the pavilion had been purchased at a cost of £119.94 (inc. VAT)
- d) Payments made under delegated authority: there were none

18/198 ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT: Invoices verified by Cllr Ellery.

To authorise the payment of invoices as listed

Payee Name	Reference	Amount	Detail
PCC of Speldhurst, Ashurst & G	MT1386	1,000.00	Churchyard maintenance grant
NALC	MT1394	294.00	Chairmans' Conference
Langton Life	MT1387	250.00	Media column
Craigdene Ltd	MT1388	150.00	Playground inspection (Annual)
CWCS	MT1389	11.99	Hosting
Mr L Cooper	MT1390	40.95	Expenses
Mr L Cooper	MT1391	6.50	Expenses
C May	MT1392	223.85	Expenses
Kate Harman	MT1393	40.20	Expenses
RIP Cleaning Services	MT1401	216.00	Canine Refuse collection
Paul Cheater	MT1400	112.00	Pavilion cleaning
N.E.S.T. Pension Scheme	MT1395	82.98	Pension contributions
Mr L Cooper	MT1396	881.93	Salary
Kate Harman	MT1397	653.50	Salary
C May	MT1398	1,843.51	Salary
HMRC	MT1399	2,821.94	Tax and NI
Total:		£8,629.35	

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

18/199 HIGHWAYS COMMITTEE: The Clerk had been advised that the 20mph advisory limit in Langton Green is to be installed imminently which just left the TRO from 60 to 40 on the Langton Road as outstanding. Cllr Pate said that he is pursuing speed enforcement in Speldhurst.

18/200 LANGTON GREEN RECREATION GROUND (LGRG): Cllr Mrs Lyle reported the following: -

- a) The Café proprietor had opened the café during the summer holidays however it had not proved financially worthwhile and would probably not be repeated. There may be a regular booking for a Martial Arts Club.
- b) Cllr Lyle is to draft instructions to our lawyer regarding the formal agreement between SPC and SPC Pavilion Ltd. LGCSA has called a meeting of Trustees on 12th September.

- c) A meeting had taken place between Cllrs Mrs Lyle and Barrington-Johnson from SPC and Guy Lambert (LGCSA) and Gordon Jaaback (consultant). Mr Jaaback has suggested a different approach to the drainage problem which would involve landscaping and the moving of the cricket pitch. Cllr Mrs Lyle said that the option was still expensive, disruptive for a summer season and involved an artificial wicket for cricket. When further information has been received the next step would be to consult the LGCC.
- d) Refer to 18/196

18/201 PARISH PLAN: The Chairman said that he had nothing to report. Cllr Ellery advised that the link to the Parish Plan on the SPC website did not work and the Clerk agreed to send him an electronic copy of the Plan. The Plan would be available on the new website.

18/202 SPELDHURST POST OFFICE AND VILLAGE SHOP: The Clerk advised that a meeting had been held on Friday 31st August in Speldhurst VH Committee Room, attended by Cllrs Mrs Podbury, Ellery and Rowe, the Clerk and Edward Pinnell and Abi Dawson (residents of Speldhurst). The Postmistress was considering giving the Post Office three months' Notice and had put the house and attached shop up for sale. A residents' meeting was being held on Wednesday 5th September at 8pm in St Mary's Church to discuss the different options open to residents. Cllr Ellery said that he had proposed at the meeting that it could be an option for the Council to buy the property by borrowing which should be self-funding. There was much discussion however it was agreed to wait until after the residents' meeting before any further consideration.

18/203 NEIGHBOURHOOD DEVELOPMENT PLAN (NDP): Cllr Barrington-Johnson asked Councillors to consider whether an NDP is appropriate for the parish and said it is important to weigh up the benefits against the effort involved in completing one. He said it needs to be community-led and after some discussion it was agreed to wait until after the meeting in October with TWBC before any further decisions were taken.

18/204 OCTOBER OPEN MEETING: Councillors discussed the meeting format. Cllr Mrs Price suggested information on the Local Plan Review. Cllr Ellery said it would be a good opportunity to promote Speedwatch. The Clerk advised that the new PCSO had offered to give a short talk introducing himself and the work he does. Cllr Mrs Jeffreys suggested advertising on the meeting notice that residents will have the opportunity to have their say and ask questions. The Clerk will order the boards.

18/205 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT: Cllr Barrington-Johnson said that he had nothing to report.

18/206 COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- a) **Governance** – There was nothing to report.
- b) **Planning** – Cllr Mrs Price said that she was concerned about the entry on the Brownfield Register for the Bradleys' site. It appears that the meadowland had recently been added to the plot. Both Cllrs Mrs Price and Mrs Podbury were investigating the matter further. Cllr Mrs Podbury advised for information that the Spa Hotel in Tunbridge Wells have submitted planning permission to build 9 houses in their lower carpark.
- c) **Amenities** – Cllr Mrs Podbury advised that there had not been a meeting of the Amenities Committee since the last Full Council meeting and there was nothing to report.
- d) **Air Traffic** – There was nothing to report.
- e) **Environment Working Group (EWG)** – Cllr Mrs Price said that the next parish walk was going to be held in the Autumn and would be around Ashurst. She asked Councillors for ideas on the route and where they could go for refreshments afterwards. She went on to say that the EWG will be involved in preparing information for the new website and that she is continuing with the environmental audit.
- f) **Footpaths** – the Clerk said that a resident had reported a tree in Groombridge overhanging a footpath. The Groundsman had attended and cut back the branch.
- g) **KALC** – Cllr Barrington-Johnson said that he will be attending a meeting on 4th September and would circulate the meeting notes.
- h) **Website Working Group (WWG)** – The Clerk said that a mock up website had been set up however changes had been requested. They hope to go live with 50% content however they do not currently have a set

timescale. The Clerk asked Councillors for contributions of photographs of the parish to be included. Cllr Ellery offered his help if required.

18/207 OTHER MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF 6th August 2018 – There were none.

18/208 CLERK'S REPORT: There was nothing to report.

18/209 DIARY DATES:

Wednesday 12th – Planning Meeting
Thursday 13th – Clerks' Conference, Ditton
Monday 24th – Finance Meeting – CANCELLED
Monday 1st October – Full Council Meeting – Palmer Room, LGVH
Monday 8th October – Open Meeting LGVH Main Hall

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

18/210 ITEMS FOR INFORMATION:

- Cllr Mrs Price said that she was unfortunately unable to attend the TWBC Local Plan meeting due to work commitments and she will try and contribute her feedback before the meeting takes place.
- Cllr Mrs Jeffreys gave her apologies for the TWBC meeting. She went on to say that the Boundary pond needed some maintenance and it was agreed with the Clerk that the Groundsman will attend the site in October.
- Cllr Mrs Soyke advised that a sheep had been attacked by a dog recently. Councillors suggested she put up posters warning dog-walkers to keep their dogs on a lead.
- Cllr Ellery said that signs had appeared in Speldhurst during the summer for a building contractor. They had now been removed however the Clerk asked him to take photographs should they appear again.
- Cllr Mercieca said that TWBC planned to start charging residents for collecting garden waste. He asked if SPC could consider helping residents in some way. Cllr Jukes explained that there was a Community Amenity Vehicle that services eastern areas of the Borough because Frittenden, for example, was 22 miles away from High Brooms, but it is not for garden waste. TWBC is the last council to impose a charge for garden waste collection but would at the same time be including glass in the kerbside collection. Cllr Pate was concerned that fly-tipping would increase.

There being nothing further to discuss the meeting closed at 9.00pm.

Chairman