



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

**MINUTES OF THE FULL COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY, 12th JANUARY 2015 at 7.30pm
IN ASHURST VILLAGE HALL**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Cllrs Mrs Jeffreys (Chairman), Mrs Horne, Mrs Hull, Mrs Podbury, Mrs Soyke, Barrington-Johnson, Langridge, Milner, Parker and Turner

OFFICERS PRESENT: Mr C May – Clerk and Mrs M Flemington – Assistant Clerk

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC: There were two members of the public present

15/001 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.

15/002 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: Cllrs Owen (work commitment), Pendleton (family commitment) and Woodward (prior engagement)
Kent County Councillor John Davies, Tunbridge Wells Borough Councillors David Jukes and Julian Stanyer

15/003 DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY OR NON-PECUNIARY INTERESTS: There were none.

15/004 DECLARATIONS OF LOBBYING: Several members declared that they had been lobbied about Gatwick. Cllr Mrs Soyke declared that she had been lobbied about highways issues and Cllr Mrs Hull declared that she had been lobbied about potholes.

15/005 MINUTES: RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on **1st December 2014** be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

15/006 BOROUGH AND COUNTY COUNCILLORS REPORTS: Cllr Mrs Soyke reported on the TWBC extra-ordinary Full Council meeting about Gatwick on 7th January and said the Council (TWBC) had voted to oppose the expansion of Gatwick Airport, the narrowing of flight paths and support a significant reduction in night flights. Borough Councillor Julian Stanyer had sent an email advising that the last date to opt for energy switching is 2nd February.

15/007 PUBLIC OPEN SESSION: There were two members of the public present. They did not wish to speak at the meeting.

15/008 FINANCE COMMITTEE – Report by Cllr Mrs Jeffreys in Cllr Owen's absence

- a) There has been no meeting since the last Full Council. The next meeting is on 19th January.

- b) There had been no budget virements.
 c) Cllr Mrs Jeffreys reported on five interim payments and it was **RESOLVED** to approve these (see list below).

15/009 ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT – Invoices verified by Cllr Mrs Horne

<u>Payee Name</u>	<u>Cheque/Ref</u>	<u>Amount Paid</u>	<u>Transaction Detail</u>
<u>Notification of additional payments in December</u>			
BT PLC	DD	294.38	Broadband and telephone
BT PLC	DD	33.00	Mobile
The Hare	AO53	319.80	Refreshments
Sainsbury's	AO54	12.23	Petrol
Mower Services	AO55	48.00	Blower repairs
Total payments		707.41	

To authorise the payment of invoices as listed

KALC	MT474	5,496.00	Defibrillators
S J Osborne & Son	157	222.16	LGRG pavilion lock and keys
Chiddingstone Parish Council	158	312.22	HWCAAG costs
Tate Fencing Ltd	MT457	62.64	Maintenance supplies
Langton Green Charitable Trust	MT458	12.00	Meeting room hire
Langton Life	MT459	250.00	Langton Life article
Prestige Web Marketing	MT460	60.00	Website
Viking Direct	MT461	166.70	Stationery and stamps
Sac-O-Mat UK Ltd	MT462	488.83	Dog waste bags
RIP Cleaning Services	MT463	172.80	Canine refuse
GACC	MT464	10.00	GACC subscription
KCC (KCS)	MT465	774.25	Groombridge maintenance
KCC (KCS)	MT466	1,108.51	Langton Green maintenance
Mr L Cooper	MT467	340.00	Groundsman's duties
Mr L Cooper	MT468	13.52	Maintenance expenses
M Flemington	MT469	668.72	Salary
M Flemington	MT470	19.65	Expenses
C May	MT471	1,408.45	Salary
Miss K Lawrence	MT472	15.00	Cleaner
HMRC	MT473	725.60	Tax & NI
EDF Energy	DD	138.33	Pavilion electricity
Tunbridge Wells Borough Council	DD	55.00	Non-domestic rates
Total payments		£12,520.38	

It was **RESOLVED** to pay the invoices listed above, sign the cheques and authorise the BACS in Unity Trust Bank

15/010 HIGHWAYS: A Committee meeting was held on 5th December and the minutes have been circulated. Cllr Langridge reported that the results of the traffic speed surveys should assist with the campaign for 20mph outside schools and that he and Cllr Barrington-Johnson are carrying out a survey at The Hare crossroads on 15th January. Cllr Langridge gave details of a fatality near Ashurst that occurred on Jan 6th. He also said that permission had been received to put a notice on a fence of a resident near the Speldhurst doctors' surgery to deter parking

there. Speedwatch sessions had been diarised for the year. It was noted that improvements by KCC at Smallbrook had alleviated the flooding. The Clerk said that the report written by Langton Green School on 20mph had not been submitted to KCC due to a misunderstanding.

15/011 LANGTON GREEN RECREATION GROUND (LGRG):

- a) The Clerk reported that the pavilion building work is scheduled to start around July. He advised that the lock had become unusable and had to be replaced.
- b) The clerk reported that the car park resurfacing is complete and is being well used with the exception of some people still parking outside marked bays. The surface of the new car park is permeable for drainage purposes and is not to be used by HGVs or buses/coaches. Temporary signs have been put up and permanent signs will be required. The work at the school is behind schedule which could delay completion of the work on the footpaths.

15/012 TRANSFER OF LAND FROM TWBC: The legal paperwork is in progress. Came & Co insurers have confirmed that the land including the pond at The Boundary will be covered under the public liability section of the insurance policy and that no specific action is required.

15/013 KALC COMMUNITY AWARDS SCHEME: A nomination for the KALC Community Award 2015 was agreed.

15/014 NEWSLETTER: It was agreed that the Newsletter should include articles on the following: the elections, the precept, Gatwick, broadband, and defibrillators. Cllr Langridge agreed to write a draft for circulation.

15/015 NEW YEAR'S HONOURS LIST 2016: It was agreed that nominations should be from residents rather than the Parish Council and that a notice to this effect would be posted on the notice boards and website.

15/016 PARISH POLL CONSULTATION: Following discussion it was **RESOLVED** to support the Government's proposals in the consultation.

15/017 PROVISIONAL LOCAL GOVERNMENT FINANCE SETTLEMENT 2015/16: It was **RESOLVED** to send Cllr Mrs Jeffreys' response to Greg Clark MP and copy it to Department of Communities and Local Government (DCLG) and Kent Association of Local Councils (KALC).

15/018 TO CONSIDER A PARISH COUNCIL RESPONSE TO TWBC PUBLIC CONSULTATION ON THE FOLLOWING SUBJECTS:

- a) It was **RESOLVED** to support the Draft Budget and Medium Term Financial Strategy 2015/16 with comments on the Council Tax Support Grant.
- b) It was **RESOLVED** to make no specific comment on the Draft Property Asset Management Plan 2015/16.
- c) It was **RESOLVED** to make no specific comment on the Draft Corporate Priorities 2015/16.

15/019 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT: Cllr Mrs Jeffreys reported that she and the Clerk had a meeting with the Head teacher at Langton Green Primary School on 8th January and a note of the meeting had been circulated. A meeting with the head teacher at Speldhurst School was scheduled for 15th January.

15/020 COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- a) **Governance** – A Committee meeting was held on 5th January and the minutes have been circulated. The following policies were reviewed and recommended for adoption by Full Council
 - i. **RESOLVED** to adopt the Signs on Council Land policy
 - ii. **RESOLVED** to adopt the Lone Worker policy
 - iii. **RESOLVED** to adopt the Budget Virement policy
 - iv. **RESOLVED** to adopt the Freedom of Information policy
 - v. **RESOLVED** to adopt the Financial Standing Orders
 - vi. **RESOLVED** to adopt the policy that all working groups should have Terms of Reference

- vii. **RESOLVED** to adopt the Clerks' job description
- viii. **RESOLVED** to adopt the NALC pay award
- ix. **RESOLVED** to adopt the Groundsman's duties and contract
- b) **Planning** – Committee meetings were held on 3rd December and 8th January and the minutes have been circulated. Cllr Mrs Horne reported on the planning application history and the recent planning application for B1 office use on the old dairy site at Barden Road Speldhurst.
- c) **Amenities** – The next Committee meeting is on 22nd January.
- d) **Air Traffic** – there has been no Committee meeting since the last Full Council. The next meeting is on 23rd January. It was **RESOLVED** to respond to the Gatwick consultation in line with the recommendation of the Committee. The Committee was given delegated authority to amend the response should they deem it necessary.
- e) **Footpaths** – there was nothing to report.
- f) **KALC** – there was nothing to report.
- g) **Parish Plan Working Group** – Cllr Turner reported that the next meeting is on 15th January. There are two new members of the group and it is hoped that a new Chairman will be appointed at the meeting.
- h) **Environment Working Group** – Cllr Mrs Hull reported that letters have been sent to the three schools asking if they would like a tutorial from a CPRE ecologist (funded by the Parish Council) on how to manage school wildlife surveys and projects. The Assistant Clerk advised that all three schools have confirmed that they would like to take part and that a date for the tutorial will be arranged with CPRE.
- i) **First World War Working Group** – Cllr Langridge reported that the War Memorials Trust have refused the grant application for restoring/rebuilding Speldhurst War Memorial on the grounds that TWBC would not permit rebuilding as it is listed. The TWBC Conservation Officer has confirmed this but advised that some restoration work may be permissible and that there may be TWBC grant funding available.
- j) **Security** – Cllr Langridge confirmed that consideration of CCTV in the parish will be on the agenda for the next Amenities and Highways Committee meetings.

15/021 OTHER MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF 1ST DECEMBER 2014: There were none.

15/022 CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED:

1. KALC Parish News December 2014
2. KALC Media Release 18th December 2014
3. TWBC Community Safety Unit Councillor Update December 2014
4. KCC Inside Track Issue 222 December 2014
5. A21 Tonbridge to Pembury Dualling Scheme update number 1 December 2014
6. Letter dated 9th December from the Local Government Boundary Commission regarding the electoral review of Kent County Council
7. Letter dated 16th December from the Office of Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of Kent inviting the Chairman to the annual Civic Service at Rochester Cathedral on Tuesday 10th March 2015 at 11am
8. Letter dated 15th December from Mr Bougon of Bird in Hand Street Groombridge regarding speeding traffic – the Clerk has responded and **it will be on the agenda for the next Highways Committee meeting**
9. Letter dated 1st January from Mr Brogan regarding dog mess on Speldhurst Recreation Ground
10. Email dated 7th January from John Davies regarding the launch of the consultation on charitable trust for Kent libraries
11. Email from ACRK asking for support to their e-petition that DEFRA funding should not be cut
12. Email dated 12th January from Clare Himmer regarding the obstruction caused by visitors to The Hare parking along Speldhurst Road, Langton Green – **this will be on the agenda for the next highways committee meeting**

15/023 DIARY DATES:

Thursday 15th January – Meeting with Speldhurst Primary School – **10.30am**

Thursday 15th January – Parish Plan Working Group meeting – LGVH

Monday 19th January – Finance meeting – Office

Thursday 22nd January – Amenities meeting – Office

Friday 23rd January – Meeting with Greg Clark MP – Office – **10.30am**

Friday 23rd January – Air Traffic meeting – Office – **11.30am**

Tuesday 27th January – Speedwatch – **2.30pm**

Monday 2nd February – **Full Council meeting - LGVH**

Tuesday 3rd February – Kent Men of the Trees Tree Planting ceremony and award – Pocket Park, Speldhurst – **11am**

15/024 ITEMS FOR INFORMATION:

Cllr Mrs Jeffreys asked Councillors to advise the Clerk whether they intend to stand for election in May. She also said that the current Vice-Chairman, Cllr Milner, has declared that he will not stand for Chairman and asked Councillors to consider standing for the vacant post of Chairman in May.

Cllr Milner reported that he had received a thank you letter from pupils at Speldhurst Primary School for the work done to create a quiet corner in the playground. He advised that he will be having a meeting with Langton Green Primary School regarding their travel plan.

Cllr Turner said that the vegetation in St Mary's churchyard wall needs dealing with again. Cllr Langridge said that the TWBC Conservation Officer had indicated that he would contact the Church about this.

Cllr Parker advised that there have been two recent incidences of fly-tipping in Farnham Lane. They have been reported to TWBC.

Cllr Mrs Podbury advised that work is underway on the Speldhurst playground improvements.

There being nothing further to discuss the meeting closed at 9.10pm

Chairman