



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

**Minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on Monday 7th September 2020 at 7.30pm
Conducted online via Zoom electronic communication**

MEMBERS PRESENT

Cllrs Barrington-Johnson (Chairman), Milner, Mrs Soyke, Mrs Podbury, Mrs Lyle, Mrs Woodliffe, Rowe, Ellery, Turner, Pate, Scarbrough, Rajah and Langridge

OFFICERS PRESENT

Mr C May – Clerk, Mrs K Harman – Assistant Clerk and Mrs C Barrett – Admin Assistant

IN ATTENDANCE

Borough Cllr Ms Willis

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

There were two members of the public present.

20/151 Welcome by the Chairman

Cllr Barrington-Johnson welcomed everyone to the meeting.

20/152 To enquire if anyone intends to record the meeting

No-one present intended to record the meeting.

20/153 To accept and approve apologies and reasons for absence

Borough Cllr Stanyer and County Cllr McInroy had sent their apologies.

20/154 Disclosure of Interests

There were none.

20/155 Declarations of Lobbying

There were none.

20/156 Minutes of the Full Council meeting held on 3rd August 2020

RESOLVED that the minutes, previously forwarded to Members, be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

20/157 Borough and County Councillors' Reports

Cllr Ms Willis spoke about a large residential development in Bidborough and also gave an update on the planned roadworks in Langton Green by SGN which would cause traffic congestion. She went on to say that TWBC would be making a decision soon on whether they would support Fusion leisure centre financially to enable it to reopen fully.

Cllr Mrs Soyke had also been in communication with residents regarding the large residential development proposed in Bidborough.

Both Cllrs Mrs Soyke and Mrs Podbury said that they felt cut off from the work of TWBC whilst working remotely and enquired about the briefings being received by the parish council. The clerk was receiving regular updates. Cllr Mrs Podbury said that the planning white paper was a very serious concern and it was anticipated Greg Clark MP would be asked to raise these concerns in the Houses of Parliament.

20/158 Public Open Session

The two members of the public were attending to hear the updates on the drainage project on the Recreation ground and did not wish to speak at this point.

20/159 Clerk's Report

Speldhurst Parish has a new PCSO - Jay Burt. The Clerk had spoken to him and given recommendations on how he could best serve the parish. Cllr Barrington-Johnson suggested he attend a Speedwatch session.

There is also a new Chief Inspector of Police for Tunbridge Wells and Tonbridge – DCI Rachael Cumberland Meeting notices were now to contain meeting joining instructions.

The Admin Assistant had carried out a lot of work ensuring that SPC's documents were accessible for software readers.

A Speldhurst resident had complained about the pizza and fish and chip vans parking outside his house. The generator is noisy, and customers block the pavement. He has asked SPC to look into an alternative site.

20/160 Finance Committee – Report by Cllr Mrs Lyle

- a) A meeting of the Finance Committee had been held on 2nd September 2020 and the minutes were now updated and on the website.
- b) Report on budget virements: there were a number of virements that were needed, and the clerk will prepare them for authorisation at the next Full Council meeting.
- c) Report on interim payments made since the last meeting: there were none.
- d) Report on decisions made under delegated authority: there were none.
- e) Cllr Mrs Woodliffe had investigated councillors' ability to access Microsoft 365 on their home computers however the concern was that documents could then be saved to individual's personal computers which may be an issue with GDPR. The clerk will investigate, and a decision will be made at the next Full Council meeting.

20/161 Accounts for Payment

To authorise the payment of invoices as listed

| Payee Name | Ref. | Amount £ | Detail |
|------------------------------|-------------|-----------------|----------------------------|
| Paul Cheater | MT1868 | 588.00 | Pavilion cleaning July/Aug |
| M R Lawrence | MT1869 | 480.00 | Mowing and strimming |
| Speldhurst News | MT1870 | 9.00 | Annual postage |
| Commercial Services Kent Ltd | MT1871 | 406.82 | Lease Van one month |
| C May | MT1872 | 13.99 | Computer equipment |
| Herrington Consulting Ltd | MT1873 | 918.00 | Drainage Report |
| Kidman's Ltd | MT1874 | 37.10 | Repairs |
| Kidman's Ltd | MT1875 | 27.47 | Maintenance |

| | | | |
|-------------------------------|--------|----------|--------------------------|
| Langton Life | MT1876 | 300.00 | Bi-monthly issue |
| Catherine Barrett | MT1877 | 652.08 | Salary |
| Unity Trust Mastercard Top up | | 165.14 | To bring balance to zero |
| Mr L Cooper | MT1878 | 805.07 | Salary |
| Kate Harman | MT1879 | 783.00 | Salary |
| C May | MT1880 | 1,629.27 | Salary |
| N.E.S.T. Pension Scheme | MT1882 | 182.54 | Pension contributions |
| EDF Energy | DD | 357.00 | Pavilion electricity |
| Veolia | DD | 155.20 | Recycling |
| HMRC | MT1881 | 2,553.40 | 3 mth Tax & NI |
| Unity Trust Bank | DD | 27.60 | Bank charges |

£10,090.68

20/162 Langton Green Recreation Ground (LGRG)

- a) Cllr Mrs Lyle reported on behalf of the Pavilion Management Committee. The café was now allowing customers to use the inside space which had been adapted in line with present health and safety guidelines. It had been quiet however there were signs that customers were returning. The cafe had begun to pay rent again starting this month. Consideration was being given to opening the pavilion to hirers again but any hire would involve cleaning costs.
- b) Traffic management and parking: there was nothing to report other than due to the delays with the drainage project, football would not be played on the recreation ground this season.
- c) Independent report: the report had been received however there were some omissions and inaccuracies in their data which has resulted in unreliable conclusions. SPC had responded asking that they consider amending the report and reassess the conclusion.
- d) Drainage project update: There had not been any spraying of weed killer. It had recently been mowed and reseeded and will be left now until Spring 2021 when it will be trimmed, fed and a broadleaf weedkiller applied.

20/163 TWBC Draft Local Plan

TWBC asked that this item be marked as confidential until it was in the public domain. The Chairman said that it would be discussed at the end of the meeting in a private.

20/164 TW Agreement and TWBC Statement of Community Involvement (SCI)

Cllr Barrington-Johnson explained that TWBC had agreed an amendment to the TW Agreement which would give Parish Councils three working days in which to appeal against any decision that was directly against their recommendation. It was **RESOLVED** to support the amendment.

A small working group had suggested some amendments to the SCI and these had been sent to TWBC for consideration.

20/165 Community Right to Bid (CRB)

The Clerk had completed the necessary application, including the information that SPC had supported the project with a £15K grant on the suggestion of Cllr Pate. It was considered important as a matter of courtesy to discuss the matter with the shop owner, which would be undertaken by Cllrs Milner and Rowe, before it was submitted.

20/166 Parish Council Vehicle

A working group considered the different options available but asked the Finance Committee for their preferred purchase option. The Finance Committee considered that making use of the Business rates support grant of £10K, which had been received recently, would be their preference. Cllr Pate suggested outlining the considerations in a business plan for agreement at the next Full Council meeting.

20/167 Langton Green Village Hall

Mrs Angela Moss had advised that she was resigning as a Trustee after 20 years and therefore SPC's Trustee. Another trustee, Mark Taylor, had volunteered to take over the role once Mrs Moss had stepped down. The clerk suggested that some kind of recognition of Mrs Moss's contribution to Langton should be considered.

20/168 Litter Pick

The clerk said that Langton Green had recently carried out a litter pick and suggested it would be a useful exercise in Speldhurst. Cllr Pate agreed to organise an event in Speldhurst, and the Admin Assistant offered to assist.

20/169 Newsletter

The clerk said that the newsletter should be published in mid-October and considered an explanation on how the system of policing speeding worked as well as an explanation on the importance of residents registering to receive planning updates both important issues to be included.

The Chairman asked councillors to advise the clerk if they had any further suggestions for inclusion.

20/170 Chairman's Report

The chairman had nothing new to report.

20/171 Committee Reports

To include any Committee Meetings held since the last Full Council meeting, the Draft Minutes having previously been forwarded to all Members

- a) **Governance:** There was nothing to report.
- b) **Planning:** A meeting was held on 5th August when six applications were considered. Two new dwellings on Stockland Green Road were objected to which had considerable local objection. Cllr Mrs Lyle said that a recent application had closed for a property to be rebuilt on Homewood Road which was considered to have inadequate parking provision. The clerks would investigate why this application was not considered by the Planning Committee.
- c) **Highways:** Cllr Pate had written to County Cllr McInroy regarding projects being put on hold until next April. He said that the timescale was unacceptable, and he was awaiting a response. Cllr Barrington-Johnson carried out a Speedwatch session on the A264 at 9.20am for an hour in which 45 vehicles were caught speeding. Cllr Rajah had canvassed support on Stockland Green Road against the speeding which regularly occurs.
- d) **Amenities:** A meeting was being scheduled for mid-October.
- e) **Air Traffic:** A meeting would be scheduled to consider Gatwick's actions.
- f) **Footpaths:** Cllr Milner had spent time with the Groundsman carrying out various repairs within the parish.
- g) **Environment Working Group:** This would need to be reinvigorated.
- h) **KALC:** There was nothing to report.

20/172 Diary Dates

Wednesday 9th September 2020 – SPC Planning Committee meeting at 7.30pm via Zoom

Friday 11th September – Cllr Rajah to attend a KALC/CPRE Zoom meeting on Planning White Paper

Tuesday 15th September – Admin Assistant to attend a KALC Zoom meeting on effective communication

Thursday 24th September – Clerk to attend KALC Clerks conference

20/173 Items for Information

The Clerk advised that he had received an invitation to comment regarding 20/01775/FULL 5 Homewood Road however it had not been sent to the Assistant clerk who would investigate.

Cllr Mrs Soyke asked if Langton Green and Speldhurst village halls had recommenced taking bookings. It was believed they had and she would contact the hall administrators to share advice.

Cllr Ellery had been approached by a resident complaining about a neighbour's caravan which was considered an eyesore. Unfortunately, councillors did not consider the matter was an infringement and were therefore unable to assist.

There being no further items the meeting closed at 9.08pm.

Chairman