



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

**MINUTES OF THE FULL COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON MONDAY, 2nd JULY 2012 at 7.30pm
IN THE ELLIS ROOM, LANGTON GREEN VILLAGE HALL**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Cllrs Mrs Jeffreys (Chairman), Mrs Horne, Mrs Hull, Mrs Podbury, Mrs Soyke (arrived 8.40pm), Hemming, Milner, Parker, Owen, Pendleton, Turner and Woodward

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

Borough Cllr Julian Stanyer
Sam Christie, Courier

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC: There was one member of the public present.

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: Cllr Langridge (prior engagement) and County Cllr John Davies

12/240 DECLARATIONS OF PERSONAL AND PREJUDICIAL INTEREST: There were none.

12/241 DECLARATIONS OF LOBBYING: There were none.

12/242 MINUTES:

The Minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on **11th June 2012**, having previously been forwarded to Members, were approved and signed as a true record. The Minutes of the Extraordinary Full Council Meeting held on **18th June 2012**, having been previously forwarded to Members, were approved and signed as a true record.

12/243 BOROUGH AND COUNTY COUNCILLORS REPORTS: Borough Cllr Julian Stanyer referred to two letters he has received; one regarding the parking implications in Northfields because of planning consent and the other in respect of the re-surfacing of Dornden Drive. He read out TWBC's response to the first letter and the Clerk would respond to the second letter on his behalf.

12/244 PUBLIC OPEN SESSION: A resident of The Boundary, Langton Green spoke to say that he was in attendance out of general interest and not in respect of any particular agenda item.

12/245 FINANCE COMMITTEE – Report by Cllr Mrs Jeffreys

- i) Cllr Mrs Jeffreys reported that there has not been a Committee Meeting since the last Full Council Meeting.

- ii) Cllr Mrs Jeffreys reported that there had been three email decisions. It was agreed to support the Speldhurst Village Fete by paying for the two day event insurance of £455: it was agreed to support the Speldhurst Pram Race (now organised by the Speldhurst Primary School PTA) by paying the insurance of £354 plus Insurance Premium Tax and it was agreed to pay the Groundsman an extra £25 for additional duties.

12/246 ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT – Invoices verified by Cllr Turner

<u>Payee Name</u>	<u>Cheque Ref</u>	<u>Amount Paid</u>	<u>Transaction Detail</u>
<u>Additional Payments in June not listed</u>			
Southern Water	402	27.94	Recreation Ground Water
Premier Digital	403	150.00	LNH Open Meeting Posters
<u>Payments in July</u>			
M R Lawrence	404	660.00	Mowing and Strimming
M R Lawrence	405	320.00	Regular mowing
LGCT	406	11.25	Meeting Room Hire
Joyce & Partners	407	84.55	Architect's Fees
Speldhurst Village Fund	408	455.00	Fete Insurance
M J Willoughby Jones	409	800.00	Ashurst Flagpole
Mr L Cooper	410	125.00	Groundsman's Duties
C May	411	1,355.77	Salary
C May	412	23.62	Expenses
M Flemington	413	623.41	Salary
M Flemington	414	64.36	Expenses
HMRC	415	699.48	Tax & NI
Tate Fencing Ltd	416	2,716.54	Posts at the Green, Langton
Engrave It All	417	229.04	Trophies and Engraving
Engrave It All	418	54.00	Plaque
BT PLC	DD	30.00	Mobile
KCC (KCS)	DD	188.26	Photocopier
Tunbridge Wells Borough Council	DD	53.00	Non-Domestic Rates
Total payments		£8,493.20	

12/247 HIGHWAYS REPORT: Cllr Mrs Podbury reported that a Committee Meeting was held on 15th June. She requested that TWBC are asked to consider enforcement action for parking on pavements and it was agreed that the Clerk write to TWBC requesting that the Parish be considered in their deliberations. Cllr Stanyer said that he would follow up the parking issues with TWBC planners on our behalf.

She also reported that the battery that operates the speedwatch has gone missing and a new one was needed. It was **AGREED** to replace it.

- i) The Clerk reported that County Councillor John Davies has allocated £18,000 of his Member Funding for the Stone Cross highway improvements and that expenditure by the Parish Council of up to £4,000 is required to meet the total cost of the work. This was **AGREED**.

12/248 NEW CODE OF CONDUCT: The new Code of Conduct was circulated and discussed. Cllr Mrs Jeffreys has made an initial investigation in to which of the two versions to adopt (Kent or NALC) and it was considered at this stage that the Kent version was more suitable for local Parish Councils. Members of the Governance Committee will consider the options and make a recommendation to Full Council for decision at next month's meeting. The new Registration of Interest forms will be sent to Councillors for completion and returning at the meeting.

The Clerk informed Cllrs that the Registration of Interest forms will be required to be displayed on the SPC website.

12/249 OFFICE DIRECTIONAL SIGN:

The Clerk reported that he now has an alternative quote for the new sign and will proceed with the order because it falls within the agreed quotation amount.

12/250 LANGTON GREEN RECREATION GROUND:

- i) The Clerk has chased up the solicitor regarding the surrender of the additional car park lease to SPC.
- ii) Cllr Mrs Jeffreys advised that there is nothing further to report at present regarding the pavilion.
- iii) A request has been received from TWBC to use LGRG for a Family Fun Day on Thursday 16th August. This was discussed and the request was **AGREED** to. **The Clerk to notify TWBC.**
- iv) The possibility of the hiring out of LGRG for individual events and whether there should be a charge was discussed. It was **AGREED** it should be considered by the Amenities Committee and a recommendation made to Full Council thereafter.
- v) The Clerk reported that the new dog bags are not fit for purpose. After discussion it was **AGREED** that the unused bags would be returned and a new order placed for the custom made bags.

12/251 LOCAL SCHOOLS:

Cllr Mrs Jeffreys reported that the trophies and presentations of the Diamond Jubilee Awards for Olympic Spirit have been arranged. Langton Green School will be on 17th July attended by Cllr Mrs Jeffreys and Deputy Lieutenant Peter Blackwell. Speldhurst School will be on 20th July attended by Cllr Milner. **The Clerk will ascertain if Peter Blackwell should to attend the Speldhurst School presentation as well.**

12/252 ALL SAINTS' CHURCH LANGTON GREEN WAR MEMORIAL: A letter has been received from the PCC Secretary regarding the condition of the War Memorial. After discussion it was **AGREED** that the Clerk will inspect and report on what work is required.

12/253 BROADBAND: Cllr Woodward reported that the Broadband Working Group is setting up a legal entity, possibly in the form of a Limited Company initially. He said the goal of the Broadband project is still to ensure that the whole community, as well as the outlying areas is served as well as possible.

12/254 FIRST AID: The question of sending the Clerks and possibly some Councillors on a First Aid Course and installing a First Aid kit in the Office was discussed. It was **AGREED** that the Clerk will look into the costs and it will be discussed further at the next meeting.

12/255 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT: Cllr Milner reported on the Parish Chairmen's meeting that he had attended in Cllr Mrs Jeffreys' absence. Cllr Jukes was in the Chair and there were informative talks on the Ambulance and Police services and road safety.

12/256 COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- i) Governance – Cllr Pendleton said that there was nothing to report.
- ii) Planning – The revised Terms of Reference which had been circulated to all Councillors were discussed and it was **AGREED** that they be **ADOPTED.**
- iii) Amenities – Cllr Milner reported that an Amenities Committee Meeting will be held on 17th July and that the Clerk is obtaining two further quotes for the most urgent tree works at Langton Green Recreation Ground. They would also discuss usage of the LGRG and recommend any charges or policy.
- iv) Footpaths – Cllr Milner reported on maintenance and repair work that has been taking place recently and said that there are still some letters to be distributed regarding cutting back boundary hedges and undergrowth.
- v) KALC – Cllr Mrs Hull said that she is meeting the KALC Chairman on 5th July.

- vi) Local Needs Housing – A meeting is to be held with TWBC on 18th July.
- vii) Neighbourhood Planning Working Group – An initial meeting of the Working Group is to be held soon.
- viii) Environment Working Group – A meeting was held on Wednesday 13th June. The Working Group requested an Environment page on the website. This was discussed and expenditure of up to £120 on a website page was **AGREED. The Clerk will instigate.**

12/257 OTHER MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF 11TH JUNE 2012:

Cllr Owen asked about the reports from the recipients of the Diamond Jubilee grants. The Clerk reported that some but not all have been received and Cllrs would receive a full report in due course.

12/258 CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED:

1. Letter dated May 2012 from TV Licensing – have replied to confirm there is no TV in the Parish Council Office
2. Letter dated June 2012 from BT advising of their charges from 1st July 2012
3. ACRK Oast to Coast Summer 2012 Magazine – to be passed to Cllr Mrs Hull and Cllr Woodward
4. Kompan Playgrounds Brochure 2012 – no further playground equipment brochures required
5. Letter dated 8th June from the Valuation Office Agency with a request for Non-Domestic Rating information – have completed and returned the form
6. Letter dated 15th June from the PCC Secretary for All Saints' Church Langton Green thanking the Parish Council for their Diamond Jubilee Grant
7. Letter dated 20th June from the PCC Secretary for All Saints' Church Langton Green advising that the War Memorial is in a poor state of repair
8. Open Spaces Society Annual Report and Accounts 2011
9. Open Spaces Society Summer 2012 magazine – to be passed to Cllr Mrs Podbury and Cllr Mrs Hull

12/259 DIARY DATES:

1. Tuesday 3rd July – Planning Meeting – Parish Council Office
2. Saturday 7th July – Langton Green Village Fete
3. Monday 9th July – Election Meeting at TWBC
4. Thursday 12th July – Playground Inspection Training Course – 10am-1pm
5. Thursday 12th July – TWBC Planning Training – Town Hall – 5.30pm
6. Saturday 14th July – KALC Councillors Conference – Lenham – 9.00-4.30pm
7. Friday 20th July – Speldhurst School's Award Presentation – 2.15pm
8. Thursday 25th July – TWBC Planning Training – Town Hall – 5.30pm
9. Monday 30th July – Finance Meeting – Parish Council Office
10. Monday 6th August – **Full Council Meeting** – Speldhurst Village Hall, Committee Room

The Clerk asked that if Councillors have any comments to make in respect of the meeting at TWBC on 9th July to discuss the administration of elections they contact him.

12/260 ITEMS FOR INFORMATION:

The Clerk reported that the Newsletter is at the printers and will be ready for distribution soon. Cllr Langridge would co-ordinate LG and Cllr Mrs Podbury will organise Speldhurst. She will notify the Clerk of any areas that cannot be delivered by hand.

Cllr Mrs Hull reported that the Speldhurst Fete and Jubilee weekend had been a great success.

Cllr Parker issued an invitation to everyone to Langton Green Fete on Saturday 7th July.

Cllr Mrs Soyke reported from TWBC; they are looking for a better source of power for the ice rink this winter, the number of homeless families in bed and breakfast accommodation has risen from three to nine, the Licensing Committee has agreed to allow trading stalls on part of Mount Pleasant and the Museum will be closed temporarily for improvements to disabled access.

Cllr Mrs Podbury advised that Audrey Stuart-Black is retiring as editor of Speldhurst News and suggested a thank you card be sent to her. The Chairman will send flowers on behalf of the Parish Council.

Cllr Mrs Soyke and Cllr Milner reported that the new Bishop of Rochester had recently led excellent services at Ashurst and Speldhurst Churches.

Cllr Milner enquired about the poor state of the railway bridge in Tunbridge Wells. Cllr Mrs Soyke advised that it is due to be repainted.

Cllr Mrs Podbury said that the Speldhurst Village website had been advised that it was required by EU regulation to display a statement about the use of cookies and asked if the SPC website was required to do so. **The Clerk would investigate and report.**

There being nothing further to discuss the meeting closed at 9.22pm

CHAIRMAN