



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 Monday 27th February 2017 at 7.30pm

MEMBERS PRESENT: Cllr Mrs Podbury (Chair), Mrs Soyke, Allen, Kerby, Parker and Turner

OFFICERS PRESENT: Mr C May – Clerk and 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:** Cllr Mrs Jeffreys (prior engagement)
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 **12th December 2016** 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 Correspondence:** There were none.
8. **Terms of Reference (TOR):** It was **RESOLVED** to include the word 'to' at the beginning of paragraphs c, d and e and to put the acronyms in full.
9. **Boundary Change:** Cllr Mrs Podbury advised that she has given the Electoral Office at TWBC a list of the suggested new boundary changes and she is still awaiting confirmation of how the precept will be affected.
10. **Financial Review:** The Clerk said that all figures had been reviewed in the Finance Committee meeting on 20th February. He also advised that with effect from 2017/18, the Pavilion will be accounted separately with all incomings and outgoings itemised.
11. **Parish Plan:** Cllr Mrs Podbury went down the list of Actions in the Plan.
 - Tennis Court – the tennis court at Great Footway in Langton was still under investigation and Cllr Barrington-Johnson is to contact the owners. Cllr Kerby enquired if there is capacity in Groombridge and it was agreed this could be an alternative plan.
 - Post office in Langton Green – Cllr Barrington-Johnson had not received a reply to his letter of enquiry.

- Doctors' surgery in Langton Green – it was agreed that this item would be referred back to the Parish Plan Working Group. Councillors considered the current services in Speldhurst, Rusthall and Groombridge to be adequate and wondered if a new surgery were to open up in Langton if patients would transfer from their established doctor. It was suggested that SPC contact the NHS Primary Trust and enquire about the procedure of establishing a surgery.
- Electric car charging points at village halls – Cllrs considered various ways that this facility could be incorporated but costs and locality made it unviable and it was agreed to suggest that this action be precluded from the Plan at this point in time.
- Supporting local shops – The Clerk advised that he had not put adverts in the free local broadsheets; however it would cost £50 to put an advert in Langton Life which needed approval. It was **RESOLVED** that the Clerk would speak to the Langton Life editor suggesting he published an article on local shops, which members of the public might be more inclined to read.
- Councillors considered advertising local attractions on the SPC website however it was agreed that this was not the correct place for such information.
- Broadband and Mobile phone reception – The committee was unsure how to proceed with this matter. Councillors noted that the reception is currently much improved than it was a few years' ago and suggested residents sign up to superfast broadband services.
- Councillors noted that business rates are increasing which will have an impact on local businesses.

12. Parish Council Land

a. Langton Green Recreation Ground (LGRG)

1. Langton Green Village Hall – no issues to discuss.
2. Sports Clubs –
 - The Clerk had received feedback that the parking situation had improved but this may be because of weather conditions.
 - The Clerk confirmed that the cricket club had made a payment.
 - Councillors noted that the path to the pavilion had been completed satisfactorily.
 - Cllr Turner said that at present Chris Allen was managing the bookings for the pavilion but they may see if the current LGVH bookings secretary might take on the booking of the pavilion. The Clerk suggested revisiting this suggestion once the Pavilion starts making a profit.
3. Play area – Cllr Mrs Podbury advised that the gates to the play area need adjusting by the groundsman because they are not closing properly. She also noted that the matting under the gyrospring has been replaced and looks good.
4. Car Park –
 - The Clerk confirmed that the white lining would be completed during the Easter term break.
 - **RESOLVED** that the signs for the school walking bus be submitted for a quotation
 - **RESOLVED** by majority vote that the signs for SPC land be submitted for a quotation
5. Cllr Mrs Podbury confirmed that Len Cooper was now a member of staff.
6. Trees – The Clerk advised that some of the previously agreed tree work had been carried out and that it would all be completed before the end of the financial year.

b. The Green at Langton Green

- The Clerk advised that the new barrier had been installed at the footpath on The Green. An enquiry had been received from a resident asking if it is wide enough for a motorised disability vehicle to go through. The Clerk said that he had received confirmation that it met the legal requirements.
- Cllrs considered the use of the road area in front of the cottages as a slip-through. The Clerk advised that this land is owned by KCC and it is therefore difficult for SPC to manage it.

c. The Green at Groombridge

- Cllr Kerby said that Burrswood are hoping to take down the 'hospital' sign and reskin it so that it reads 'Burrswood Health and Wellbeing'. The Clerk said that he would find out who they need to obtain permission from to change the signage.
- Joy Festival – Cllr Mrs Podbury said that Groombridge Place had obtained a licence for 500 tickets to this event. Cllr Kerby said that judging by a similar event held in Lewes last year, they may be anticipating as

many as 2,000 visitors. This number will inevitably cause parking problems. Cllr Mrs Podbury said she would speak to TWBC to obtain confirmation.

- Cllr Kerby reported a street light not working. Action: The Clerk.
- Damage had been caused to The Green that day by a skidding vehicle. Action: The Clerk and groundsman to visit the site to consider its repair.

d) **Pocket Park at Speldhurst** - Councillors commented on how good the park is looking now and praised the work of the groundsman.

e) **Signs on Council Land** - The Clerk advised that Speldhurst School PTA had asked for permission to put up signs for the village fete on SPC's land.

f) **The Boundary**

- The Clerk confirmed that the right tree had been removed from 36 The Boundary.
- The Clerk was requested to obtain a quote for removing over hanging branches from a tree adjacent to 83 The Boundary

13. **Public Rights of Way** – Councillors commented on the excellent work carried out by Highways on clearing the verges along Langton road.

14. **Items for Information** – The Clerk said that residents had put planks of wood in the gap between the new pavilion path and KCC's path. It was agreed that the groundsman would be asked to install some slabs to make this area safer.

The meeting closed at 8.52pm

Chairman