



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

**MINUTES OF THE AMENITIES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 30TH
30TH JUNE 2020 at 7.30PM
CONDUCTED ONLINE VIA ZOOM ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATION**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Cllrs Rowe (Chair), Mrs Soyke, Mrs Podbury, Mrs Lyle, Mrs Woodliffe and Turner

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

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:** There were none.
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 **Wednesday 27th January 2020** be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.
6. **Public Open Session:** No members of the public were present.
7. **Amenities Committee Terms of Reference:** It was **RESOLVED** that the Amenities Committee Terms of Reference remain unchanged with the exception of the following: Item 7c) is changed to read 'Langton Green Community Sports Association'.
8. **Matters Arising and Correspondence:**
 - a) The Assistant Clerk had written to TWBC regarding temporary removal of the bin on the Green in Langton Green and had not received a response despite chasing. She would pursue the matter.
 - b) The Clerk confirmed that the improvements to the CCTV were being carried out on the 1st July 2020.
 - c) The Clerk had not followed up with TWBC/Urbaser regarding the tyre tracks on the Green at Langton Green because it appeared to be a one-off when the crew were new, and the grass was now re-growing.

9. **Financial Review:** The finance sheets had been circulated. The Clerk advised that some maintenance work had continued. Cllr Mrs Lyle said that there would be some expenditure from the reopening of the Pavilion such as foldaway tables and chairs and the Clerk said that he was meeting Landscape Services at LGRG to discuss various repairs that needed to be carried out.

10. **Parish Council Land:**

a) **Langton Green Recreation Ground (LGRG)**

i) Langton Green Village Hall:

- It was **RESOLVED** to recommend to Full Council that six concrete-filled steel posts are installed in front of the Village Hall at a cost of up to £1,701.96.
- It was agreed that the Assistant Clerk should pursue the motorist who knocked down a pillar outside the Village Hall for compensation.

ii) Pavilion:

- Cllr Mrs Lyle reported that the reopening of the LGRG may be delayed due to the extremes of weather this year which had prevented the grass seed growing as thickly as anticipated. She would ask LGCSA for an update that SPC could circulate to the public.
- A flush-through of the plumbing system was to be carried out by Hadene.
- The café proprietor was intending to reopen the café with an outside, takeaway service - initially on a two-week trial basis on Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays from 8th July. She had completed a Covid-19 risk assessment and reconfigured the inside set up and serving arrangements including installing a hand-sanitiser station and serving through the hatch. The outside toilets had been cleaned and would be open with hand-sanitiser provided.
- Maintenance work was required on some of the wood panelling. Cllr Mrs Lyle and the Clerk would investigate.
- A new ramp had been installed. The Clerk would circulate images to councillors.
- The Clerk had ordered some Covid-19 safety signs from TWBC.

iii) Sports Clubs:

- It was noted that a new sign had been erected on the Recreation Ground by the Langton Green CSA to acknowledge the funding provision.
- Cllr Mrs Lyle had not heard from the cricket club for some time despite chasing.

iv) Play Areas:

- It was **RESOLVED** to use Playinspections.co.uk to carry out the annual inspection of the playgrounds on an urgent basis. This would enable the playground to open as soon as possible.
- Following much discussion and reading of advice from the government, KALC, TWBC and Zurich amongst others, it was **RESOLVED** to take the following steps before reopening the play areas:
 1. Annual Inspection;
 2. Covid-19 risk assessment;
 3. Put up holding signs to prevent the public from using the play equipment until it was safe to do so;
 4. Groundsman to undertake a one-off thorough clean of the equipment;
 5. Once the above had been carried out, permanent signs would be put up advising members of the public of the new rules they would need to follow if they wished to use the facilities including observing social distancing, wiping down equipment, using hand-sanitiser and washing hands before and after use. The onus would be put on the users to keep themselves safe. Cllr Rowe agreed to carry out the risk assessment

using templates which had been circulated. The Clerk and Admin Assistant would write the wording for the signs.

v) Recreation Ground: there was nothing to report.

vi) Carpark:

- It was **RESOLVED** that the salt bins would be removed following a decision to no longer lay salt during the winter months because of the insurance liability. The Assistant Clerk would ask the local schools and nursery if they wanted them and they would be put into the container as a temporary measure.
- It was **RESOLVED** to install a concrete-filled steel post at the entrance to the carpark to prevent damage to the pillars up to . This would replace an earlier decision to install a wooden post. Whilst councillors all agreed a wooden post would look better, it was agreed that the increased safety of a steel post was of greater benefit.
- It was **RESOLVED** that permission would not be granted for a mini-market to be held on Saturday mornings in the carpark. With the recommencement of football training and traffic from village hall users, it was anticipated the carpark would become busy at that time.
- It was **RESOLVED** not to make improvements to the CCTV at the current time, as recommended by the Governance Committee. The presence of a PCSO at an appropriate time (evenings) was considered a more effective deterrent. The Admin Assistant had been in communication with the PCSO. Unfortunately, he often found himself on calls at that time of the evening so was normally unavailable. The situation would be monitored.
- Members of the public had been seen using SPC's recycling facilities. It was agreed that a sign deterring this behaviour was preferable to a combination lock and one would therefore be put on the gate and monitored for a period of six months. If it proved to be ineffective, a lock would be installed.
- Councillors discussed action which could be taken to reduce the rubbish being left by social gatherings. This had increased dramatically over the past months probably due to lockdown restrictions. Pictures of the rubbish had been posted on social media and the Admin Assistant was asked to liaise with the PCSO requesting greater police presence during evenings.

b) **The Green at Langton Green**: there was nothing to report.

c) **The Green at Groombridge**:

- It was agreed that Cllrs Mrs Soyke and Rowe would meet with contractors on the Green to discuss the options. Cllr Mrs Soyke had used a builder and would let the Assistant Clerk have his details.
- The Groombridge Historical Society had contacted SPC offering a GA lamp which had historical interest to the village. Councillors felt that regretfully they were unable to take on any further responsibilities at the present time.

d) **The Pocket Parks at Speldhurst**: there was nothing to report.

e) **The Boundary at Langton Green**: It was **RESOLVED** that a recommendation be made to Full Council that the remaining two oak trees at the Boundary be felled and replaced following professional advice for their removal. Full Council had given permission for one tree per year to be felled with the first one being felled in 2018.

11. **Trees**: Cllr Rowe asked when the next tree survey should be carried out and it was agreed this matter would be revisited in 2021.

12. **Public Rights of Way:** Councillors discussed how they could improve and expand the existing system to maintain public rights of way. Several options were considered including putting signs up with the KCC Rights of Way Officer's details near to footpaths; elevating the matter and creating a Public Rights of Way Committee and paying for the Groundsman to do extra days to undertake work. It was agreed the matter would be revisited at the next meeting once councillors had had an opportunity to consider the matter further.
13. **Fish and Chip Van in Speldhurst:** Councillors were in favour of a fish and chip van visiting Speldhurst on Saturday evenings.
14. **Defibrillators:** Councillors agreed that the current locations of the existing defibrillators were sufficient for the parish. The Assistant Clerk was asked to forward the information to the schools in case they wished to fund one for themselves.
15. **Items for Information:**
- Cllr Mrs Soyke advised that both the Ashurst McDermott Village hall and the Ashurst and Blackham Sports Association (ABSA) had successfully applied for a £10K grant.
 - Cllr Mrs Lyle was to contact Cllr Milner regarding a stile which required attention.

There being nothing further to discuss, the meeting closed at 9.29pm.

Chairman