



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

**Minutes of the Full Council Meeting held
on Monday 2nd August 2021 at 7.30pm at Ashurst Village Hall**

MEMBERS PRESENT

Cllrs Pate (Chairman), Barrington-Johnson, Myles, Rowe, Mrs Soyke and Mrs Woodliffe.

OFFICERS PRESENT

Mr C May – Clerk (CM) and Mrs K Neve – Clerk (KN)

IN ATTENDANCE

Borough Cllrs Allen and Ms Willis were in attendance. Apologies had been received from County Cllr McInroy.

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

There were three members of the public present.

21/147 To enquire if anyone intends to record the meeting

No-one present intended to record the meeting.

21/148 To accept and approve apologies and reasons for absence

Apologies had been received from Cllrs Rajah, Scarborough and Turner for Covid-related reasons, Mrs Lyle for health reasons, Langridge due to a family commitment and Ellery who was on holiday.

21/149 Disclosure of Interests

The Chairman declared an interest in a planning application at Scriventon.

21/150 Declarations of Lobbying

There were none.

21/151 Minutes of the Full Council meeting held on 5th July 2021

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

21/152 Co-option of new Councillor

Mr Paul Curry was co-opted onto the Council. Cllr Curry then took his place in the meeting and the declaration of acceptance of office. The Chairman welcomed him to the Council and said he looked forward to working together. It was agreed that Cllr Curry would join the Planning, Highways and Air Traffic Committees/Working Groups.

21/153 Borough and County Councillors' Reports

Borough Cllr Allen presented a report on:

- the suspension of the garden refuse collection due to staff shortages because of the pandemic. Residents' contracts would be extended for the time of the suspension.
- the review of the borough ward boundaries, which appears as an item later in the minutes (21/163).

Borough Cllr Ms Willis presented a report on:

- the Scriventon Farm planning application – the Valley Conservation Society had contacted her regarding the application not going to the borough Planning Committee as there was considerable objection to the proposal. She was looking into this matter.
- how TWBC were combatting homelessness with the renovation of 30-32 Crescent Road for the next steps accommodation programme.
- the Public Transport Forum – network rail reforms by the creation of a new public body, Great British Railways, bringing the network under single national leadership; the consultation on the Kent bus service improvement plan and the London Road coach parking.
- idling engine enforcement to be covered by litter enforcement officers on a six-month trial.

21/154 Public Open Session

No members of the public present wished to speak.

21/155 Appointment of Committees/Working Groups (WG)

The Clerk (CM) reported that Cllr Ellery had been appointed as Chairman of the Finance Committee; a decision for the appointment of Vice-Chairman had been deferred; Cllr Lyle had resigned, and Cllr Barrington-Johnson was now a committee member.

Cllr Curry would become a committee member of the Planning, Highways and Air Traffic Committees/Working Groups.

21/156 General Power of Competence

RESOLVED that the General Power of Competence (LA2011 S1(1)) be readopted for the next term of office.

21/157 Finance Committee

- a) The Clerk (CM) reported that a Finance Committee meeting had taken place on 26th July 2021 and referred to the minutes which had been circulated prior to the meeting.
- b) Budget virements: As the grant for £8,000 (see e) was approved, a virement would be necessary from contingency: **RESOLVED** that a virement of £8,000 be made from contingency.
- c) Interim payments made since the last meeting: Mastercard: £6.00* for land registry enquiry.
- d) Decisions made under delegated authority are starred above.
- e) The Finance Committee on 26th July 2021 recommended supporting a grant of £8,000 to Speldhurst Recreation Ground towards the renewal of playground equipment on the condition that at least one more quotation is sought. This money would come from the contingency account and, if agreed, a virement would be needed: **RESOLVED** that £8,000 be granted to Speldhurst Recreation Ground towards the renewal of playground equipment.

21/158 Accounts for Payment**RESOLVED** that the invoices as listed, be paid.

Payee Name	Ref.	Amount £	Detail
James Hallam Ltd	MT2040	529.00	Vehicle Insurance
Ashford Security	MT2041	90.60	Office Security Alarm
Riverside Environ Services Ltd	MT2042	648.00	Legionella Risk Assessment
Withyham Parish Council	MT2043	3,000.00	Grant towards Playground
St Martin's Church, Ashurst	MT2044	300.00	Grant towards broadsheet
Commercial Services Trading Ltd	MT2045	1,050.47	Groombridge Grounds Maintenance
Commercial Services Trading Ltd	MT2046	1,247.42	LG Ground Maintenance
M R Lawrence	MT2048	200.00	LG Grounds Maintenance
MR Lawrence	MT2047	180.00	Speld Ground Maintenance
Rusthall Parish Council	MT2049	158.00	Contribution Consultant
Speldhurst Village Hall	MT2050	44.02	Meeting Rooms
Agrifactors (Southern) Ltd	MT2055	1,680.00	LGRG Mowing June
LGVH	MT2057	44.63	Meeting Rooms
Dave's Computer Repairs	MT2058	281.25	IT Support
St John's Church, Groombridge	MT2059	1,000.00	Grant Churchyard Maintenance
Knockout Print	MT2060	48.00	Pavilion Sign
BeSure	MT2061	170.40	Pavilion Alarm
David Buckett	MT2062	436.90	Internal Audit
C May	MT2063	30.00	Expenses
Katie Neve	MT2054	18.90	Expenses
Kate Harman	MT2056	154.04	Pavilion: Stainer
Kate Harman	MT2056	-154.04	Reversal re VAT
R K & J Jones Ltd	MT2056	154.04	Pavilion Stainer
Comfoot & Keys	MT2053	72.00	Badges
Comfoot & Keys	MT2052	72.80	School awards
Catherine Barrett	MT2051	16.20	Expenses
Viking Direct	MT2066	196.75	Pavilion Toilet rolls
James Hallam Ltd	MT2067	1,904.44	Insurance
James Hallam Ltd	MT2068	39.20	Insurance Legal Expenses
James Hallam Ltd	MT2069	56.00	Insurance – Legal Expenses
ICO	DD	40.00	GDPR Data Protection fee
Employees	MT2064	5,757.83	Salaries
N.E.S.T. Pension Scheme	MT2065	441.74	Pension Contributions
EDF Energy	DD	322.00	Pavilion Electricity
Castle Water	DD	30.00	Pavilion Water
Total:		£20,260.59	

21/159 Planning Committee

Cllr Barrington-Johnson reported that a Planning Committee meeting had taken place on 12th July 2021 and referred to the minutes which had been circulated prior to the meeting. He reiterated his disappointment at the response from the MP on the Jockey Farm planning application (21/00068/FULL) and had written a letter to the MP that was to be jointly signed by both Speldhurst and Rusthall Parish Councils.

- a) To consider planning application **21/01742/FULL** 54 Dornden Drive, Langton Green TN3 OAF

Proposal: Replacement roof over existing garage to create office room with external staircase.

Decision: Remain neutral, leave to Planning Officer but note that there are concerns from neighbours about overlooking from the external staircase and modifications to the staircase are needed to remove the overlooking.

21/160 Langton Green Recreation Ground (LGRG)

In the absence of Cllr Mrs Lyle, this item was deferred to the next meeting.

Cllr Mrs Woodliffe reported that residents had complained about the standing water in the swales on the recreation ground and asked if SPC could acknowledge that we were looking into the issue and erect warning signs. Cllrs Mrs Woodliffe and Barrington-Johnson would discuss a way forward with the Clerk.

21/161 Defibrillators

At the Amenities WG meeting it was mentioned that the number of defibrillators in the parish needed to be reviewed. The Clerk (CM) gave a report on the reasons why the four defibrillators were positioned where they are and the need for an electric connection. Sites for additional facilities would need to be identified and costings provided. It was agreed that a Working Group comprising Cllrs Barrington-Johnson, Curry and Myles (as Chairman) be established to look into this and report back to Full Council.

21/162 The Queen's Platinum Jubilee Beacons – 2nd June 2022

The Clerk (CM) presented a circular that had been received to consider the positioning of a Beacon in the Parish as part of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee celebrations. It was agreed not to pursue a Jubilee Beacon as it was not practical to identify a suitable site. Alternative plans, possibly tree planting, would be brought to a future meeting for discussion.

21/163 LGBCE Electoral Review of the Borough and Electoral System

The Clerk (CM) brought to the attention of councillors the electoral review of the borough and electoral system. The review proposed a reduction in the number of borough councillors from 48 to 30 and a change to the annual elections to one every four years, producing a saving of around £200,000. It was agreed that councillors would send in their own comments.

21/164 Chairman's Report

Cllr Pate had nothing to raise.

21/165 Working Groups and Other Reports to include any Meetings held since the last Full Council Meeting, the Draft Minutes having been previously forwarded to all Members.

- a) **Governance WG** – A meeting was being organised for early September.

- b) **Highway WG** – There had been no meeting since the last Full Council meeting.
- Cllr Pate reported that Kent Police’s response to not support the speed reduction proposal from 50 to 40 for Groombridge and Ashurst was disappointing but SPC would continue to pursue the proposal. It was likely that it would have to go before the Joint Transportation Board (JTB). The CSU were supportive and had agreed to monitor the roads. The Clerk (CM) said that the Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) which KCC had advertised, ended on 2nd August and that the Chairman and he would be in contact with the Design Team on how best to progress the matter. Cllr Barrington-Johnson said that Cllr Mackonochie sits on the JTB Committee and suggested he be contacted for support. Cllr Barrington-Johnson also said that on the Sussex side beyond the railway bridge, the speed limit had already been reduced to 40mph.
 - The Clerk (CM) reported that SpeedWatch sessions had resumed in Speldhurst and sessions were regularly taking place in Langton Green.
- c) **Amenities WG** – There had been no meeting of the Amenities WG since the last Full Council meeting.
- Cllr Rowe reported that delegated authority was requested for the Amenities WG to make decisions regarding use of SPC land on a temporary basis until the policy is approved by the Governance WG.
RESOLVED – That the Amenities WG be given delegated authority to make decisions regarding the use of SPC land on a temporary basis until the policy is approved by the Governance WG.
- d) **Air Traffic WG** – There had been no meeting of the Air Traffic meeting since the last Full Council meeting.
- e) **Footpaths** – The Clerk (KN) read out an update from Cllr Langridge reporting that the footpath problem markers were starting to appear and letters had been distributed to households where foliage had been noticed hanging over footpaths from their properties.
- f) **EWG** – There had been no meeting of the Environment Working Group since the last Full Council meeting.
- g) **KALC** – There was nothing to report.

21/166 Covid Compliance

Covid precautions were in place during the meeting.

21/167 Items for Information:

- The Clerk (KN) reported that a thank you letter had been received from Neighbourhood Watch for the £100 donation.
- Cllr Rowe said that hedge cuttings left along the Speldhurst Road was causing a danger to pedestrians. The Clerk (CM) agreed to speak to the Groundsman.
- The Clerk (KN) brought to councillors’ attention the issue of BBQs on the Recreation Ground. This would be put on the Amenities WG agenda for their decision.
- The Clerk (CM) reported that he would be stepping back from clerking Full Council meetings. The Chairman thanked him on behalf of the Parish Council for all his hard work.
- The Chairman wished to pass on the Parish Council’s best wishes to Cllr Mrs Lyle for a speedy recovery.

There being no further items the meeting closed at 8.50pm.

Chairman