



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 19th November 2012 at 7.30pm

MEMBERS PRESENT: Cllrs Milner (Chairman), Mrs Hull, Owen, Parker, Turner and Mrs Jeffreys (ex-officio)

OFFICER PRESENT: Chris May – Clerk and Mrs Meirion Flemington – Assistant Clerk

1. **To receive and approve apologies and reasons for absence:** Cllr Woodward (prior engagement)
2. **Disclosure of Pecuniary or Other Significant Interests:** There were none
3. **Declarations of Lobbying:** Cllr Parker had been lobbied regarding the car park and the need for more spaces.
4. **The Minutes of 10th September 2012** were signed as a correct record.
5. **Matters Arising and Correspondence**
The Clerk said he had received new contracts from Landscape Services (KCC) for the coming financial year and reported that there was a 3% increase in prices. It was noted that when a new contract with the Groundsman is agreed that the inspection of play equipment will not be renewed. The Clerk was requested to see if this was the best price and if it could be reduced. This would be discussed further at the December Full Council meeting.
6. **Public Open Session**
Members of the public are invited to make representations to the Committee on any matters relating to the work of the Committee or to raise any issues of concern.
There were no members of the public present.
7. **Financial Review**
The Clerk reviewed the figures and reported that there were no changes to the projected year-end figures with the exception of the enhancement at The Green project which would be carried over to next year (see 10i)
8. **Annual review of Terms of Reference**
The existing Terms of Reference were up to-date and did not require any amendment

9. Langton Green War Memorial

- i. The Clerk said that he had been advised of institutions that might help in the restoration of the memorials and that there is to be a Government programme to help restore memorials ahead of the anniversary of the Great War. He said that these grants would be investigated before any work was instigated by the Council.

10. Next Phase of Enhancement on The Green

- i. The first quotation for the final phase of the enhancement to the area was much higher than was estimated because of the condition of the footpath. Consequently more quotes were required and the Clerk said that he had approached TWBC to see if they would be willing to contribute further to the project. Alan Legg said that they would be able to in the new financial year. It was **AGREED** that the work be delayed until Easter, new quotes sought and residents advised.
- ii. After much discussion it was **AGREED** that the beech tree adjacent to the village sign should be felled and a new tree planted elsewhere. Cllrs agreed that it was important that this action is explained to village residents and an article would be put in the February edition of Langton Life and on the Council website.
- iii. The new Notice Board had been delivered and was waiting to be installed. This would be done when the beech tree was felled.

11. Langton Green Recreation Ground (LGRG)

- i. Pavilion - the Clerk reported that the Sports Club were considering applying for planning permission once a tree and bat survey had been carried out. In the plans they had reduced the glass area. They were also considering registering as a charity to encourage donations.
- ii. The Clerk said that the two main areas highlighted in the Annual Playground Inspection Report requiring attention had been dealt with. The gyrospring had been repaired and an order had been placed with Jacksons to repair the ball stop netting. It was agreed that the pathway between the ball stop netting and the fence of the playground could wait until further works were carried out once the pavilion was completed.
- iii. Cllr Mrs Jeffreys said that it was reported to her that quite a lot of rubbish (empty food wrappings, plastic bottles etc) had been seen and cleared that morning.
Clerk to remind Sports Club and Groundsman of need to clear up
- iv. Car parks – the possible expansion of the Langton Green Primary School (LGPS) and the implications for additional parking was discussed. The need to open the extension to the “grassed” car park was considered and it was **AGREED** that additional security in the form of large logs, or failing that new posts was needed to prevent unwanted use of the Recreation Ground. **Clerk to contact RSPB at Broadwater Warren to see if they would supply and possibly deliver the logs.**
- v. Ownership sign – the Clerk reported that the sign was ready to be installed.
- vi. Ice or snow preparations – Cllr Milner had forwarded a signs brochure produced by Archer signs and the Clerk would request some quotations for approval before submission to the Finance Committee.
- vii. Cllr Milner reported that he has selected the three replacement tree species for the area by the container; Sorbus, Amelanchier and Liquidamber. Langton Green Rural Society’s Diamond Jubilee tree makes up one of the three. The trees will not be purchased from Speldhurst Nurseries until after the Speldhurst tree planting in case there are any surplus trees that could be used at LGRG.
- viii. The Clerk reported that he will order a replacement bench with the inscription noting the Diamond Jubilee. **Clerk to order.**

12. Groundsman's contract

A draft contract had been prepared by Cllr Mrs Jeffreys. This was discussed and minor amendments were made. **The Clerk will speak to Mr Cooper and finalise the contract.**

13. Maintenance work in the Parish

The contract for maintaining Parish Council land and certain other areas totalled £4,145 in the current calendar year. Cllrs wanted to make sure that the Council was getting value for money and the Clerk was requested to put to tender the work for the following year. Cllrs suggested local people to contact. **Clerk to contact possible contractors including the incumbent contractor.**

14. Trees in the Parish

- i. The urgent tree work has been carried out. A schedule for the next trees requiring work will be prepared shortly.
- ii. The Assistant Clerk reported that the tree planting in Furzefield Avenue and Southfields, Speldhurst is scheduled to take place on Monday 26th and Tuesday 27th November 2012.

15. Footpaths

Cllr Milner reported that some work was being carried out this week in Shadwell Wood. Cllr Mrs Jeffreys said that she would be asking KCC to contribute towards the work needed to upgrade the path at the LGRG if the expansion of the LGPS goes ahead.

16. Asset Register

Work is in progress

17. Items for Information

There were no reports.

The meeting closed at 9.05pm

Chairman