



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 Tuesday 24th July 2018 at 10.30am

MEMBERS PRESENT: Cllr Mrs Podbury (Chair), Mrs Soyke, Mrs Woodliffe and Rowe

OFFICER PRESENT: Mrs K Harman – Assistant Clerk and Mr C May – 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:** apologies received from Cllr Mrs Jeffreys (holiday) and Cllr Allen (work commitment).
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 **24th May 2018** 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:**
 - The Assistant Clerk had received an email from a resident regarding the Shadwell bridleway where it meets Lower Green Road. Cars are often parked in such a way that horse riders are unable to pass to reach the bridleway. Councillors agreed that SPC are unable to put up any signs as the land is privately owned. It was **RESOLVED** that the Assistant Clerk would write to the landowner asking if they could put up signs asking car owners to park in a more appropriate way.
 - Cllr Mrs Podbury asked when the groundsman would be visiting Speldhurst School to help clear the rear entrance path. Cllr Rowe voiced concern that SPC would be seen to be supporting unaccompanied children crossing the road in a dangerous point on the Penshurst Road. Councillors agreed that it is up to parents/carers if they think their child is capable of safely crossing themselves over at such a point and it was not the responsibility of SPC.

8. **Financial Review** – The finance sheets were circulated and Councillors noted they were satisfactory.

9. **Parish Plan** – Councillors considered all matters had now been investigated and fulfilled where possible.

10. Parish Council Land

a. Langton Green Recreation Ground (LGRG)

- i. Langton Green Village Hall – there were no issues to discuss.
- ii. Pavilion – there were no issues to discuss
- iii. Sports Clubs – there were no issues to discuss
- iv. Play Area – Councillors **RESOLVED** to wait until the results of the annual inspection are received before carrying out any repairs to play equipment. The inspection is being done by Maria Cook on 9th August 2018.
- v. Use of Recreation Ground – Councillors considered the report from Cllr Mrs Lyle regarding drainage on the recreation ground. Cllr Rowe asked the Clerk where funds would come from to maintain the LG playing fields which could be £10K a year. The Clerk said that any future action plan and how it is financed still had to be agreed. It was **RESOLVED** that feedback would be obtained regarding other playing fields in the area about which drainage systems work best and the costs involved. The Clerk is to contact TWBC; Cllr Mrs Podbury is to ask her contact at Rusthall playing fields and Cllr Mrs Woodliffe is to speak to Forresters at Hawkenbury before a final decision is made.
- vi. Car Park – The Clerk reminded Councillors that on a normal school day the car park is extremely busy.
- vii. Groundsman – there was nothing to report.

b. **The Green at Langton Green** – The Assistant Clerk said that she had received a request from the Langton Green Village Society to plant additional bulbs on the green near the village sign which they would pay for and plant themselves. It was **RESOLVED** to allow the LGVS to plant additional bulbs on the Green near the village sign.

c. **The Green at Groombridge** – there was nothing to report.

d. **Pocket Park at Speldhurst** – there was nothing to report.

e. **Signs on Council Land** – there was nothing to report.

f. **The Boundary** – The Assistant Clerk said that she had received an email from the residents of 36 the Boundary asking if they could purchase some of SPC's land to extend their plot. Councillors considered it part of SPC's mandate to keep and maintain the land in the present form on behalf of all residents. Additionally, Councillors were concerned about setting a precedent. It was **RESOLVED** not to sell any of SPC's land to residents.

g. **Groundsman** – The Assistant Clerk advised Councillors that the Groundsman had been asked to cut back the verges on parts of the Speldhurst Road where it was particularly overgrown. It was **RESOLVED** that the Assistant Clerk would write to the landowner advising them that unless the verges are regularly maintained, SPC would get the work done and invoice the landowner.

11. Trees

a) **Ash Die Back** – The Assistant Clerk was awaiting a quotation from Connick Tree Consultants.

b) **The Boundary** – The Assistant Clerk said that some of the trees on SPC's land on the Boundary were vastly overgrown and the roots were digging up a private drive. Treeworks had provided a quotation for a programme of reducing and replacing the trees over a period of 3 years. It was **RESOLVED** to make a recommendation to Full Council to go ahead with the works.

12. **Public Rights of Way** – Councillors discussed the current programme of replacing stiles with gates and it was agreed that Cllr Milner would be asked to provide an update.

13. Items for Information –

- There But not There campaign – An email had been received from Derek Robinson requesting permission to place smaller 'Tommies' on verge entrances to Speldhurst village. Councillors asked the Assistant Clerk to write back to Mr Robinson to advise him to contact KCC for permission and provide information on how long the silhouettes would be there for and to ensure they are not blocking any signs or gateways.

- The Assistant Clerk said that the Clerk and Groundsman were considering whether it would be beneficial for SPC to purchase a generator to allow the Groundsman to carry out more tasks which require power primarily on the LGRG. It was agreed that the Clerk and Groundsman would investigate the costs involved for both purchasing and hiring a generator and report back to the Finance Committee.
- Cllr Mrs Soyke reported a large hole in the road at the top of Groombridge Hill which was where an old oak tree had been felled.

There being nothing further to discuss, the meeting closed at 11.30am.

Chairman