



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

**MINUTES OF THE FULL COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 3RD FEBRUARY 2020 IN THE COMMITTEE ROOM,
SPELDHURST VILLAGE HALL**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Cllrs Milner (Chairman), Mrs Podbury, Mrs Lyle, Mrs Woodliffe, Ellery, Rowe, Pate and Scarbrough

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

IN ATTENDANCE: Borough Cllr Ms Willis

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC: There was one member of the public present.

20/24 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.

20/25 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: Apologies were received from Cllrs Barrington-Johnson (holiday); Turner (sickness) and Mrs Soyke (prior engagement).
Apologies were also received from County Cllr McInroy and Borough Cllr Stanyer.

20/26 DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS: There were none.

20/27 DECLARATIONS OF LOBBYING: There were none.

20/28 MINUTES: It was **RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on **6th January 2020** be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman with the following amendment which was raised by Mrs Angela Moss: The minutes state that the Village Hall Trustees (VHT) had declined to contribute towards the costs of the new recycling bins. Mrs Moss said that the VHT had not been formally asked to contribute and that if they were, they would consider the proposition providing cost implications were supplied. It was agreed to delete this from the minutes.

20/29 BOROUGH AND COUNTY COUNCILLORS' REPORTS: Cllr Mrs Podbury said that the first webcam recording of a TWBC meeting had taken place. Borough Cllr Ms Willis said that she had been helping to set up a shop at the recycling centre so that functional but unwanted items could be sold and reused. A repair café was being set up in the Trinity Arts Centre by the Restart Project where residents could bring along broken electrical items and learn how to repair them. The longevity of the project was unknown in terms of premises and volunteers. She

had also been speaking to the manager of the TW Sports Centre who were experiencing problems with lack of customer parking due to the carpark being used to drop off and collect school children.

20/30 PUBLIC OPEN SESSION: Mrs Angela Moss, SPC Trustee for the LGVH said that further to the request for the Groundsman to have his own key to the outside tap, unfortunately there was only one key available so whilst he was unable to have his own, the VHT were very happy for him to have access to it whenever needed. She went on to say that the VHT were keen to work closely with SPC to ensure that the facility was run to everyone's benefit.

20/31 FINANCE COMMITTEE: Cllr Mrs Lyle reported the following: -

- a) There had not been a meeting of the Finance Committee since the last Full Council meeting – a meeting would be held at the end of February.
- b) **Budget virements:** There were none.
- c) **Interim payments made since the last meeting: Unity bank current account:** Unity bank current account: £20,000 paid back in to the 60dn account at Hampshire Trust Bank and a repayment of £20,000 from the 90dn account. Mastercard: £9.00 Bank charges
- d) **Payments made under delegated authority:** there were none.
- e) Improvements to security at the pavilion: Three quotations had been obtained by the Clerk however it was felt more information on what each quote involved was needed before a decision could be made. It was therefore **RESOLVED** to delegate the decision of which company to use to the Finance Committee once the Clerk had obtained more information.
- f) Grant request from Speldhurst Village Hall towards replacing paving slabs outside the front door with tarmac: It was agreed that the Clerk would ask for more information on the difference between the quotations received and **RESOLVED** that the decision be delegated to the Finance Committee.

20/32 ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT: Invoices verified by Cllr Pate.

To authorise the payment of invoices as listed

Payee Name	Reference	Amount £	Detail
Speldhurst Village Hall	MT1731	56.22	Meeting Rooms
KALC	MT1732	72.00	Conference
Langton Green Charitable Trust	MT1733	159.63	Office electricity
PPL PRS Ltd	MT1734	320.56	Pavilion Music Licence
Paul Cheater	MT1735	112.00	Pavilion Cleaners
Mr L Cooper	MT1736	17.10	Expenses
Catherine Barrett	MT1737	32.04	Expenses
Chiddingstone Parish Council	MT1738	39.11	HWCAAG expenses
C May	MT1739	61.42	Expenses
Matta Products	MT1740	3,270.96	Matta Products
EDF Energy	DD	357.00	Pavilion electricity
Castle Water	DD	262.87	Pavilion water
C May	MT1741	1,566.87	Salary
Kate Harman	MT1742	749.67	Salary
Mr L Cooper	MT1743	640.88	Salary
Catherine Barratt	MT1744	423.37	Salary
		<u>£8,257.67</u>	

It was **RESOLVED** to pay the invoices listed above, authorise the electronic payments and sign the cheques drawn on Unity Trust Bank.

20/33 LANGTON GREEN RECREATION GROUND (LGRG): Cllr Mrs Lyle reported the following:

- a) Report from the Management Committee of the pavilion: Income from rentals of the pavilion has increased considerably (to over £800 in January) and the café proprietor, Emma Howden, finds the system where she can control the bookings preferable. The Clerk said that the fridge in the storeroom was broken and hirers were using the café proprietor's fridges. It was agreed the matter would be resolved by the Pavilion Management Committee.
- b) Update on the progress of traffic management and parking: The Lawful Development Certificate application had been verified and a decision was expected mid-March.
- c) Drainage project: There was a meeting of the LGCSA Trustees on the 16th January when the flooding caused by the recent heavy rains was discussed. The problem had been compounded by a blocked drain which had now been unblocked. A meeting with the consultants was to be held on 7th February. Cllr Rowe noted that it was highlighted as a concern in the original planning application that any run-off water from the recreation ground must be contained within the recreation ground and permission was granted on that basis. It was considered important to get any further groundworks necessary to resolve this issue carried out before the area was reseeded. Cllr Pate had spoken to resident who lived in Leggs Lane who said that the water flowing from the direction of the recreation ground was unprecedented and he suggested that there was an independent assessment made. Cllr Mrs Woodliffe asked if a Planning Officer checked that the planned drainage was put in place? Cllr Mrs Podbury would enquire at TWBC. It was acknowledged that the meeting to be held on 7th February with the contractors was an opportunity to ask for assurance that the works will be sufficient to ensure that there will be no flooding of neighbouring properties in future.
- d) Recycling: The extension to the recycling enclosure would be built this week and recycling of cardboard and bottles to start when the new bins are delivered.
- e) Permission for Ice cream van: It was **RESOLVED** that the ice cream van could be sited on the LG Carpark as requested as long as proper health and safety measures were implemented.

20/34 TWBC PLANNING DEPARTMENT'S DRAFT LOCAL PLAN: There was nothing to report.

20/35 KCC 5-YEAR PLAN: The document had been circulated to Councillors and there were no comments to report.

20/36 VACANCY ON THE COUNCIL: The Clerk advised that two members of the public had come forward and would be interviewed. It was hoped that the successful candidate would be co-opted at the March Full Council meeting.

20/37 ANNUAL PARISH MEETING: The theme of climate change and what residents can do to make a difference was discussed. The Zero Waste Company had been suggested as a speaker previously. Councillors considered having several speakers all with a similar message. An initiative to plant trees was discussed. Cllr Mrs Podbury would contact County Cllr McInroy to see if he could suggest someone from KCC to talk on the matter from KCC's perspective.

20/38 NEWSLETTER: The content of the newsletter was discussed and councillors made suggestions regarding its content. It was agreed to wait for an update from the meeting regarding the drainage on 7th February before being published.

20/39 VE DAY 75th ANNIVERSARY: The Clerk had contacted the churches in the parish who would be ringing a bell or a peal on the anniversary. The schools had been written to however no response had been received.

20/40 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT: In the absence of Cllr Barrington-Johnson there was nothing to report.

20/41 COMMITTEE REPORTS: to include any Committee Meetings held since the last Full Council meeting, the Draft Minutes having been previously forwarded to all Members

- a) **Governance** – there was nothing to report.
- b) **Planning** – there was nothing to report.
- c) **Highways** – Cllr Pate and the Clerk reported: Speedwatch sessions had been carried out in Langton Green and Speldhurst. Langton Green saw no motorists speeding in the 40mph zone on Langton Road, however Speldhurst volunteers saw numerous motorists speeding, many over 40mph in the 20mph zone. The results had been given to the Police.
A meeting had been held with Cllr Pate, the Clerk and KCC representatives including the Schemes Planning Delivery Manager for Kent. The meeting was considered productive and useful. There was an undertaking that the 20mph lights in LG would be mended in the immediate future. Discussions were held regarding speeding on Groombridge Hill including Bird in Hand Street and the need to hire a consultant. KCC would come back to SPC with suggestions and costings. The school crossing at LG was also discussed and KCC would consider the options and come back with suggestions.
- d) **Amenities** – Cllr Rowe said Councillors were finding it a challenge to resolve the issue of erosion of the Green at Groombridge.
- e) **Air Traffic** – there was nothing to report.
- f) **Footpaths** – Cllr Milner said that he had met the new footpath volunteers. He also said that he had met, along with Cllr Mrs Podbury, the two church wardens at Rusthall cemetery regarding reports of boundaries being broken down and dog fouling of graves. Cllr Mrs Podbury said that a new Code of Conduct for dogwalkers was being introduced by the RSPCA.
- g) **Environment Working Group** – there was nothing to report.
- h) **KALC** – there was nothing to report.

20/42 OTHER MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF 6TH JANUARY 2020: there were none.

20/43 CLERK'S REPORT: there was nothing to report.

20/44 DIARY DATES:

Monday 3rd – Full Council Meeting at 7.30pm, Committee Room at Speldhurst Village Hall.

Monday 10th – Highways Meeting

Wednesday 12th – Governance Meeting 2.00pm

Monday 17th – Planning Meeting

Thursday 27th – Finance Meeting

All meetings are in the office and start at 7.30pm unless otherwise stated

Recruitment of Parish Councillor

Monday 3rd – Period of co-option ends

Training & Conferences

Thursday 6th – Vice-Chairman, KALC Health and Wellbeing Conference

20/45 ITEMS FOR INFORMATION: there were none.

There being no further items the meeting closed at 8.40 pm

Chairman