



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

**MINUTES OF THE FULL COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY, 4th AUGUST 2014 at 7.30pm
IN SPELDHURST VILLAGE HALL**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Cllrs Mrs Jeffreys (Chairman), Mrs Hull, Mrs Podbury, Mrs Soyke, Barrington-Johnson, Langridge, Owen, Turner and Woodward

IN ATTENDANCE: County Councillor John Davies

OFFICERS PRESENT: Mr C May – Clerk and Mrs M Flemington – Assistant Clerk

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC: There were two members of the public present; Paul Harvey of Speldhurst Village Hall and Mark Tompkins both in connection with the defibrillators 14/179 h)

14/172 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: Cllrs Mrs Horne, Milner, Parker and Pendleton (all prior engagement). Borough Councillor David Jukes

14/173 DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY OR NON-PECUNIARY INTERESTS: Cllr Mrs Soyke declared a significant interest in 14/179 d) – grant request from St Martin's Church towards the cost of tree surgery work in the churchyard.

14/174 DECLARATIONS OF LOBBYING: Cllrs Mrs Hull, Mrs Podbury, Langridge and Owen declared that they had been spoken to by residents about Gatwick and aircraft noise.

14/175 MINUTES: RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on 7th July 2014 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman. It was also **RESOLVED** that the notes of the Annual Parish Assembly held on 28th April 2014 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

14/176 BOROUGH AND COUNTY COUNCILLORS REPORTS: County Councillor John Davies reported that he is still waiting for a response from Town and Country Housing regarding the possible installation of bollards at Winstone Scott Avenue (he is willing to contribute from his member fund). He advised that there is an information event at Broomhill Bank School on 12th August 4.30-7.30pm prior to submission of the planning application for refurbishment and expansion of the school.

Borough Councillor Julia Soyke reported that she had met Tom Denton of Gatwick Airport and that the Salomons Father Christmas World planning application is unlikely to be considered by TWBC Planning Committee until the September meeting.

14/177 PUBLIC OPEN SESSION: Paul Harvey representing the Trustees of Speldhurst Village Hall was present in connection with their grant request for a defibrillator at the Village Hall – 14/179 h) but he did not speak during this part of the meeting.

14/179 FINANCE COMMITTEE – Report by Cllr Owen

- a) There has been no Committee meeting since the last Full Council.
- b) It was **RESOLVED** to approve two budget virements; £122 from the Annual Parish Assembly to the Photocopier for the cost of printing the APA brochures and £440 from Contingency to Local Events for the grant to the TWBC Fun Days.
- c) The Clerk reported on two interim payments made since the last Council meeting and it was **RESOLVED** to approve these (see list below).
- d) Cllr Mrs Soyke took no part in the discussion and abstained from voting. It was **RESOLVED** to grant £1,408 to St Martin’s Church for tree surgery work in the churchyard.
- e) It was **RESOLVED** to spend £120 on two KALC training courses – Cllr Mrs Hull to attend a seminar on Ecology and the Clerk to attend a KALC Finance course.
- f) The grant request from WRAP for funding towards the Street Cruizer project contained insufficient financial information. **The Clerk to request further information from WRAP and it will be considered at the next meeting.**
- g) It was **RESOLVED** to purchase a further six months’ supply of dog waste bags at a cost of approximately £400.
- h) Mark Tompkins gave a demonstration of a defibrillator and answered Councillors questions. After considerable discussion it was **RESOLVED** in principle to provide a public access defibrillator at Speldhurst Village Hall and at a suitable location in the three other villages in the Parish and a maximum figure of £8,500 was approved along with the associated maintenance costs. The clerk was asked to look in to the costs in more detail, including any grants that are available, and in particular the new ipad version that was being distributed to CFRs. **The clerk to report at September meeting with firm costs.**

14/180 ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT – Invoices verified by Cllr Langridge

<u>Payee Name</u>	<u>Cheque/Ref</u>	<u>Amount Paid</u>	<u>Transaction Detail</u>
<u>Notification of additional payments in July</u>			
Post Office	AO42	53.00	Stamps
Mower Services	AO43	77.16	Maintenance
Total payments		£130.16	

To authorise the payment of invoices as listed

South East Water	DD	27.22	Water bill 6 months
ICO	DD	35.00	Data protection fee
Ashurst McDermott Hall Trust	MT358	48.00	Meeting Room Hire
Came & Co	MT359	2,108.42	Annual Insurance
Burslem	MT361	1,005.60	St Mary’s Memorial cleaning
ABSA	MT362	177.00	Grant re insurance boat race
Craigdene Ltd	MT363	168.00	Annual Playground Inspection
Commercial Services Trading Ltd	MT364	1,381.78	LGRG Ground Maintenance
Commercial Services Trading Ltd	MT365	422.32	Groombridge Ground Maintenance
M R Lawrence	MT366	350.00	Maintenance various
KCC	MT367	1,057.00	Traffic Surveys
Premiere Digital	MT368	120.00	Newsletter design and artwork

Kelly Lawrence	MT370	15.00	Cleaner
Mr L Cooper	MT371	340.00	Groundsman's duties
Mr L Cooper	MT372	8.81	Maintenance
Mr L Cooper	MT373	3.26	Maintenance
C May	MT374	1,408.45	Salary
C May	MT375	34.90	Expenses
M Flemington	MT376	668.72	Salary
M Flemington	MT377	37.00	Expenses
HMRC	MT378	725.60	Tax & NI
LGNC	149	350.00	Grant re Netball Club
RIP Cleaning Services	MT379	216.00	Canine Refuse collection
Premiere Digital	MT380	345.00	Print Newsletter
Glasdon UK Ltd	MT369	280.80	Dog Bin
TWBC	DD	55.00	Non Domestic Rates
K Fletcher	MT360	440.00	Circus Skills at Fun Day

Total payments **£11,828.88**

It was **RESOLVED** to pay the invoices listed above, sign the cheques and authorise the BACS in Unity Trust Bank

14/181 HIGHWAYS: The next meeting is on 18th August. Cllr Langridge reported that the traffic surveys had been completed at Ashurst Hill and Groombridge Hill and that further Speedwatch sessions will take place in due course. The Clerk reported that the resurfacing and kerbing work at The Green will start on 6th August. Cllr Mrs Soyke reported that Groombridge Road between Groombridge and Stone Cross is very overgrown. Cllr Mrs Hull reported that the siting of the road diversion sign by Groombridge Farm Shop is making visibility dangerous.

14/182 KCC WORKS ON SCHOOL AND LANGTON GREEN RECREATION GROUND CAR PARKS AND FOOTPATHS: The Clerk reported that there is no further information at present.

14/183 BUS SHELTER: The possibility of having a bus shelter at the bus stop by The Hare was discussed and it will be on the agenda for the Highways Committee meeting on 18th August.

14/184 TRANSFER OF LAND FROM TWBC: The clerk reported that nothing further has been heard from TWBC regarding the transfer of the land at The Boundary to SPC. The Clerk reported that consideration also needs to be given to two plots of land in Ashurst being transferred from TWBC to SPC. It was **RESOLVED** that the parcel of land adjacent to Ashurst Hill be transferred to SPC but that further clarification is sought from TWBC regarding the parcel to the rear of Mill Place Cottages as it appears that not all this land is owned by TWBC.

14/185 LANGTON GREEN RECREATION GROUND:

- a) It was **RESOLVED** to grant permission to Langton Green Cricket Club to hold an evening match at LGRG during August.
- b) Treework has advised that the further survey of the trees in the vicinity of the tree that came down at LGRG car park will be free of charge. It was agreed to go ahead with this survey.

14/186 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT: Cllr Mrs Jeffreys reported that the two school presentations went very well. The next Parish Chairmen's meeting is on 2nd September.

14/187 COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- a) **Governance** – The next meeting is on 14th August
- b) **Planning** – A Committee meeting was held on 14th July and the minutes have been circulated. The next meeting is on 11th August. Cllr Mrs Jeffreys reported that emails had been received from a resident of

Furzeffield Avenue regarding the planning application for two new houses to the rear of Clint which was considered at the Committee meeting on 14th July.

- i) It was **RESOLVED** to adopt the revised Terms of Reference subject to a minor grammatical amendment.
- c) **Amenities** – The next meeting is on 7th August
- d) **Air Traffic** – Cllr Mrs Soyke reported that the Civil Aviation Authority is placing flight path constraints on Gatwick and that the best avenue to the CAA is through Greg Clark MP. County Councillor John Davies advised that KCC is in favour of the second runway but Cllr Mrs Soyke and Cllr Barrington-Johnson pointed out that the second runway at Gatwick and Point Merge were separate and unrelated issues. Point Merge relates to a significant change to arrival patterns and flight paths which if implemented would have a major negative impact on the Parish and many surrounding villages. This is a more imminent and urgent issue than the second runway. Cllr Mrs Hull said KCC was not responding to the concerns of West Kent.
 - i) It was **RESOLVED** to approve and submit the response to the London Airspace Consultation.
- e) **Footpaths** - The Clerk reported that the Groundsman has been working on footpath clearance and that the Langton Green Village Society monies have now been spent. There is no available time at present for the Groundsman to do further work and a decision will need to be made on how much footpath clearance work the Parish Council will carry out. It was suggested that footpath maintenance is a topic for discussion at the Autumn Open Meeting this year. Cllr Langridge reported that the footpath between Farnham Lane and Dornden Drive is extremely overgrown and that part of this should be the responsibility of The Hatton Housing Trust and the **clerk was asked to contact them to see if they would undertake responsibility for their stretch of the footpath.**
- f) **Broadband** – Cllr Woodward reported that the roadside cabinets are being installed
- g) **KALC** – There will be discussion and decision at the next meeting on whether or not to remain part of the TW local area committee of KALC.
- h) **Parish Plan Working Group** – Cllr Turner reported that James Bowdidge had indicated to him that he wished to resign as Chairman of the working group. He asked that the next meeting originally scheduled for 13th August be re-instated. **Clerk to send invitations to working group members.**
- i) **Environment Working Group** – Cllr Mrs Hull reported on aircraft noise and fracking both of which she considers a significant environmental concern to the parish. Cllr Mrs Soyke stated that any applications for fracking would come through KCC and not TWBC. **The Assistant Clerk to ascertain whether parish councils will be consulted on fracking planning applications.**
- j) **First World War Working Group** – Cllr Langridge reported that the group had a stall at Langton Green Fete and a Service was held at All Saints' Church on 3rd August and a Vigil on 4th August. The intention is to hold an open air showing of War Horse on The Green in 2015. A grant of £200 from TWBC has been successfully applied for and this would cover most of the initial costs.
- k) **Security** – There was nothing to report

14/188 OTHER MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF 7TH JULY 2014: Langton Green Village Hall Trustees are still in discussion with Brownies regarding their hall rentals.

14/189 CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED:

1. ACRK (Action with communities in rural Kent) Rural News Issue 138
2. ACRE (Action with communities in rural England) News July 2014
3. Hospice in the Weald Newsletter Summer 2014
4. Email dated 14th July from KCC regarding Kent Minerals & Waste Local Plan 2013-30: Submission Document Consultation
5. Email from Richard Thirkell dated 28th June supporting the campaign against aircraft noise
6. Email from Susan Gander dated 23rd July supporting the campaign against aircraft noise
7. Email from Jennifer Dallaway dated 21st July supporting the campaign against aircraft noise
8. Letter from St Mary's Church dated 24th July thanking SPC for the grant towards vegetation clearance
9. Email from Lynsay Bischoff dated 23rd July introducing herself as the new project manager for the playground installation at SRG

10. Letter from the Land Registry confirming change of address re ownership of LGRG
11. Annual Play Area Annual Inspection Report (this will be reviewed at the Amenities meeting on 7th August)
12. Letter dated 22nd July from TWBC confirming £200 grant towards WW1 projects
13. Letter from Greg Clark MP dated 18th July responding to our letter regarding London Airspace Change

14/190 DIARY DATES: all meetings are at 7.30pm unless otherwise stated.

1. **Thursday 7th August** – Amenities meeting - Office
2. **Monday 11th August** – Planning meeting – Office
3. **Tuesday 12th August** – Broomhill Bank School planning application information event – **4.30-7.30pm**
4. **Wednesday 13th August** – Parish Plan Working Group meeting – Office
5. **Thursday 14th August** – Governance meeting - Office
6. **Monday 18th August** – Highways meeting – Office
7. **Thursday 21st August** – TWBC Family Fun Day – Langton Green Recreation Ground – **1pm-5pm**
8. **Thursday 28th August** – TWBC Family Fun Day – Speldhurst Recreation Ground – **1pm-5pm**
9. **Monday 1st September** – **Full Council meeting** – Speldhurst Village Hall

14/191 ITEMS FOR INFORMATION:

Cllr Langridge advised, with reference to Speldhurst War Memorial, that the War Memorials Trust is offering grants towards the cost of rebuilding War Memorials as well as refurbishment grants.

The Clerk advised that in future the Chairman will have to ask at the start of all meetings whether anyone present is filming or recording the meeting.

Cllr Mrs Hull reported that there was no water supply in Speldhurst all day on 2nd August due to damage to one of the supply pipes.

There being nothing further to discuss the meeting closed at 9.35pm

Chairman