



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 24<sup>th</sup> November at 7.30pm**

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

**OFFICERS PRESENT:** Chris May – Clerk and Mrs Meirion Flemington – Assistant Clerk

**MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC:** There were three members of the public

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:** Cllr Woodward (prior engagement)
3. **Disclosure of Pecuniary or Non-Pecuniary Interests:** Cllr Mrs Jeffreys declared a non-pecuniary interest in Item 14 – transfer of land from TWBC. Cllr Parker declared a non-pecuniary interest in Item 11 – Langton Green Village Hall and car parks.
4. **Declarations of Lobbying:** Cllr Mrs Hull declared that she had been lobbied about Item 9 iii) - the Hornbeam tree planted at The Green, Item 10 – maintenance of Council land (Pocket Park) and Item 18 iv) – footpath between Speldhurst Village Hall and Barden Road.
5. **Minutes: RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the meeting held on **7<sup>th</sup> August 2014** were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman
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 three members of the public present in connection with Items 9 iii) and iv). It was agreed that following the public open session these items would be brought forward on the agenda for discussion and decision.

Katrina Lyle introduced Mr Cornelius to members and explained her involvement with Item 9 iii) Mr Cornelius said he is concerned at the proximity of the newly planted Hornbeam tree to his property and the implications of its size, maintenance and blocking light from his property.

Mr Way said that he had put the sticks on The Green outside Adam Cottage to try and prevent vehicles driving over the grass and damaging it.

**7. Matters Arising and Correspondence:** There were no matters arising or correspondence not on the agenda.

**8. Financial Review:** The clerk reported that the figures and details of expenditure are in line with expectations

**9. The Green at Langton Green:**

- i. Extension of footpath – some properties are experiencing water run-off from the path in periods of heavy rain. It was agreed that where this is the case they are recommended to install their own gully to alleviate the problem.
- ii. Planting of a Yew tree – the Assistant Clerk reported that the Yew tree had to be planted close to the village sign as the scanning revealed that this was the only place that was clear of services. After discussion it was agreed to leave the tree in this location and keep it cut so as not to obscure the village sign and so that it could possibly be used as the Christmas tree in future years.
- iii. Planting of a Hornbeam tree – following discussion it was agreed to ask the Tree Officer to inspect the tree before a decision is made.
- iv. Adam Cottage - following discussion it was agreed that Mr Way will shorten the existing sticks and put reflectors on them and the situation will be monitored.
- v. Flooding of footpaths – there appears to be a blocked highways drain. **The Clerk will investigate who owns the footpath and request that the vegetation is cut back. He will inspect the pot holes in the shingle and the drain at the bottom of the footpath that leads past The Vicarage.**

**10. Maintenance of Council land:** There was nothing to discuss that was not covered under a specific agenda item.

**11. Langton Green Recreation Ground:**

- i. Langton Green Village Hall – it was agreed that the defibrillator will be put on the outside wall of the office under the canopy and that if necessitated by the car park works the notice board will be moved to either the side wall on the approach to the office or by the entrance to the Village Hall.
- ii. Children's play area – the Assistant Clerk reported that the repair work to the wet pour surface was carried out on 21<sup>st</sup> November. A report on the fault with the pedal carousel is awaited. A quotation had been received for making good the subsidence adjoining the cradle swings but as it is not safety critical it was agreed to defer a decision on this matter and for the Groundsman to monitor it during his weekly inspections.
- iii. Sports Clubs – The Clerk reported that a meeting is being held with the Club on 1<sup>st</sup> December and that they are planning to start building work in July 2015. The lease will be on the agenda for Full Council on 1<sup>st</sup> December.
- iv. Car parks – a letter has been received from the Chairman of the Trustees of Langton Green Charitable Trust regarding the car park and car parking issues. A response has been prepared by the Clerk and this will be discussed and agreed at Full Council on 1<sup>st</sup> December and sent thereafter.
- v. Groundsman's remuneration – It was **RESOLVED** to recommend to Full Council that the Groundsman's contract is reviewed to £12/hour from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2015.
- vi. Dog mess – an email has been received from a resident regarding increasing problems with dog mess. It was agreed to ask TWBC if the litter warden can be asked to monitor/issue fines and to provide some signs. **Clerk to action.**

- vii. Dog bags – It was **RESOLVED** to recommend to Full Council that a further supply of dog bags is purchased at a cost of £400. It was also **RESOLVED** to recommend to Full Council that in future the purchase of dog bags is administrative expenditure.
  - viii. Recycling – with the exception of the textile bank which is not TWBC and has regularly to be reported as full the situation is still much improved.
  - ix. Trees – it was **RESOLVED** to recommend to Full Council that the work on the trees adjoining the recycling facilities detailed in the tree report (carried out after a tree came down onto the car park in July) be carried out by Treework at a cost of £1,100.
  - x. Use of covered area immediately outside the office outside office hours – it was agreed that if the side rose bed has to be removed to accommodate the car park improvement works these roses will be replanted into the front bed to assist as a deterrent to people standing in this rose bed.
- 12. Groombridge Christmas Lights:** It was agreed to allow residents of Old Groombridge to place their Christmas tree on the upper part of The Green. It was agreed to switch on the Christmas lights in the lime trees on The Green and see how many are working. It was agreed to ask the residents of Old Groombridge to consider their own scheme with quotations for up lights for future years and ask SPC for a grant towards the cost. It was agreed in principle that SPC have no objection to a May Fair on The Green (any road closure would have to be approved by Highways) and to the planting of bulbs and that they will be considered formally at the next appropriate meeting.
- 13. Notice Boards:** It was agreed that the refurbished single notice board will be placed at the entrance to Station Road, Ashurst by the Groundsman.
- 14. Transfer of land from TWBC:** A report has been received from the Kent High Weald Partnership on the pond at The Boundary. It was agreed that the condition of the pond itself is acceptable but that TWBC should cut back the overhanging branches before transferring the land to SPC. It was also agreed to ask TWBC and Came & Co about the safety policy for ponds. The transfer of the land at Ashurst is going ahead.
- 15. Signs on Council land:** It was **RESOLVED** to recommend to Full Council that the decision to grant consent for temporary signs on Council land is delegated to the Clerk.
- 16. Bus Shelters:** The Clerk reported that the Highways Committee is considering a location for a possible bus shelter in Langton Green.
- 17. Kent Men of the Trees Competition:** Speldhurst have won 'Best New Entry 2014' in the Kent Men of the Trees 'Trees in the Village' competition. It was agreed that subject to Kent Men of the Trees availability the prize tree will be an Amelanchier to be planted in Pocket Park at a ceremony on 4<sup>th</sup> December.
- 18. Public Rights of Way:**
- i. Shadwell Woods – Cllr Milner reported that the volunteers will deal with the stile repairs and clearing a recently fallen tree.
  - ii. Clearing of footpaths and disposal of resulting rubbish – the Clerk reported that there is a potential issue of time and cost when rubbish resulting from footpath clearance by the Groundsman cannot be left on site and has to be either taken to the waste disposal site or elsewhere. It was agreed that the options for dealing with this matter will be discussed further at the next meeting but that any immediate detritus can be put in the over-grown area between the Speldhurst Road and the Recreation Ground.

- iii. Footpath maps – the map down from the Old Post Office will be installed at The Green by the notice board in due course.
- iv. Footpath between Speldhurst Village Hall and Barden Road – it was **RESOLVED** to recommend to Full Council that a contribution of 50% of the cost of re-surfacing this footpath is made by the Parish Council. Cllr Mrs Hull said she had reservations on safety issues.

**19. Items for information:** Cllr Parker advised that there has been fly-tipping in Farnham Lane. The Assistant Clerk confirmed that this has been reported to TWBC.

The meeting closed at 9.34pm (It had been agreed by members to extend the beyond 9.30pm)

Chairman