



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

**MINUTES OF THE FULL COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 5<sup>th</sup> AUGUST 2019 AT 7.30PM IN THE COMMITTEE ROOM, SPELDHURST VILLAGE HALL**

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**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Cllrs Barrington-Johnson (Chairman), Mrs Lyle, Mrs Woodliffe, Milner, Ellery, Rowe, Pate, Round, Turner and Scarbrough

**OFFICER PRESENT:** Mr C May – Clerk

**IN ATTENDANCE** County Cllr McInroy  
Cllr Stanyer sent his apologies

**MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC:** There were 3 members of the public present.

**19/148 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.

**19/149 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:** Apologies were received from Cllrs Mrs Soyke, Mrs Podbury and Mrs Price along with Mrs K Harman – Assistant Clerk, all prior engagements

**19/150 DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS:** There were none

**19/151 DECLARATIONS OF LOBBYING:** There were none

**19/152 MINUTES:** It was **RESOLVED** that the Minutes and the Confidential Minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on **1<sup>st</sup> July 2019** be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman. It was also **RESOLVED** that the notes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 29<sup>th</sup> April 2019 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

**19/153 BOROUGH AND COUNTY COUNCILLORS' REPORTS:** Cllr McInroy described some of the actions being taken by KCC ahead of a “no deal” Brexit and stated that this is the main issue for the Council at this time. He mentioned some of the details from the Leader’s note regarding hauliers, exports, customs issues, border personnel, infrastructure and lorry parking at Manston Airport.

**19/154 PUBLIC OPEN SESSION:** There were three members of the public present. Two members were residents from Bidborough who were keen to learn how Parish Councils operate and to co-operate in highways matters that affected both parishes. The Chairman welcomed them and said that SPC is keen to work with neighbouring parishes. He said that there was little highways content in the scheduled meeting and suggested they attend the next Highways Committee meeting for a better insight.

**19/155 FINANCE COMMITTEE:** Cllr Mrs Lyle asked Cllr Ellery to report: -

- a) The draft minutes of the meeting held on 10<sup>th</sup> July 2019 were included in the file for the meeting and the finance summary up to the end of July was also in the file.
- b) **Budget virements: RESOLVED** to transfer two virements as per the Finance Minutes dated 10<sup>th</sup> July both of which were to be transferred from the contingency account: £1,000 to increase the training budget and £1,000 to transfer funds for a previously agreed grant towards the repair of St Mary's Lane.
- c) **Interim payments made since the last meeting:** Interim payments since the Finance meeting meeting: Unity bank current account: EDF pavilion electricity £324.00 and £9.60 mobile. Mastercard: £9.30\* pavilion hirer products; £12.00\* Stationery and £6.00\* Land Registry details
- d) **Payments made under delegated authority** are starred above.
- e) **Annual Audit:** The Annual Return had been returned with no comment. It was now on the website and will be displayed on the notice boards for a while.
- f) **Bank signatories: RESOLVED** that the Clerk be a signatory for investment accounts and that payments from these accounts should only be made to the account with Unity bank where normal secure procedures are retained. It was agreed to try a rolling notice system to ensure availability of funds but to cancel them if the funds were not required.
- g) **Office cool fan heater: RESOLVED** that a Dyson AM09 product be purchased for the office

**19/156 ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT:** Invoices verified by Cllr RoundTo authorise the payment of invoices as listed

Payee Name	Reference	Amount £	Detail
ICO	DD	35.00	Data Protection Fee
Paul Cheater	MT1604	140.00	Pavilion Cleaning
Commercial Services Trading	MT1605	1,382.11	LGRG Maintenance
Commercial Services Trading	MT1606	742.63	Groombridge Green Maintenance
RBS Software Solutions	MT1607	145.20	Annual Accounting back up
Speldhurst Village Funds	MT1608	489.65	Grant towards fete insurance
PKF Littlejohn	MT1609	480.00	Annual audit
MR Lawrence	MT1610	320.00	Mowing and Strimming
Barge Group Ltd	MT1611	255.00	Repairs to Playground equipment
Kidman's Ltd	MT1612	93.63	Parts for tools
David Buckett	MT1613	394.35	Internal audit
Alan Ashby	Chq0251	150.00	Repairs to damaged pier x 2
Knockout Print	MT1615	222.00	Newsletters
Sac-O-Mat	MT1616	488.83	Dog bags
C May	MT1617	33.00	Expenses
Kate Harman	MT1618	25.40	Expenses
Catherine Barrett	MT1619	17.80	Expenses
Mr L Cooper	MT1620	36.63	Expenses
LGCT	MT1626	172.38	Office Electricity
Tate fencing	MT1627	4.32	Post
C Barrett	MT1621	406.90	Salary
L Cooper	MT1622	640.88	Salary
K Harman	MT1623	749.67	Salary
C May	MT1624	1,566.87	Salary
N.E.S.T. Pension	MT1625	115.97	Pension Contributions
Veolia	DD	79.20	Waste Disposal

**Total: £9,187.42**

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

**19/157 LANGTON GREEN RECREATION GROUND (LGRG):**

- a) Cllr Barrington-Johnson reported on a meeting held with LGCSA on 11<sup>th</sup> July:
  - LGCSA will send communications to club members and visitors to car share where possible; request local members to walk to allow visitors to use car park and to avoid any parking on Speldhurst Road.
  - He requested an “in principle” agreement from the Council to investigate the costs of rubber matting beyond the 5-bar gate to increase occasional parking for up to 25-30 cars. Cllr Pate suggested that this could require planning permission and the Clerk was asked to investigate. This was agreed.
  - Consider parking beyond Lampington Row (another possible 10 cars)
  - A “drop-off” area was suggested to allow parents to let the children alight and then park elsewhere.
  - The grant was discussed, and it was agreed that any proposal from LGCSA must be binding before funds are released.
  - Cllr Pate mentioned CSU and possible enforcement
- b) It was reported that the drainage project had started but any updates have not been sent. The Clerk was asked to request weekly reports from Agrifactors.
- c) A request had been forwarded from LGCT advising that a potential hall hirer has asked that a van to sell alcohol be situated in the car park. This was considered by Councillors who requested more details, such as what time of day and how many would be attending.

**19/158 Weed Killer** – After the concerns raised with regard to the weed killing of the grass on the Recreation Ground, the Clerk asked for authority to resume the use of limited weed killing along the footpaths, that the Groundsman had cleared, to ensure they remain clear for the rest of the growing season. He said that the Council had sent the Groundsman on a course at Hadlow College and he now held a certificate of competence which includes City & Guilds qualifications PA1 and PA6 which is a must for commercial use. Only MAPP approved products will be used, and control measures would be put in place.

Cllr Pate asked that the Environment Working group (EWG) be given time to assess and consider alternative methods, for example what methods TWBC use. After much discussion it was **RESOLVED** that the Groundsman proceed this season and that the EWG assess alternative methods which would be put before Full Council for deliberation.

**19/159 TWBC PLANNING DEPARTMENT’S DRAFT LOCAL PLAN** – The Draft Local Plan was now in the public domain and details were available on <https://beta.tunbridgewells.gov.uk/local-plan>. Speldhurst Parish was listed as having 18 houses proposed on site 231. It was agreed that useful information would be put on the website directing residents to the TWBC website and the confidential minutes from previous meetings would be declassified and made public.

**19/160 CHAIRMAN’S REPORT** – The Chairman referred to the Chairman’s meeting dated 25<sup>th</sup> June and advised members that a note of the meeting was on file. He also said that the two annual school awards that the Parish Council make to individual children at the primary schools that have excelled beyond the curriculum were presented at the end of term. He said the awards were well received, and it was excellent that the Council did this and he reminded councillors that next year a new Chairman would be presenting the awards.

**19/161 COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

- a) **Governance** – Cllr Milner said there was nothing to report and a meeting will be held soon
- b) **Planning** – Cllr Mrs Woodliffe said that two meetings of the Planning Committee had taken place during the month. She said that clarity was needed on how the committee approached issues like fences (for example),

especially retrospective applications so that the committee could be consistent going forward. She said that site notices were missing from a number of applications and clarity was again required.

- c) **Highways** – No meeting will be held in August due to holidays so a date will be arranged in September. Cllr Pate was working on reports from two consultants and a recommendation would be made to Full Council for expenditure in due course. The Clerk raised the issue of the 3-way lights at the junction of Langton Road, Speldhurst Hill and Penshurst Road. This work would continue until the end of September and would cause chaos when schools go back early that month. He was requested to approach KCC for an alternative arrangement that did not include the temporary lights being permanently positioned.
- d) **Amenities** – Cllr Rowe said there was nothing to report. A meeting was scheduled on 28<sup>th</sup> August.
- e) **Air Traffic** - The Chairman said a meeting will be held soon.
- f) **Footpaths** – Cllr Milner reported. Volunteers were still needed, and a meeting will be held on 19<sup>th</sup> August to review the status of current footpath adopters. He was aware that some work was required.
- g) **Environment Working Group** – There was no report
- h) **KALC** – there was nothing to report.

**19/162 OTHER MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF 1<sup>st</sup> JULY 2019:** there were none.

**19/163 CLERK'S REPORT:** He advised the following:

- “Operation London Bridge” and it was agreed that a condolence book would be purchased.
- Progress of the Speldhurst Shop and of its temporary closure from Monday 26<sup>th</sup> August till its re-opening on Monday 16<sup>th</sup> September.
- A file was now available to all Councillors detailing the land owned and managed by SPC
- CPRE's new plans
- The plaque to be placed citing SPC' generous grant toward the new decking at the Village Hall. The plaque was well received by Councillors.

**19/164 DIARY DATES:**

**Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup>** – Planning Committee Meeting

**Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup>** – Amenities Committee meeting

**Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> September** – Full Council meeting – Committee Room, Speldhurst Village Hall

**19/165 ITEMS FOR INFORMATION:**

Cllr Milner asked about Burrswood and it was noted that it was up for sale for £8million

Cllr Round asked when Speedwatch will start. He was advised that sites need to be re-approved

Cllr Ellery related a story of a neighbour being abused by an aggressive driver for travelling at the new speed limit.

He asked if meetings could be more visible on the website to encourage members of the public to attend

The Chairman announced that the Clerk had completed 10 years' service to the Council and to commemorate this he was presented with two bottles of wine from Councillors with their thanks.

There being no further matters for discussion the meeting closed at 9.15pm

Chairman