



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 Wednesday 15th November 2017 at 1.30pm

MEMBERS PRESENT: Cllr Mrs Podbury (Chair), Allen, Kerby and Parker

OFFICER PRESENT: Mrs K Harman – Assistant Clerk, 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:** Cllr Mrs Jeffreys and Cllr Mrs Soyke both had previous engagements
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 **18th September 2017** 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:** Cllrs Mrs Podbury asked for clarification of point 9. Financial Review. The Clerk confirmed that Mrs Podbury had queried a payment regarding defibrillator training on the finance sheet circulated at the last meeting and it was agreed that in future information of this nature would be minuted in detail.
8. **Boundary Change:** There was nothing to report at this stage. Cllr Mrs Podbury had met with Jane Clarke (TWBC) but the matter is still outstanding.
9. **Financial Review:** The Clerk circulated the finance sheets. Cllr Kerby commented on the large variation in figures between maintenance costs for the different villages within the parish. The Clerk said that this is due to the difference in land owned by SPC. For example, Ashurst is low because the Council does not own much land there that requires maintenance.
10. **Parish Plan** – Councillors confirmed that all issues have been reviewed but that the subject will be kept as an agenda item for the time being.

11. Parish Council Land

a. Langton Green Recreation Ground (LGRG)

- i. Langton Green Village Hall – Cllr Mrs Podbury and the Clerk confirmed that any issues previously raised have been resolved.
- ii. Pavilion – The Clerk said that there is an unlocked plug on the outside of the pavilion which could attract unauthorised users. It was the opinion of the Amenities Committee that considering SPC pays for the electricity, all reasonable steps should be taken to prevent unauthorised use of the plug. **RESOLVED** that the Pavilion Management Committee would be asked if a lockable cover could be installed.
Cllr Kerby asked if the issue of the differences in bookings between the pavilion and the village hall had been settled. The Clerk confirmed that there does not appear to be an issue as the two facilities were offering different services and the comparison is not like for like. It is therefore difficult to see whether under or over charging is taking place. Details of hiring will be on the new website.
Cllr Mrs Podbury queried the rates liability for the pavilion. The Clerk confirmed that the council is dealing with the rates owed on the pavilion and more information will be available at the next meeting.
Cllr Parker queried the ownership of the Pavilion and the incomings vs outgoings. The Clerk clarified that SPC owns the pavilion and that currently the incomings exceed any outgoings.
- iii. Sports Clubs – Cllr Mrs Podbury and the Clerk both confirmed that aeration of the football pitches had been agreed up to a value of £600 and the Clerk is waiting for a quotation from Landscape Services to confirm the exact costs. He also said that herbicide is currently being applied to the pitches.
- iv. Play area – Following the issues identified in the playground inspection, The Barge Group have been instructed to carry out the wet pour repairs and the laying of mulch around the benches at a cost of approximately £3K. Works will take 3 days, starting on the 18th December. The Assistant Clerk will put up laminated signs on the gates into the park in the week before the work starts informing residents that the park will be closed on these days. The Groundsman is to cut back the overhanging trees in the teen area. Cllr Mrs Podbury asked the Assistant Clerk to check if the Groundsman had carried out the checks to the playground equipment.
- v. Car Park – Problems had been experienced with the recycling bins overflowing and residents leaving glass bottles they are unable to fit into the bins on the ground. The Clerk had been chasing TWBC/Veolia to empty the bins more frequently. It was noted that the problem is currently exasperated by the closure of North Farm waste and recycling facility. **RESOLVED** that Cllr Mrs Podbury would speak to the officer responsible for the bins at TWBC to see if anything could be done. The Clerk confirmed that the cardboard recycling facility had been removed from the carpark. School drop off and pick up as well as Saturday mornings remain peak problematic parking times.
- vi. Groundsman – The Assistant Clerk confirmed that the Groundsman has completed the step at the rear of the pavilion. Councillors said that he had done an excellent job.

b. **The Green at Langton Green** – there was nothing to report.

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** - Cllr Mrs Podbury had followed up this item with the Commons Conservators regarding how they are dealing with duckweed. She is awaiting a response and will report back once she gets any information.

g. **Langton Green Allotments** – The Clerk said that he and the Chairman, Cllr Barrington-Johnson had met with the owner of Groombridge Place.

h. **Trees** – The Assistant Clerk said that she had received enquiries from residents of Roopers whose properties are near to the two pockets of SPC land closest to Ferbies regarding overhanging fir trees and also an enquiry into land ownership at the rear of one of the pockets. She had visited the site, spoken to residents and taken photos which were circulated. **RESOLVED** that the Assistant Clerk should establish ownership of the land in

question and also ask Daniel Docker, Tree Officer for TWBC, to visit the site and report back on TPO's and provide a recommendation on action required.

- i. **Hedges** – The Assistant Clerk said that she had received complaints from the residents of Roopers regarding the poor job being done on the hedges surrounding the two pockets of SPC's land noted in item 5h. They had also asked for the two areas to be tidied up generally including removal of leaves and brambles and a general cut-back, similar to the work carried out in the Pocket Park. **RESOLVED** that the Clerk would speak to the gardening maintenance company and visit the site to discuss the matter further. The groundsman would then be asked to carry out a general tidy up and cut back of both pockets of SPC land.

12. Public Rights of Way – there was nothing to report.

13. Items for Information – there were none.

There being nothing further to discuss, the meeting closed at 2.25pm

Chairman