



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

**MINUTES OF THE FULL COUNCIL MEETING  
HELD ON MONDAY, 1<sup>st</sup> JULY 2013 at 7.30pm  
IN ASHURST VILLAGE HALL**

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**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Cllrs Mrs Jeffreys (Chairman), Mrs Horne, Mrs Hull, Mrs Podbury, Mrs Soyke, Hemming, Langridge, Milner, Owen, Parker, Pendleton, Turner and Woodward

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

**MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC:** County Councillor John Davies, Borough Councillor Julian Stanyer and five members of the public

**13/121 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:** Borough Councillor David Jukes

**13/122 DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY OR SIGNIFICANT OTHER INTERESTS:** There were none.

**13/123 DECLARATIONS OF LOBBYING:** Cllr Mrs Hull declared that she had been lobbied in respect of agenda item 16 - Safety in the Community (minute item 13/136) and agenda item 9 - Highways specifically in relation to the closure of Barden Road for highway works (minute item 13/129).

**13/124 MINUTES:** It was **RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on **3<sup>rd</sup> June 2013** were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

**13/125 BOROUGH AND COUNTY COUNCILLORS REPORTS:** Borough Cllr Stanyer referred to the collective energy switching initiative and said that 2,300 residents in the area had used it to reduce energy bills. He referred to the TWBC Overview and Scrutiny Committee's consideration of Gatwick airport noise and to the public open meeting to be held on 18<sup>th</sup> July at the Langton Green Village Hall hosted by Greg Clark MP. He mentioned that he felt that the recent Ward Walks, which many Parish Councillors helped with, was a useful exercise. He mentioned one visit which drew attention to a recent planning decision and the inconsistencies within TWBC planning department which he would be highlighting.

County Cllr Davies advised that within KCC any unresolved planning objections by a Parish Council means the application is always called in. He reported that Cllr Mathew Balfour is now the KCC representative on GATCOM, that consultation is taking place regarding the decision to switch off some street lighting at night and that the section of kerbing at Stone Cross by the public footpath is to be tapered off.

**13/126 PUBLIC OPEN SESSION:** There were five members of the public present, all residents of Ashurst, who spoke and made the following comments:

- Three accidents have occurred on Ashurst Hill in the last six months.

- They have great concerns regarding traffic speeds through Ashurst village making crossing the road very dangerous at times.
- They have concerns over the accuracy of accident records kept by Kent Highways and Kent Police.
- The hedge adjacent to the pavement on Ashurst Hill is overgrown and impeding access along the pavement.
- There was a recent article in the Courier regarding traffic speeds in Ashurst.

Councillors noted their concerns.

### **13/127 FINANCE COMMITTEE – Report by Cllr Hemming**

- i) Cllr Hemming reported that the next Committee meeting is to be held on 8<sup>th</sup> July.
- ii) He reported that the banking arrangements will be discussed at the Committee meeting on 8<sup>th</sup> July.
- iii) There had been no email decisions made in the last month.
- iv) There had been no budget virements made in the last month.
- v) There was much discussion on the grant application by St Mary's Church and the fact that expenses had increased considerably during the last six years. On this occasion it was **RESOLVED** to grant £500 to St Mary's Church, Speldhurst for churchyard maintenance and review next year's budget.

### **13/128 ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT – Invoices verified by Cllr Pendleton**

<u>Payee Name</u>	<u>Cheque/Ref</u>	<u>Amount Paid</u>	<u>Transaction Detail</u>
<u>Notification of additional payment in June</u>			
Rota-Rod Ltd	MT130	204.00	Emergency sewage work LGRG
BT PLC	DD	199.54	Telephone & Broadband

#### To authorise the payment of invoices as listed

Miss K Lawrence	112	15.00	Office cleaning
SKF Contractors Ltd	113	300.00	ISS pole and installation
M R Lawrence	114	300.00	Mowing & strimming
HMRC	115	720.94	Tax & NI
Mr L Cooper	MT131	250.00	Groundsman's duties
KALC	MT132	72.00	Clerks' Conference
RIP Cleaning Services	MT133	172.80	Canine refuse
Tate Fencing Ltd	MT134	185.22	Maintenance expenses
Langton Green Charitable Trust	MT135	78.03	Office electricity
Langton Green Charitable Trust	MT136	37.50	Meeting room hire
M Flemington	MT137	646.13	Salary
M Flemington	MT138	39.70	Expenses
C May	MT139	1,393.20	Salary
C May	MT140	25.65	Expenses
BT PLC	DD	30.00	Mobile
TWBC	DD	54.00	Non-domestic rates

**Total payments** **£ 4,320.17**

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

**13/129 HIGHWAYS:**

- i) Cllr Mrs Podbury said that a number of outstanding items had been completed – the ISS at Speldhurst; a number of outstanding potholes had been filled by Kent Highways including Barden Road this week, and that Speldhurst Hill was resurfaced recently. The barrier work at Barden Road was on order and she advised that she is carrying out Speedwatch with the PCSO in Ashurst on 3<sup>rd</sup> July.
- ii) Cllr Mrs Podbury reported that there have been a number of accidents in the Parish during the last month, two of which were serious. The Clerk had circulated the up to date list of accidents in the Parish and read out extracts from several emails recently received from residents. It was **RESOLVED** that a standard response is sent to these emails clearly stating what the Parish Council can and cannot do regarding highways matters. **The Clerk to draft this response for circulation to Councillors.** The Highways committee will discuss the accidents in more detail and make recommendations.

**13/130 GATWICK:** Cllr Mrs Podbury reported that she had attended the TWBC Overview and Scrutiny and Committee on 17<sup>th</sup> June at which Gatwick issues were discussed. Greg Clark MP is chairing a public open meeting on 18<sup>th</sup> July at Langton Green Village Hall on aircraft noise at which Councillor Matthew Balfour, KCC's representative on GATCOM will be present.

**13/131 LANGTON GREEN SPORTS CLUB:** Cllr Mrs Jeffreys reported that LGSC are now intending to manage the building project themselves so there are no further VAT implications to clarify. It is anticipated that the tenure and terms of the lease and financial safeguarding measures will be considered at the August Full Council meeting.

**13/132 WARD WALKS:** TWBC Ward Walks took place between 19<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> June. TWBC were very grateful for the record number of Parish Councillors in Speldhurst volunteering to assist with Ward Walks. The feedback information will be available in September. All Councillors who took part said they enjoyed the experience and that it was a worthwhile exercise.

**13/133 "LOVE WHERE WE LIVE AWARDS":** It was **RESOLVED** that Speldhurst Parish Council submit the following nominations for TWBC Love Where We Live Awards:

Best group – Speldhurst Parish footpaths volunteers

Individual hero – Pat Woods

Lifetime achievement – Shirley Bartlett

Charity – 3H

**13/134 GROOMBRIDGE CHRISTMAS TREE:** It was **RESOLVED** that residents of The Walks, Old Groombridge be allowed to put up a Christmas tree on The Green subject to details being agreed by the Parish Council and that their idea to form a local conservation group was approved.

**13/135 MARCHIENNES:** It was **RESOLVED** to pay £100 to Langton Green Fete Committee to cover the cost of providing complimentary refreshments for the visitors from Marchiennes at the Fete on 6<sup>th</sup> July. **The Clerk will advise Langton Green Fete Committee.**

**13/136 SAFETY IN THE COMMUNITY:** The Clerk confirmed that the incidences of broken bottles and evidence of air rifle shooting in Shadwell Woods have been reported to the PCSO. Cllr Milner said he had walked the area and there was no more evidence and debris left.

It was reported that the police case has been closed in respect of the armed intruder in Speldhurst on 12<sup>th</sup> June.

**13/137 SPELDHURST SCHOOL GOVERNORS:** It was **RESOLVED** to send a letter to the three retiring Governors to thank them for their service to the school. **Cllrs Milner and Langridge to draft the letter.**

**13/138 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT:** Cllr Mrs Jeffreys reported that the names have been received from Langton Green and Speldhurst Schools for this year's awards and that the presentations will be held before the end of the term. She confirmed that the Parish council newsletter is ready for distribution by Councillors and volunteers.

### 13/139 COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- i) Governance – Cllr Pendleton reported that the next Governance meeting will be held on 3<sup>rd</sup> July.
- ii) Planning – Cllr Langridge reported that a Planning Committee meeting was held on 25<sup>th</sup> June and the minutes have been circulated.
  - o It was **RESOLVED** to adopt the revised Terms of Reference.
- iii) Amenities – Cllr Milner reported that a Committee meeting was held on 20<sup>th</sup> June.
  - o It was **RESOLVED** to delegate the arrangement and authorisation of the cost of the annual playground inspection to the Clerk.
  - o It was **RESOLVED** to grant South East Water permission to undertake minor excavation works at The Green.
- iv) Footpaths –
  - o The problems in Shadwell Woods have been reported to the PCSO and will be monitored.
  - o The response to KCC PROW regarding nominations for the reactive vegetation clearance is to be made by mid-July. **The Assistant Clerk to email Derek Robinson, Councillors and footpath adopters for suggestions of paths requiring this work.**
- v) Broadband – Cllr Woodward said that there was nothing to report.
- vi) KALC – Cllr Mrs Hull's notes of the Local Strategic Partnership meeting held on 26<sup>th</sup> June have been circulated.
- vii) Parish Plan – Cllr Turner reported that the working group attended Speldhurst Fete on 22<sup>nd</sup> June and will be attending Langton Green Fete on 6<sup>th</sup> July.
- viii) Environment Working Group – Cllr Mrs Hull said that there was nothing to report.

**13/140 OTHER MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF 3<sup>rd</sup> JUNE 2013:** Cllr Mrs Hull reported that the flower festival at All Saints' Church Langton Green was a great success and that she had donated a display on behalf of Speldhurst Parish Council. The Assistant Clerk reported that she is still waiting to hear from the TWBC Monitoring Officer as to how SPC should deal with the comments on the planning application for Langton Green Primary School expansion.

### 13/141 CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED:

1. Letter dated 21<sup>st</sup> June from Speldhurst C.E. Primary School saying thank you for the new ISS and what a huge difference it will make to the safety of schoolchildren
2. Copy of a letter via KALC from Brandon Lewis MP (Parliamentary Under Secretary of State DCLG) about potential impact on Town and Parish Councils if billing authorities do not pass funding down. He also mentions that it is likely that the majority of smaller councils will be excluded from having to hold a referendum on precepts – given to Cllr Milner
3. Letter dated 5<sup>th</sup> June from Nicola Faulconbridge saying that she is leaving the District on 28<sup>th</sup> June 2013 and her successor is Chief Inspector Dave Pate
4. Letter from Scouts thanking us for the trailer. Letter includes a picture of the scouts by the trailer
5. ACRK Rural News issue 129
6. CSU News issue No 24
7. Letter from Mr Pinkerton saying that he likes the new look of Pocket Park
8. Email dated 1<sup>st</sup> July from Mr Tomlin reminding Councillors that it is their duty to protect the people from harm (copies distributed)
9. Letter dated 25<sup>th</sup> June from SE Water reducing duration of works (Speldhurst Road from 7 months to 6 months)
10. Letter dated 26<sup>th</sup> June from Waldon telecom Ltd advising of a proposed upgrade to radio base station at the Langton Water Tower. Any comments on the proposal should be sent within 14 days of the date of the letter

### 13/142 DIARY DATES:

1. Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> July – Governance Committee meeting – Parish Council Office – **10.00am**

2. Friday 5<sup>th</sup> July – Highways Committee meeting – Parish Council Office – **10.00am**
3. Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> July – Langton Green Fete – 12noon-5pm
4. Monday 8<sup>th</sup> July – Finance Committee meeting – Parish Council Office
5. Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> July – Solicitor 3pm
6. Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> July – Interview with new Internal Auditor – 2pm
7. Friday 12<sup>th</sup> July – presentation of Speldhurst School award – 10.00am
8. Friday 12<sup>th</sup> July – Meeting with Judith lees Headmistress of LGPS – 2,30pm
9. Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> July – KALC Councillors’ Conference
10. Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> July – Planning Committee meeting – Parish Council Office
11. Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> July - Parish Plan Working Group meeting
12. **Monday 5<sup>th</sup> August – Full Council Meeting – Speldhurst VH**

**13/143 ITEMS FOR INFORMATION:**

Cllr Mrs Horne reported that Speldhurst Nurseries in closing for business in August 2013.

Cllr Mrs Jeffreys suggested sending a letter of thanks to the Scouts for helping with work in Pocket Park and asking them if they would be willing to help with a similar project each year. **Clerk to action**

Cllr Langridge reported that he is liaising with All Saints’ Church about their plans for the anniversary of the start of the First World War next year.

Cllr Turner will seek volunteers to run a Parish Plan table at Ashurst Fete on Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> July.

There being nothing further to discuss the meeting closed at 9.40pm

Chairman