



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

Minutes of the Amenities Committee Meeting

held on Monday 24th March 2025 at 7.30pm In the Council Offices, Langton Green Recreation Ground (LGRG)

MEMBERS PRESENT

Cllrs Lyle (Chair), Ellery, Littlefield and Rowe.

OFFICERS PRESENT

Mrs K Harman – Assistant Clerk (AC).

1. **To enquire if anyone present intends to film, photograph and/or record the meeting**

The Clerk would be recording the meeting for the purpose of accuracy of the minutes. The recording would be deleted once the minutes had been signed off at the next meeting.

2. **To accept and approve apologies and reasons for absence**

Apologies had been received from Cllrs Norton (holiday), Leach (childcare) and Rowe (prior engagement)
The AC welcomed Cllr Ellery to his first Amenities Committee meeting.

3. **Disclosures of Interest**

There were none.

4. **Declarations of Lobbying**

There were none.

5. **Minutes of the Amenities Committee meeting held on 20th January 2025**

RESOLVED that the minutes, previously forwarded to Members were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

6. **Public Open Session**

There were no members of the public present.

7. **Financial Review**

- The finance sheets were discussed. Members asked the AC to set up a brief meeting with the Responsible Financial Officer (RFO) to discuss how the figures could be displayed in a clearer format and in particular, how the totals at the end of each section of the general budget are made up.

- Cllr Turner advised that the £1,000 for the EV chargers was not required and could be reallocated.
- The AC was asked to query tree expenditure which seemed too low for the amount of tree work that had been carried out over the year.

8. **Risk Assessments**

The Risk Assessments for the playground, Boundary pond, carpark, recreation ground and football pitches had been completed. The AC had compiled a draft template risk assessment for the cricket club to fill out. It was agreed that the AC would complete an assessment for the Pocket Parks at Speldhurst, using the chart from the LG recreation ground as a template.

9. **Promotional and Advertising banners on SPC land**

The AC had followed up on both the enquiries previously received. LGCSA had asked that the sponsorship banner from the Football Foundation not be undermined by erecting other signs in the immediate area. The second enquirer had not replied. Members agreed that if there is something more modest that we can have inside the pavilion or on fencing that does not clash with the LGCSA objectives and can be aligned with benefit of the community, such opportunities should be investigated in an effort to maximise all income streams for the pavilion.

10. **Policy for Use of Council Land – to consider changes to the policy**

It was **RESOLVED** to make a recommendation to Full Council that the amended Policy for use of Council Land be adopted to allow:

- The onus would be on the Village Hall to recover any losses when an add-on to one of their bookings uses the carpark.
- One-off traders would not have to pay a damage deposit of £100.
- Charges for traders would be flexible, depending on the circumstances (this did not require a change to the wording, merely an adjustment of previous guidelines).
- All claims and losses made against SPC when its land is used by others would be borne by the user.

It was **RESOLVED** to ask The Joe Box (mobile coffee and cake) to visit the Langton Green Recreation Ground during the second week of the Easter holiday on a trial basis with flexible terms. Any monies raised would go into the Ear Marked Reserves (EMR) account.

11. **Parish Council Land**

a) **Langton Green Recreation Ground (LGRG) including carparks and playgrounds and the Pavilion**

- It was **RESOLVED** to purchase two additional signs for the recreation ground at a cost of £100 each to replace existing signs which are in a poor condition.
- It was **RESOLVED** to purchase two replacement latches for the playground gates up to a maximum cost of £150.
- Cllr Lyle updated members on the progress she and the AC had been making ascertaining SPC's responsibilities in and around the Village Hall. The next step was to have a chat with the Village Hall Trustees to make sure we have a shared understanding.

b) **The Green at Langton Green**

There was nothing to report.

c) **The Boundary at Langton Green**

The barley straw had been laid in the pond at The Boundary to try and get rid of some of the algae. The remainder of the planned works would be undertaken in May.

d) **The Green at Groombridge**

- Trevor Myles had reported a missing section of the fence bordering The Green. Members agreed that the work was not a priority in terms of safety or aesthetics and should be delayed until such time as there were funds available to carry out repairs.
- Cllr Turner confirmed that the lower section of The Green would be left unmown (as last year) in an effort to increase biodiversity in the area.

e) **Pocket Parks at Speldhurst**

- Cllr Turner advised that there would again be reduced mowing in the Pocket Park and that an update to the display board was in hand.

12. **Items for Information**

- The AC thanked Cllr Lyle for all her help and hard work whilst chairing the Amenities Committee and that she would be missed. Cllr Turner confirmed that he would be willing to be elected as the next Chair of the Amenities Committee.
- It was agreed that the AC would circulate dates for the summer meeting of the committee.

There being nothing further to discuss, the meeting finished at 8.20 pm.

Chairman