



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 22nd January at 10.00am

MEMBERS PRESENT: Cllr Mrs Podbury (Chair), Mrs Jeffreys, Parker, Kerby, Mrs Woodliffe, Allen, Mrs Soyke.

OFFICER PRESENT: Mrs K Harman – Assistant 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:** there were none.
3. **Disclosure of Pecuniary or Non-Pecuniary Interests:** Cllr Mrs Jeffreys noted an interest in item 11f – clearance of the duckweed on the Boundary pond.
4. **Declarations of Lobbying:** There were none.
5. **Minutes: RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting held on **15th November 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:** there were none.
8. **Boundary Change:** Cllr Mrs Podbury said that she had investigated this matter further and it appears it is a lengthy procedure to get the suggested changes made. Councillors agreed that SPC's agreement to the change would firstly be obtained then the matter would be left with Rusthall PC to progress.
9. **Financial Review:** The finance sheets were circulated. Cllr Mrs Podbury noted that the outgoings for Speldhurst maintenance was high which is due to the work carried out on the Pocket Park. The increase for the Langton Green play area is due to the recent repairs and maintenance and a virement for the Repair and renewal account would be made after Full Council approval. Little has been spent on tree maintenance this year which means it can be carried forward in case of ash dieback issues.
10. **Parish Plan** – Councillors confirmed that all issues have been reviewed and actioned as far as they can be and it was agreed Cllr Mrs Podbury would request at Full Council that this item be removed from future agendas.

11. Parish Council Land

- a. **Langton Green Recreation Ground (LGRG)**
- i. Langton Green Village Hall – there were no issues to discuss.
 - ii. Pavilion –
 - The issue of the high electricity bills was discussed, and it was confirmed that the Clerks would contact EDF to request a smart meter to be installed to gauge usage. In the meantime, the hot water is being turned off in the winter to reduce the electricity bill.
 - Burglar alarm – to be discussed with Cllr Mrs Lyle.
 - Management company – this had been investigated by Cllr Mrs Lyle and found not to be cost effective. It was agreed that the Groundsman would be asked to carry out some of the checks of the building.
 - iii. Sports Clubs – The Clerk had attended a meeting regarding the possibility of a 3G pitch being built on LGRG. At the February Full Council meeting SPC will decide how the future of this project will be decided. Cllr Mrs Podbury noted that Rusthall FC have said that they would like a 3G pitch built and Councillors considered whether this could be used by LG Football Club. The other issue is drainage and it was agreed that the cost should be investigated if the 3G pitch does not go ahead.
 - iv. Play Area – the “path” by the rear gate, behind the netting is extremely muddy and Councillors considered whether an alternative surface could be laid. **RESOLVED** that the Assistant Clerk get advice on the options and costs involved to report back.
 - v. Use of Recreation Ground – Councillors considered a request from a resident to practice paraglider handling on the recreation ground. The Assistant Clerk said that she had spoken to SPC’s insurers and they had recommended that if we agree to the request, we ask him to increase his third party insurance to £5m. **RESOLVED** that the resident can practice paraglider training on the recreation ground for an initial trial period of 6 months, after which Councillors will review their decision.
 - vi. Car Park – Cllr Mrs Podbury said that she is waiting to hear back from TWBC regarding the recycling bins and would chase the matter.
 - vii. Groundsman – it had been discovered that the lock on the 5-bar gate at the rear of LGRG was ineffective and the groundsman will install a new, much more substantial lock.
- b. **The Green at Langton Green** – Cllr Parker noted the dip between the white fencing and the road and the fact that the fencing is now leaning over and dangerous.
- c. **The Green at Groombridge** – Cllr Kerby noted that Groombridge Place is shut until Easter. They have not yet reapplied for planning permission however they are advertising for events in the spring. Cllr Mrs Podbury said that she will speak to the Planning Officers at TWBC to try and find out what is happening.
- 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 deal with duckweed and after consideration, it was **RESOLVED** to use the treatment suggested by Cllr Mrs Jeffreys to remove the duckweed.
- g. **Langton Green Allotments** – A three-month extension to the deadline has been agreed. Communication with Justin Bodle has since been erratic and there has been little progress. Cllr Barrington-Johnson continues to try to move the matter forward.
- h. **Trees** – The Assistant Clerk said that she had received confirmation from Dan Docker that all the trees on the pocket of land in Roopers have TPO’s on them. He had said that the existing trees could be maintained in reduced form, but he would consider an application to remove them and replace them with Holly and/or Yew. The Assistant Clerk said she had received confirmation that the finger of land between numbers 6 and 8 Roopers belongs to SPC. **RESOLVED** to ask the residents nearest to the pocket of land what their preferred action would be to deal with the overgrown trees. Councillors are to visit the site to discuss the options.
- i. **Hedges** – The Assistant Clerk said that both she and the Clerk were planning on visiting Roopers to look at the hedges. They would then talk to the garden maintenance company.
12. **Public Rights of Way** – Cllr Mrs Podbury said that the footpath by Forge House in Stockland Green Road needed attention and that she would mention it again to Cllr Milner. Cllr Mrs Soyke said that some of the

Weald Way footpath needed attention and that she would mention that to Cllr Milner.

- 13. South and South East in Bloom** – Councillors agreed that the information regarding this campaign should be forwarded to Nicky Earwaker and Ed Langridge who may be interested.
- 14. Litter Bins** – A request for more litter bins had been received by a Speldhurst resident. Cllr Price had already agreed to consider this matter when the Environment Working Group carry out their street scene survey and Councillors felt that the working group would therefore be the best way to take this matter forward.
- 15. Items for Information** –
- Cllr Parker asked what was happening to the space where the cardboard waste bin had been removed in the LG carpark and the Clerk said that two more bottle banks had been requested.
 - The Assistant Clerk drew Councillors' attention to an email from a resident regarding overflow parking during a funeral.

There being nothing further to discuss, the meeting closed at 11.00am.

Chairman