



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 29th June 2015 at 7.30pm

MEMBERS PRESENT: Cllrs Mrs Hull, Mrs Jeffreys, Mrs Podbury, Allen and Turner

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

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC: There were no members of the public

1. **Election of Chairman:** **RESOLVED** to elect Cllr Mrs Hull as Chairman.
2. **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
3. **To accept and approve apologies and reasons for absence:** There were none.
4. **Disclosure of Pecuniary or Non-Pecuniary Interests:** There were none.
5. **Declarations of Lobbying:** Cllrs Mrs Hull and Mrs Podbury declared that they had been lobbied about the recycling facilities at LGRG – Item 11a) 7.
6. **Minutes:** **RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the meeting held on **30th April 2015** be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman
7. **Public Open Session:** There were no members of the public present.
8. **Matters Arising and Correspondence:**

Trees in the Village Competition 2015 – The Assistant Clerk reported that The Kent Men of the Trees judges will contact Cllr Mrs Hull to arrange a suitable date to visit Langton Green.

Tree for Stonewall Park Road – The Assistant Clerk reported that the replacement tree has been approved by the Finance Committee and it will be planted in the forthcoming planting season.

Groombridge Christmas lights – The Assistant Clerk reported that nothing further has been heard to date from Old Groombridge Conservation Group regarding the proposals so this item will be removed from future agendas until anything further is received.

9. Consideration of a request to use LGRG on Saturday 1st August for a children's charity dance event: It was **RESOLVED** to allow Diddi Dance to hold a children's' charity event on Saturday 1st August subject to them having appropriate insurance.

10. Installation of notice board on A264 Langton Road: It was **RESOLVED** to reimburse the additional cost in the sum of approx. £30 of the Groundsman's public liability insurance being upgraded to £5 Million to enable him to install the notice board in accordance with KCC requirements for work on highway land. Planning permission is not required for installation of the notice board.

11. Parish Council Land:

a) Langton Green Recreation Ground (LGRG)

- 1) To consider improving the grass surface – It was **RESOLVED** to recommend to Full Council that £450 is spent on supply and application of liquid fertiliser and selective herbicide in accordance with a quotation from Landscape Services. The maintenance and drainage of the football pitch was discussed and it was agreed that funds should be set aside in future budgets for drainage.
- 2) Langton Green Village Hall – The problem of flooding from the roof of the Hall over the canopy outside the office during heavy rain is being looked into by the Trustees of LGVH.
- 3) Sports Clubs – A grant of £384,000 has been awarded by the Football Association towards the new pavilion and the Sports Club are continuing to progress towards an anticipated start date on the work in the autumn.
- 4) Children's play area – The pedal carousel has been repaired. A date is being arranged for the annual playground inspection by Craigdene.
- 5) Car parks – Work by KCC on the remaining footpath is scheduled for the school holidays but may need to start before the end of term. It was **RESOLVED** to obtain a free quotation for CCTV to cover the extension car park.
- 6) Groundsman – Nothing to report.
- 7) Recycling – The newspaper recycling bin has now been removed by TWBC. A sign will be put on the brown cardboard bin to remind residents that newspapers are not to be put in it but put in kerbside recycling. The two additional bottle banks have been moved into the space left by the removal of the cardboard bin. The suggestion of moving the recycling bins further back into the trees and screening them was rejected as impractical.
- 8) Trees – A quotation will be obtained for an arboricultural survey of all the trees at LGRG.

b) The Green at Langton Green – The hedge between the Green and The Vicarage was trimmed back in May. Consideration will be given to reducing the height of this hedge to assist future maintenance. Residents to be consulted.

c) The Green at Groombridge – The May Fayre was not held this year.

d) The Pocket Park at Speldhurst

- 1) A quotation for an arboricultural survey of all the trees at Pocket Park is being obtained.
- 2) Reinstatement following the South East Water emergency repair works has been carried out by Clancy Docwra contractors. Further seeding may be required in the autumn.
- 3) It was **RESOLVED** to return to the previous mowing schedule of Pocket Park and to cut back the Twitten.

e) Signs on Council land – Speldhurst Fete Committee will be asked to remove any signs that are still in place now that the 2015 Fete is over.

f) Transfer of land from TWBC

- 1) The land transfers at Langton Green have completed with the exception of one area, which along with the land at Ashurst is being progressed. Information has been obtained from Treework on the trees on these parcels of land. A quotation will be

obtained for an arboricultural survey of these areas. The legal fees are still under discussion and TWBC has not yet paid the £1,000 agreed for maintenance of the pond at The Boundary.

- 2) It was **RESOLVED** to obtain a quotation from Sodexo for routine maintenance of the land and to write to the neighbouring residents to advise them that Speldhurst Parish Council has taken the land on from TWBC.

12. Public Rights of Way:

- i. Shadwell Woods - Speldhurst School has been asked to give consideration to a suitable location for the dog waste bin in the vicinity of the entrance to Shadwell Woods and the School.
- ii. Footpath between Speldhurst Village Hall and Barden Road – It was **RESOLVED** to recommend to Full Council the purchase of a sign at a cost of £54.25 plus VAT to be placed on the barrier warning that there is a road ahead. **The Assistant Clerk to ascertain from KCC Highways whether it would be possible to paint a yellow line at the end of the footpath by Barden Road.**

13. Financial Review: The financial papers were circulated and reviewed.

14. Items for information: The Clerk reported that Langton Green Primary School have asked if consideration would be given to permitting them to use part of Langton Green Recreation Ground at break times for the older children under supervision. This will be on the agenda for the next meeting.

The meeting closed at 8.20pm

Chairman