



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

**Minutes of an Amenities Committee Meeting held in the Gallery Room, Langton Green Village Hall
on Thursday 28th April 2016 at 10.00am**

Prior to the meeting committee members were shown around the new pavilion by members of the LGCSA and the company responsible for the build.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Cllrs Mrs Podbury (Chairman), Mrs Jeffreys, Mrs Soyke, Allen, Turner and Barrington-Johnson (ex-officio)

OFFICERS PRESENT: Mrs K Plunkett – Assistant Clerk, Mr C May - Clerk

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC: There were two members of the public present

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:** Apologies received from Cllr Parker (prior engagement)
3. **Disclosure of Pecuniary or Non-Pecuniary Interests:** There were none.
4. **Declarations of Lobbying:** Cllr Mrs Podbury said that she had been lobbied about footpaths on Stockland Green Road.
5. **Minutes: RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting held on 15th February 2016, be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

6. Public Open Session

There were two members of the public present - Guy Lambert and Chris Allen from the Langton Green Sports Community Association (LGCSA). Item **8a2**) was brought forward on the agenda for discussion.

Guy Lambert said that there are two issues that he would like to discuss at this meeting – soakaway drainage and the location of storage containers.

1) Soakaway

LGSCA would like permission to build a soakaway to deal with water from the roof of the new pavilion. The architect has identified the ideal location for the soakaway in a natural hollow on the boundary between Ashurst Place and the LGRG. The pipe will be run straight from the

pavilion and this option falls within the budget for drainage so does not require additional funding. The grass will re-establish itself after the pipe has been laid.

Cllr Mrs Soyke asked if a trial hole will be dug and soil analysis undertaken. Guy Lambert said that was no budget for this work.

At the same time as the pipe is laid for the soakaway a water supply pipe will also be laid as this may be used in the future for watering the pitches when they have been seeded. An armoured cable will also be laid for a possible future electricity supply and the size of the trench will be the same as would be required for just the soakaway pipe. Both water and electricity will be controlled from inside the pavilion.

The digging of the trench would have the least impact on the condition of the recreation ground if it was completed as soon as possible as the grass would have time to re-establish itself before the dry summer.

Cllr Mrs Soyke asked if there will be a good safety margin in the size of the soakaway. Cllr Turner agreed that it should be made bigger than suggested by the architect. After further discussion it was agreed that this soakaway is not a long term solution to all drainage problems but Guy Lambert would discuss the size with the architect in case there was any benefit from making the soakaway bigger than currently planned.

The Clerk asked that care be taken during the building of the trench to ensure that the public would be protected from falling down the trench.

2) Containers – LGSCA are proposing to fund two containers, one for football equipment and one for furniture for the function room. There will be one further container for the cricket club. The positioning of the containers was discussed and it was agreed to have a configuration that creates a courtyard area, surrounded by containers.

Guy Lambert said that he would like the containers to visually fit in with the new pavilion and said that he would have the suggested design of container set up drawn to scale. Whether the configuration will work will depend on root preservation of trees.

Cllr Turner asked if the finish date of the Pavilion is known and Guy Lambert replied that it is June/ July.

It was noted that the patio courtyard area suggested by the Cricket Club is not within budget. This would need to be funded by the Cricket Club. The Cricket Club will also be responsible for protecting the Pavilion from cricket balls. Armoured glass will be used in the Pavilion but this may not withstand the impact from a cricket ball so netting may be necessary.

7. Matters Arising and Correspondence

- Kent Men of the Trees Competition 2016 – it was **RESOLVED** not to enter the competition this year but to consider entry in 2017.
- Mapping – The Clerk reported that the service provided by Pear Technology would not be pursued further.
- Litter picking – Cllr Mrs Podbury said that Martin Steibelt is helping to organise volunteers and the session arranged in Speldhurst will be advertised in the Courier. It will also be put on the SPC website.

8. Parish Council Land

a) Langton Green Recreation Ground (LGRG)

1) **Langton Green Village Hall** – The Clerk reported that the new Gallery Room has been successfully refurbished.

Sports Clubs – The Clerk said that the Stoolball Club are continuing to play on the Recreation Ground on Monday and Wednesday evenings from 6.30 – 8.30pm. There has been no charge made to the stoolball club for this year and it was **RESOLVED** to make a nominal charge of £50 for the season due to the lack of facilities until the

new Pavilion is available. The village hall toilets will be made available for this club until the Pavilion is finished.

- 2) **Children's play area** – The Clerk reported that the zip wire seat and cable have been replaced. He said that two sets of fencing near the children's play area requires maintenance and a quote has been received from Tate Fencing. This work has already been approved.

The climbing frame needs new ropes in two sections and the supplier has lost the order. This will be progressed by the assistant clerk.

- 3) **Car park** – The Clerk reported that the street lights in the car park had not been working but following the installation of the new car park bollards and the repositioning of the bollard lamps, the street light near the office is now working and the other street light has had a new bulb and is also now working. An expensive repair has therefore been averted.

The Committee **RESOLVED** to recommend to Full Council that additional cast iron posts be installed in the Car Park at a cost of £1,605.38 plus VAT.

- 4) **Groundsman** – The Clerk said he had not made progress with approaching other Councils about sharing a Groundsman.

- 5) **Cory** – The Clerk reported that the quote for this year is double last year's figure. However this includes collection on five days a week which is not necessary.

Therefore a quote has now been received for 3 days per week and the cost is £780.

The Committee **RESOLVED** to recommend to Full Council that this quote be approved.

- 6) **Trees** – A quote of £2.5k - £3k has been received from Treework for the work listed in the John Harraway report. It was **RESOLVED** to recommend that this quote be accepted

- 7) **Memorial Bench for Dan Davidson** – Maureen Davidson asked if a bench could be sited on the LGRG in his memory. This was agreed and the Clerk reported that donations towards a bench have been invited. Cllr Mrs Podbury said that a bench is also being organised for Michael Godley in Speldhurst. It was agreed that contributions to both of £100 would be considered at the May Full Council meeting.

- 8) **Langton Green Pavilion Café** – The Clerk reported that there has been interest from two parties to run a café in the new Pavilion and it was hoped that the person chosen to run it might also take bookings for the Pavilion. Cllr Turner said he thought this would be an important service in the village as a café would draw people into the village. It was **RESOLVED** to send a holding message back to the interested parties.

b) **The Green at Langton Green**

- 1) The Clerk said that he would approach Tate Fencing to get a quote for a wooden structure to act as a barrier at the crossing to Lampington Row.

- 2) The Clerk has been approached by a resident about the state of disrepair of the footpath that runs past the houses opposite the Green. Cllr Turner suggested asking for a contribution from residents towards the work. The Clerk said he would get a quote as the first step.

- c) **The Green at Groombridge** – Cllr Kerby said that cars and vans are eroding the side road next to the Crown Pub and suggested putting in some very large stones to prevent further erosion. Cllr Mrs Soyke asked if bollards would be a better alternative. Cllr Kerby also said that lower branches of trees have been cut back recently but higher branches require pruning. The Clerk will contact Landscape Services to resolve this. Cllr Mrs Soyke said she would take photos of the verge before the Council could make decisions about how to protect the Green.

d) **The Pocket Park at Speldhurst**

- 1) The trees in Speldhurst are included in the Treework quote included above.
 - 2) The new horse-riding sign will be put up as soon as it is ready. It was agreed that if horse-riding through the park continues, Cllr Turner will speak to the offender rather than sending a letter as previously discussed.
 - e) **Signs on Council land** – The Langton Green Village Society would like to put up a sign for their upcoming AGM. The Committee have no objections as long as the signs are taken down promptly afterwards.
 - f) **Transfer of land from TWBC**
 - 1) The Clerk reported that all land has been transferred and Landscape Services will be asked to maintain the new areas.
- 9. Speldhurst Fete** – the Clerk said that the request to fund the insurance cost of Speldhurst Fete will be considered at the May Full Council meeting.
- 10. Public Rights of Way** – The Clerk said that he will ask Cllr Milner for an update on the Alan Passmore memorial Plaque and also about the Stockland Green Road steps which are dangerous as several people have slipped on them.
- 11. Southfields** – The Clerk gave an update on the flower bed project and said that the flower beds are in progress and plants have been donated by Cllr Podbury. He said that photographs would be requested to show at the next meeting.
- 12. SPC Noticeboard at The Crown, Groombridge** – The Clerk said that bus timetables are included in the Council's noticeboard but sometimes there is not room for all the notices. The proposal is to put up the Council's spare noticeboard. Cllr Kerby said that he will ask for permission to do this. If there is space community notices can also be put up. Cllr Soyke said that she has been asked about the noticeboard at Station Road in Ashurst as it is in a state of disrepair. The Clerk said that he would put this on the May Full Council Agenda.
- 13. Terms of Reference** – It was **RESOLVED** to recommend to Full Council that the revised Terms of Reference are approved.
- 14. Financial Review** – The financial papers were discussed in terms of budget, expenditure to date and expenditure for the remainder of the year. The Clerk said that the Pavilion will be a separate cost centre in the next financial year so that costs can be monitored. Costs are as expected and 50% of the CCTV cost has been paid. The maintenance costs of LGRG are now split. All LGRG maintenance costs used to go into 4202 and there is £3k carried forward from the last financial year. The Committee **RESOLVED** to use this balance to finance the new bollards for the car park.
- 15. Items for Information:** The Clerk reported that £223 plus VAT had been claimed from the insurance company of the driver who crashed opposite the Langton Green village green. £86 is outstanding from a workman who knocked down a post in the car park. The bin area which was ruined by a pavilion contractor is being repaired next week

The meeting closed at 11.35am

Chairman