



Langton Green Village Society

**Minutes of Committee Meeting
Thursday 15 July 2021**

Present:

David Whittaker (Chair) (DaveW)
James Bowdidge (Deputy Chair) (JamesB)
Lyn Dollimore (LynD)
Emma Stevens (EmmaS)
Harry Harrison (HarryH)
Josie Gamble (Fete Committee Chair) (JosieG)
Jeremy Stirling (JeremyS)
Lynn Trainor (Vicar of All Saints) (LynnT)
Mark Gamble (MarkG)
Nicci Levy (NicciL)
Nick Trainor (NickT)
Lawrence Dollimore (Minutes)

Apologies:

David Brimlow, Emma Howden, Helen Fuller

Venue:

Thanks to EmmaS for hosting

Declarations of interest

For discussion related to school funding, Mark Gamble and Lynn Trainor have declared in previous Minutes they are school governors.

AGENDA

i) Membership of Committee

- Welcomed Julius Drake Brockman to the Committee

ii) Meeting with Speldhurst Parish Council

- DaveW has had a meeting with Dave Pate, the new Chairman of SPC, to discuss matters of common interest. The main topic of discussion was road safety. Highlights were:
 - LGVS and SPC will work together on road safety, with ultimate goals to:
 - Reduce speed limits
 - Create safer crossings
 - Lobby for more visible and proactive enforcement
 - DaveW will join SPC Highways Committee
 - LGVS will continue with Speedwatch in collaboration with SPC
 - Kent Highways is a crucial player, but priority and available budget are critical factors and so progress will take time

iii) Draft 2-year Plan

- Prior to the meeting, DaveW submitted his draft to Committee members for consideration. All were supportive in general, but the following specific points were raised:

- Is the proposed Mentoring initiative sufficiently broad (in the number of people it helps) to meet the Mission Statement of the LGVS (Championing the interests of the village and its resident). JamesB believes it will be once the proposal has been developed. Committee supportive to pursue
- The “Shop Local” proposal – there is a real need to support the village shops, specific suggestions include:
 - Street party – some years ago an event along the A264 in front of the then shops was a great success – each shop did its own display, including the baker, the butcher, the Indian restaurant, and others. It attracted a lot of interest and visitors. Perhaps this could be done again. Hannah (the owner of Langtons) has already proposed a special event like this for the Queen’s unique Platinum (70 year) Jubilee in 2022.
 - JosieG is arranging a Village Party on the Green for this September and said the shops will all be invited to display/sell
 - EmmaS said there are many small businesses in the village that might welcome some publicity and undertook to produce a Directory of Local Businesses via LGVS social media (**ACTION: EmmaS**)
- Other parts of the Plan are covered in the next section
- The **overall action** is for DaveW to work up the Plan to a final version in time for endorsement at the next meeting and then publication to village society members and an update in Langton Life **ACTION: DaveW**

iv) LGVS membership and image

- Content for revised **membership structure** has been discussed by a sub-committee, and JamesB will meet Chris Dry (marketing expert) to turn into a proposition to share with the community after agreement at next meeting (**ACTION: JamesB**)
- Suggestion to become a **registered charity** – JosieG and MarkG presented some convincing arguments for applying to become a charity (many other village societies appear to be charities). A vote supported pursuing becoming a charity. So, once the new membership structure has been agreed, MarkG will draft an application and submit it to the Charity Commission to see whether it meets the necessary criteria (**ACTION: MarkG**)
- **Village sign** refurbishment – the original maker (Roy Harvey from Groombridge) has offered to do the work and a quote is awaited. He will be offered help with its removal. (**ACTION: LawD**)
- There is support in the Committee for a **Village Society logo**, to be used together with the village sign, for branding purposes (**ACTION: JamesB**)
- Newcomer ‘**welcome pack**’– currently “on hold”
- **Publication of Minutes** – some concern that matters which are *sub judice* have to be excluded and so the published version is necessarily abridged to protect personal data in line with General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR)
- **Change from Society to Trust or something else** – some members of the Committee feel that the term “Society” has elitist/clandestine connotations and so switching to become a Trust or something else might be the direction we should go. Others in the Committee questioned what real value it will have. **ACTION: MarkG** to produce for next meeting a 1-pager of the benefits

v) Greenleaf update

- JamesB reported that the trees (125 large cherries, 1,250 small cherries and 250 crab apples) had been ordered and paid for, for delivery/planting in November. Stakes, guards, bags etc to be ordered shortly.
- The Woodland Trust has approved our application for another 420 trees to plant around the Recreation Ground.
- The tree committee (which includes Nicci on publicity) will meet again to finalise the planting and distribution plans and will report back.

vi) “Party on The Green”

- JosieG confirmed the target date is Sat 25 September and will run from 12 noon to 17.00. Approval to use The Green has been obtained
- It will comprise, *inter alia*, a BBQ, bar, eateries, band and fancy dress
- It will be by invitation to LG villagers only
- The basic focus is enjoyment and bringing people together, and the aim is to cover costs

vii) Financial Planning

- This item was deferred until the next meeting so that DavidB could provide a “one-pager” summary (to be done quarterly) of financial assets, expected incomings and expected outgoings (**ACTION: DavidB**)

viii) Planning Applications

- Nothing of concern noted since the previous meeting

AOB

1. **Hanging baskets** – we have been let down by the company that does the Bidborough baskets and so LynD has made up 4, which are now ready for hanging. **ACTION: HarryH** will help hang the baskets and **EmmaS** will ensure they are regularly watered
2. **Gatwick** – a letter has been written objecting (again) to a second runway
3. **Memorial bench or tree for Dr/Mrs Hoare** – an engraved bench was suggested; estimated cost circa £500. To be located on grass strip facing The Green. **ACTION: DaveW** to discuss with the Hoare family, and confirm with SPC that location is acceptable.
4. **Request to fund 2 picnic tables/benches for in front of Pavilion Café** (est cost up to £900 per unit) – EmmaH is the petitioner - SPC has been asked to fund 4 but suggested the cost should be shared with the LGVS. DaveW commented that available funds are severely restricted given drop-off in membership subscriptions over recent year and cancellation of two fetes (our primary source of funds). The merits were debated but EmmaH could not attend the meeting to present her case and so the final decision was deferred until the next meeting **ACTION: EmmaH**
5. **Educational bursary** – JeremyS confirmed the £250 has been refunded
6. **Music Society** – JamesB is aware of musical talent within the village and will present his proposal at the next meeting **ACTION: JamesB**
7. **Broadband** – NickT believes there would be merit in villagers having access to Fibre to the Premises (FTTP) broadband and will produce a briefing note **ACTION: NickT**
8. **Rude Mechanical Theatre** – it will return Wed 25 August and a number of committee members are kindly stewarding

Next meeting – Monday 13 Sept (venue notified to Committee)