



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

Minutes of a Finance Committee Meeting held in the Council Office, Langton Green Recreation Ground on Monday 8th July 2013 at 7.30pm

MEMBERS PRESENT: Cllrs Hemming (Chair), Mrs Soyke (arrived 8pm), Milner, Owen, Parker and Mrs Jeffreys (ex-officio)

OFFICERS PRESENT: C May – Clerk; M Flemington – Assistant Clerk

1. **Apologies for Absence:** Cllr Mrs Podbury (illness) and Cllr Pendleton (prior engagement)
2. **Declarations of Pecuniary or Other Significant Interests:** There were none.
3. **Declarations of Lobbying:** There were none.
4. **Minutes:** It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting dated **20th May 2013**, copies having previously been forwarded to Members, were approved and signed as a correct record.
5. **Public Open Session:** There were no members of the public present.
6. **Matters Arising and Correspondence:** The Clerk reported he will make further investigations prior to purchasing the Payroll Manager system.
7. **Financial position as at 3rd July 2013:** The Clerk had circulated all the financial papers and confirmed that the cost of the Speldhurst ISS is now shown in the accounts. After some discussion the financial position was duly noted by the Committee.
8. **2013-2014 review of expenditure vs. budget to-date:** The current position was noted by the Committee.
9. **Banking arrangements:** After much discussion it was **RESOLVED** to recommend to Full Council opening an HSBC Community Account with an initial deposit of £25,000 and to maintain the Unity Trust Bank account for day to day banking. The amount would then be increased when the second tranche of the precept is paid. The clerk had brought to the committee's attention a Public Sector Deposit Fund and this would be considered when the current deposit with the Co-op Bank matures in January 2014. **The clerk will initiate the opening of an account with HSBC.**

- 10. NALC advice of pay increase:** The 1% pay increase for Clerks was noted by the Committee and this will be back-dated to April in due course.
- 11. A&BSA grant request:** Cllr Mrs Soyke declared an interest and did not take part in any vote. After discussion it was **RESOLVED** to recommend to Full Council that a grant of £2,600 is made to Ashurst and Blackham Sports Association for further pavilion improvements.
- 12. Amenities Committee:**
- a) It was **RESOLVED** to make a payment of £125 every six months to the Groundsman in recognition of the extra mileage arising from a change in the nature of his tasks.
 - b) It was **RESOLVED** to purchase weedkiller and a sprayer for use by the Groundsman at a total cost of £115. **The Clerk to order the weedkiller and sprayer.**
 - c) It was **RESOLVED** to spend £140 on repairs to the stone wall in Peshurst Road, Speldhurst. **The Clerk to instruct Alan Ashby to carry out the work.**
 - d) It was **RESOLVED** in principle to plant a mixed conservation hedge and erect a post and wire fence to secure the extension car park at LGRG. The exact mix of species and the location for a secure access point with lockable posts to be established.
- 13. Outdoor electric sockets:** After discussion it was **RESOLVED**, that subject to the Clerk's satisfaction as to need and frequency of use, he can arrange for installation of two outdoor electrical sockets at LGRG, at a cost of approximately £300.
- 14. Update Council manuals:** The clerk advised that a number of the office manuals and administration books are out of date and need replacing at a cost of approximately £150. After discussion it was **RESOLVED** to order the update replacements. **The Clerk to order the necessary publications.**
- 15. Grant requests:** The Clerk had circulated letters requesting grants from West Kent Mediation and Vitalise (essential breaks for disabled people and carers). It was **RESOLVED** not to make a grant to Vitalise because it is not locally based and offers the same services as the local charity 3H. It was **RESOLVED** not to make a grant to West Kent Mediation at present as they are already supported by TWBC and KCC but for the Clerk will ask for further information about the numbers of people they help within the parish to see if further consideration of the request is warranted.
- 16. Items for Information:**
- The Clerk advised that the dates scheduled for the remainder of 2013 for Finance Committee meetings are 16th September, 21st October and 18th November. He suggested that if the November meeting is not required in connection with the precept and is cancelled a Finance Committee meeting should be held in early December.
- Cllr Mrs Soyke said that she considers that entrance gates to LGRG need cleaning. **The clerk to add this item to the agenda for the next Amenities Committee meeting.**
- The Clerk advised that St Mary's Church, Speldhurst reported in one of their recent weekly newsletters that they have given considerable sums to charities and good causes in away-giving during the period they have been given grants by SPC.

The meeting closed at 8.59pm

CHAIRMAN