



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 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2014 at 7.30pm**

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**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Cllrs Owen (Chairman), Milner, Pendleton, Mrs Horne, Mrs Podbury and Mrs Soyke

**MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC:** There was one member of the public present – Mark Tompkins Community First Responder

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

1. **Election of Chairman:** It was **RESOLVED** to re-elect Cllr Owen as Chairman.
2. **Apologies for absence:** Cllr Parker (family commitment)
3. **Declarations of Pecuniary or Other Significant Interests:** There were none.
4. **Declarations of Lobbying:** There were none.
5. **Minutes:** It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting dated **24<sup>th</sup> April 2014**, copies having previously been forwarded to Members, be approved and signed as a correct record.
6. **Public Open Session:** Mark Tompkins, a Team Leader for the Community First Responders, had provided the committee with useful information and some costs associated with public access defibrillators. This information had been requested by the committee in connection with the grant request from Speldhurst Village Hall. After much discussion it was agreed that he would provide further information on frequency of defibrillator use and life-saving statistics to enable Councillors to consider the grant for Speldhurst Village Hall and the possibility of funding other defibrillators in the parish.
7. **Matters Arising and Correspondence:** There was nothing to report
8. **Interim Payments:** In accordance with the NALC Financial Regulations the Clerk reported nine interim payments which were reviewed and agreed and will be listed in the Full Council minutes.

- 9. Standing Orders – Financial Regulations and Terms of Reference:** New NALC Financial Regulations have been issued and considerable work had been done revising the Financial Regulations specific to this Council. The possibility was discussed of seeking to raise the authorisation limit of the Finance Committee from £2,000 per item, to the £5,000 per item recommended by NALC, or to a figure between £2,000 and £5,000. It was **RESOLVED** to recommend to Full Council adoption of the revised Standing Orders – Financial Regulations with the authorisation limit staying at £2,000 per item. It was **RESOLVED** to recommend the revised Terms of Reference which excluded the section on email decisions.
- 10. Financial position as at June 2014:** The clerk had circulated all the financial papers and the position was noted by the committee.  
The Clerk reported on one budget virement and it was agreed; transfer of £3,100 from Amenities to Highways because the work at The Green (15.b) below) is now a Highways issue.
- 11. 2014 review of expenditure vs. budget to-date:** The Clerk had circulated the financial papers and the position was noted by the Committee. Cllr Mrs Soyke asked about the length of the PWLB loan for the Parish Council Office and the Clerk confirmed that it is 15 years.
- 12. Speldhurst Recreation Ground:** The Clerk reported that the Recreation Ground Committee have had confirmation from Veolia that the grant is still available for the playground provided they have used best endeavours to obtain planning permission by 8<sup>th</sup> September. The Clerk advised that there are significant delays in the planning process at present.
- 13. Grant requests:**
- a) After much discussion, including consideration of the extent links between club members and the parish, it was **RESOLVED** to grant £350 to Langton Green Netball Club to encourage and support sport in the Parish. The Clerk was asked to advise them that Councillors did not consider that the grant was going to be automatically made every year.
  - b) A decision on the grant request for a defibrillator at Speldhurst Village Hall and consideration of funding defibrillators in the other villages was deferred until the information referred to in Item 6 is available.
- 14. Banking and reserves:** There was nothing to report.
- 15. Committee and Working Group expenditure:**
- a) On the recommendation of the Highways Committee it was **RESOLVED** to install two traffic surveys on Ashurst and Groombridge Hills at a cost of £550 each.
  - b) On the recommendation of the Highways Committee it was **RESOLVED** to recommend to Full Council expenditure of £5,035 on levelling and overlaying the access road and extending the road-side kerbing at The Green, Langton Green
  - c) On the recommendation of the Amenities Committee it was **RESOLVED** to purchase a new dog bin for the entrance to LGRG nearest to the school at a cost of £250 and pay for emptying at a cost of £4.50 per week.
  - d) On the recommendation of the Air Traffic Committee it was **RESOLVED** to contribute up to £200 towards the running costs of the High Weald Councils Aviation Action Group.
  - e) The First World War Working Group had submitted an initial budget for this year of £260 and an application is being made to TWBC for £200. It was **RESOLVED** to budget up to £260 for the project in case the grant application is unsuccessful.
- 16. Items for information:** There were none.

The meeting closed at 8.52pm

CHAIRMAN