



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 14th December 2015 at 7.30pm

MEMBERS PRESENT: Cllrs Mrs Soyke (Chairman), Mrs Horne, Mrs Jeffreys, Mrs Lyle (arrived 7.40pm), Milner and Parker

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

OFFICERS PRESENT: C May – Clerk

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 receive and approve apologies for absence:** Cllr Mrs Podbury and Cllr Barrington-Johnson (ex-officio) both prior engagement
3. **Disclosure of Interests:** There were none.
4. **Declarations of Lobbying:** There were none.
5. **Minutes: RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Finance Committee meeting dated **19th October 2015**, copies having previously been forwarded to Members, be approved and signed as a correct record.
6. **Public Open Session:** There were no members of the public present.
7. **Matters Arising and Correspondence:**
 - a) Speldhurst Recreation Ground Committee (SRG) updated SPC and enclosed the latest plan and accounts. The new plan is to upgrade the MUGA to include a mini football pitch with two short tennis courts on AstroTurf. It will require additional fund raising of between £10-15k and the Clerk has informed SRG that grant money may be less forthcoming due to a variety of other projects.
 - b) Refund of Non-Domestic Rates – the Clerk did not ask Goodman Nash to look in to a refund because their percentage return was not known at the time. Their fee is 35% and it was **RESOLVED** to use them.
 - c) Precept increase with adjusted tax base – TWBC's calculation of the increase in the precept is 4.3% due to a large property being demolished and exemptions rising.

- 8. Interim Payments:** There have been one payment from the current account since the last Full Council meeting on 7th December £3,630 for the balance of CCTV and four payments on the ALTO card: £308.85 for refreshments; £10.00 stationery; £112.86 for a container for rock salt and £5.98 for a badge which will be listed on the minutes of the January Full Council meeting. They were approved by the Committee.
- 9. Budget Virements:** There had been no budget virements since the last Full Council meeting on 7th December.
- 10. Financial Position as at December 2015 and review of expenditure vs budget to-date:** The Clerk had circulated all the financial papers and the position after nine months of payments and receipts was discussed by the Committee. He said that the investment in CCLA had now been repaid in to the Unity Bank account. It was noted that a number of items will impact next year's budget: the recent tree survey was more than budget; the Assistant Clerks overlapping; A new 1% salary award and the Groundsman's additional hours. The position will be clearer in January.
- 11. Banking and reserves:** The Clerk reported that the CCLA account has been closed. The account with Cambridge Building Society (CBS) had been opened with £50k drawn on HSBC reducing the balance from £75k to £25k. The funds from CCLA were paid in to the current account with Unity Bank and it was **RESOLVED** to transfer £25,000 to the CBS and £25,000 to HSBC. This would increase the balance at the CBS to £75k and HSBC to £50k. All money now held by the Council is within the new limit set by the Financial Services Compensation Scheme (FSCS) of £75k.
- 12. Committee and Working Group expenditure:**
- a) The Clerk advised the Committee of two items of expenditure authorised but not yet invoiced; £1,000 towards two bus stop shelters and £500 for tree planting.
 - b) Landscape Services – it was explained that the maintenance contract for The Green, Old Groombridge had not previously been for a fixed period. The latest quote was for a 3 year fixed period and was a 2% increase on the previous year. It was **RESOLVED** to accept this quote.
 - c) Financial arrangements for the provision of containers – Cllr Mrs Jeffreys has been in contact with all three parties who require storage. The Sports Charity has agreed to pay for their cladded container; the Cricket Club has to meet to discuss the issue but has made it clear they have no funds to pay for storage. Cllr Mrs Jeffreys is suggesting that they repay over a set period; The Langton Green Village Society has yet to meet to discuss the issue but has intimated that they do not have funds to pay for a cladded container. The Clerk said that insurance could be an issue if SPC does not own the container.
Cllr Mrs Jeffreys said that the completion date for the pavilion was unknown with the Sports Charity hoping for it to be finished in time for the fiesta.
- 13. Grant requests:**
- a) Tunbridge Wells CAB – it was **RESOLVED** to grant £1,000
 - b) The Counselling Centre Tunbridge Wells – this was a new application and the committee agreed that it cannot support every centre despite the good work it does. The Clerk was asked to convey this.
- 14. Staff and Training:**
- a) It was **RESOLVED** that the Clerk will attend the SLCC Regional Roadshow in Chatham on Wednesday 3rd February 2016 at a cost of £69.

- b) Retaining Mrs Flemington as a casual employee – it was agreed that Mrs Flemington would finish work at the end of January and that she be retained on a casual basis to help the transition further and cover any unexpected or long vacancies. It was **RESOLVED** that her rate would be £15 per hour.

15. Items for Information: There were none.

The meeting closed at 8.25pm

Chairman