



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 11th November 2019 at 7.30pm**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Cllrs Mrs Lyle, Mrs Woodliffe, Milner, Ellery, Rowe and Barrington-Johnson (ex-officio)

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

OFFICERS PRESENT: C May – Clerk and Mrs K Harman – Assistant 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:** Apologies were received from Cllrs Mrs Soyke and Mrs Podbury – both TWBC meeting.
3. **Disclosures of Interest:** Cllr Rowe is a volunteer for the CAB – item 14b.
4. **Declarations of Lobbying:** There were none.
5. **Minutes: RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Finance Committee meeting dated **30th September 2019**, 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. **Interim Payments:** Mastercard: £9.00 bank charges.
8. **Budget Virements:** There were none. It was noted that a virement for the additional expenditure on the playground flooring repairs (if approved under item 13b) would go to Full Council's December meeting for approval – see item 13c).
9. **Financial Position as at 30th September 2019 and review of expenditure vs budget to date:** Summary sheets and detailed reports had been circulated prior to the meeting which were considered in detail. It was noted that the Ear Marked Reserves fund would reduce to £43K following payments towards the playground improvements. On the Detailed receipt and payments sheet, there was a double entry for Highways of £8K. The maintenance costs for

Groombridge had increased significantly due to price increases from the contractor. The Clerk would investigate increases for Ashurst.

10. Financial Position as at 30th September 2019 and review of expenditure for the Pavilion to date: Summary sheets and detailed reports had been circulated prior to the meeting which were considered in detail. The provision of cardboard and bottle recycling was discussed. A quote had been received from Veolia for emptying on a weekly basis for £750 per annum. The new bins would need to be fenced off and use would be monitored. It was hoped that the LG Village Hall would consider paying a share of the costs to enable their hirers to use the recycling facilities.

11. Budget for 2020-21. The Clerk had produced a proposed budget, which had been previously reviewed with the Chairman. Councillors considered the budget in detail for the next financial year and made some minor amendments reducing the proposed expenditure from £161,400 to £155,250 which equalled a 4.9% increase in the precept after a 0% increase last year. The following changes were made

- Reduce need for childcare budget
- Reduce Telephone and BB from £1,000 to £675 (£56pcm)
- Adjust the LGRG budget to a new entry for LGRG pitches with a total budget of £6,000 utilising a carry forward of £2,000 from this year's money
- Reduce the C/F figure for Sports Clubs from £8,500 to £5,000
- Increase Highways budget by £10,000
- Set aside £20,000 for contingency next year but if any balance is remaining at the end of this financial year it is to be increased by £5,000 and the balance to be transferred to Earmarked Reserves

RESOLVED to recommend an increase of 4.9% to Full Council.

12. Banking and Reserves:

- a) Councillors considered the present banking arrangements. The Clerk has given appropriate notice to HTB for repayment of £20,000 from each account and it was noted that the money will be received on 23rd Dec and 20th Jan. At that time the money will be paid back and fresh instructions issued for repayment.

13. Committee and Working Group expenditure:

- a) **RESOLVED** to remove the additional payment of £8,000 which had been entered in the committed column of Expenditure authorised but not yet invoiced.
- b) **RESOLVED** on the recommendation of the Amenities Committee to pay the additional cost of repairs to the flooring of the LG playground of £1,500.
- c) It was **RESOLVED** to recommend to Full Council that the budget virements for item 13b) be made at the same time as the payment for the whole amount
- d) **RESOLVED** to obtain further quotations for the Installation of motion-sensitive lighting in the pavilion.
- e) Upgrading the Clerk's mobile phone: this item was removed from the agenda.
- f) A contribution towards Speldhurst News magazine printing in full colour was considered. Councillors asked the Clerk to obtain a further quote for comparison.

14. Grant requests:

- a) **RESOLVED** to grant St John's Church, Groombridge, £1,000 towards churchyard maintenance.
- b) **RESOLVED** to grant £1,000 to Citizen Advice Bureau, Tunbridge Wells towards their work in the parish.

- c) **RESOLVED** to grant £100 to the Mayor's Toy Appeal.
- d) **RESOLVED** that the decision to release the funds to LGCSA is delegated to Cllrs Mrs Lyle and Barrington-Johnson and that a document, which includes the traffic management plan is signed by both parties.

15. Budget summary for website: this item would be discussed at the next Finance meeting.

16. Staff and Training: It was noted that a Dynamic Councillor training would be held on the following day run by KALC.

17. Items for Information: There were no items for discussion.

There being nothing further to discuss, the meeting closed at 9.22 pm.

Chairman