



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 22nd June 2015 at 7.30pm

MEMBERS PRESENT: Cllrs Mrs Horne, Mrs Jeffreys, Mrs Podbury, Milner, Parker and Barrington-Johnson (ex-officio)

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC: There was one member of the public present

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

1. **Election of Chairman:** Councillor Mrs Soyke had previously agreed to be Chairman. In her absence it was **RESOLVED** to elect Cllr Mrs Soyke as Chairman
2. **Election of Vice-Chairman:** **RESOLVED** to re-elect Cllr Milner as Vice-Chairman.
3. **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.
4. **To receive and approve apologies for absence:** Cllr Mrs Soyke (holiday).
5. **Disclosure of Interests:** There were none.
6. **Declarations of Lobbying:** There were none.
7. **Minutes:** **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the dated **30th March 2015**, copies having previously been forwarded to Members, be approved and signed as a correct record.
8. **Public Open Session:** There was member of the public present: Derek Robinson in connection with the application from Speldhurst News for a grant contribution towards a new village website.
It was agreed to bring item 16c) forward on the agenda. Members considered the request and took into consideration the fact that there is no subsidy for the monthly broadsheet and **RESOLVED** to grant up to £1,000 plus VAT for a new village website. It was also agreed to maintain the website at £10 plus VAT per month for ongoing maintenance. The Clerk advised that the money would need to come from the contingency account and be paid from s137. This was agreed.

- 9. Matters Arising and Correspondence:** The Clerk advised that a grant request has been received from Victim Support which would be considered at the July Full Council meeting. An email has been received from Unity Bank stating that a review of the Banking Compensation Scheme is taking place and may conclude that Parish Councils are covered by the scheme up to £85,000. A new signatory is required for the Unity bank account and this will be on the agenda for the Full Council meeting on 6th July.
- 10. Terms of Reference:** It was **RESOLVED** to amend the Terms of Reference to include appropriate references to the Vice-Chairman of the Committee and to recommend to Full Council that these revised Terms of Reference be adopted.
- 11. Interim Payments:** There have been several payments since the last Full Council meeting of 1st June which would be listed on the minutes of the July Full Council meeting. These were approved by the Committee.
- 12. Budget Virements:** The Clerk explained that the sum of £1,460 to pay for the footpath improvements at Langton Green Recreation Ground was input as a journal entry, which was incorrect. This has been reversed to show correctly as a budget transfer from contingency to Langton Green maintenance.
- 13. Financial Position as at June 2015 and review of expenditure vs budget to-date:** The Clerk had circulated all the financial papers and the position was noted by the Committee.
- 14. Banking and reserves:** The Committee reviewed the banking arrangements and reserves and agreed not to make any decision on moving funds but to review the position at the next meeting.
- 15. Committee and Working Group expenditure:**
- a) To advise the committee of expenditure authorised but not yet invoiced – the Clerk advised the Committee of five items that were outstanding: payment of £1,000 towards two bus stop shelters, £2,500 granted to Speldhurst School, £500 for tree planting at Stonewall Park Road, £1,000 for the fireproof cabinet and a grant for £350 towards the cabinet for the quilt.
 - b) Amenities Committee - the matter of the Groundsman's remuneration for out of contract footpath clearance work was discussed. Before making any final decision it was agreed to establish KCC's position on footpath clearance work, obtain a quotation from A1 Garden Services for doing this work and ask if Langton Green Village Society will make any money available for footpath clearance.
 - c) Highways Committee – it was **RESOLVED** to purchase two permanent signs requesting no parking near the Doctor's surgery, Speldhurst at a cost of £80.34 plus VAT.
 - d) Highways Committee – the Committee has agreed that there are three important projects that need to be prioritised; 20mph outside Schools, Speed Indicator Devices and Gateways in to the villages. Funding costs have yet to be finalised but will come from the Highways budget but the Clerk advised that the use of contingency funds may be required
- 16. Grant requests – to consider the following grant requests**
- a) Ashurst and Blackham Sports Association Raft Race – it was **RESOLVED** to grant £290 to pay for the insurance of this event. It was noted that it was a considerably higher premium this year than in 2014 and the Clerk was asked to ensure that they ask in good time next year.
 - b) PCC of Speldhurst with Groombridge and Ashurst – it was **RESOLVED** to grant £1,600 towards churchyard maintenance for St Mary's, Speldhurst and St John's, Groombridge.
 - c) Speldhurst News village website – refer to the Public Open Session section.

17. Items for Information

Cllr Mrs Podbury reported that the Multi Use Games Area at Speldhurst Recreation Ground will be installed at the end of the summer.

Cllr Mrs Horne reported that the evening event held following Speldhurst Fete was very well attended and organised.

The meeting closed at 8.26pm

Chairman