



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 Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> July 2019 at 7.30pm**

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**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Cllrs Mrs Soyke, 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

In the absence of Cllr Mrs Lyle, Cllr Ellery chaired the meeting.

1. **Election of Chairman:** **RESOLVED** that Cllr Mrs Lyle be re-elected in her absence
2. **Election of Vice-Chairman:** **RESOLVED** that Cllr Ellery be re-elected
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:** Apologies were received from Cllr Mrs Lyle (illness), Cllr Mrs Podbury (Members meeting) and Mrs Harman (prior arrangement)
5. **Disclosures of Interest:** There were none.
6. **Declarations of Lobbying:** There were none
7. **Minutes:** **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Finance Committee meeting dated **1<sup>st</sup> May 2019**, copies having previously been forwarded to Members, be approved and signed as a correct record.  
Cllr Ellery welcomed Cllr Rowe to the Committee
8. **Public Open Session:** There were no members of the public present.
9. **Interim Payments:** The Clerk advised of the following payments since the Full Council meeting: Mastercard: £9.00 monthly charges; £36.00 Microsoft 365; £18.00 keys cut; £79.80 school awards.

Current account: £262.87 Pavilion monthly water bill; £1,750 grant to St Martin's Church; £90.41 to Mastercard to bring balance to zero; £79.20 waste disposal

- 10. Budget Virements:** The Clerk advised that two previously approved virements had been made from the Pavilion RRIM account and the Ear Marked reserve account to pay for new kitchen equipment and playground repairs. Cllr Rowe suggested that the grant made previously towards the renovation of St Mary's Lane be recorded so that Councillors were aware of money already allocated. Cllr Ellery suggested that use be made of the committed expenditure column in the detailed report sheet.

Cllr Barrington-Johnson said that the Training budget had been overspent because it included the Planning training session held in the previous financial year and attendance at the NALC Conference for the Vice-Chairman and suggested that the budget be increased by £1,000.00.

**RESOLVED** that two virements be recommended to Full Council: Transfer £1,000 from contingency to increase the training budget to £2,000 and transfer another £1,000 from contingency to a new budget item titled St Mary's Lane repairs.

- 11. Financial Position as at close of July 2019 and review of expenditure vs budget to-date:** The finance sheets were reviewed and noted.

- 12. Financial Position as at July 2019 and review of expenditure for the Pavilion:** It was noted that the pavilion may run at a loss during 2019/2020 due to maintenance costs, the café closure in August, redecoration costs and possible work to the drains.

**13. Banking and Reserves:**

- a) The Chairman noted that the accounts were all within their FCFS limits and that the first half of the precept had been paid. He said that hardly any interest was being earned and that options for placing money elsewhere should be considered. There had been several banks suggested but not all were open to Parish Councils. The Clerk had been recommended Hampshire Trust Bank (HTB) which operated a 60-day notice account 1.35% and 120-day notice account 1.45%. HTB was FSCS registered and not part of another group.

**RESOLVED** to open two accounts; one of each notice account and transfer £40,000 into each account. £75,000 to be transferred from HSBC which was to be kept open with a balance of £5,000 and £5,000 from Unity Trust Bank.

Signatories would be Cllrs Barrington-Johnson; Milner; Mrs Lyle and Ellery

Cllr Barrington- Johnson said that should Britain leave the EU then FSCS limits may change.

**14. Committee and Working Group expenditure:**

- a) Expenditure authorised but not yet invoiced – there were none.
- b) **RESOLVED** to repair the fencing at The Walks as recommended by the Amenities Committee at a cost of £2,724.05. This money would need to be transferred from the contingency account and approval for a virement be sought from Full Council.
- c) Footfall to the Café has been seriously impacted by the spraying of weed killer prior to the groundworks to the Recreation Ground and Councillors discussed the matter. **RESOLVED** that the café rental for July be waived.

Note: the telephone issue was resolved. Telephone and broadband are staying with BT and only one line will be used for both services. Costs were much reduced with considerable offers from BT.

**15. Grant requests:**

- a) Speldhurst Village Fete committee had put in a request for SPC to contribute towards the annual fete insurance, however the request was delayed because of issues obtaining a quote for inflatable insurance which had increased significantly since the previous grant. After much discussion it was RESOLVED that a grant of £489.65 be awarded with the following conditions: that in future no retrospective grants would be made and that requests are submitted much earlier to give Councillors the opportunity to make suggestions, for example LGVS had obtained considerably cheaper fete insurance this year and this information could have been passed on. No inflatables would be covered in future.
- b) **RESOLVED** to grant £100 towards costs for the Marchiennes visit in September

**16. Staff and Training:** There were no items for discussion

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

There being nothing further to discuss, the meeting closed at 8.31pm.

Chairman