



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 1st May 2019 at 7.30pm**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Cllrs Mrs Lyle (Chairman), Mrs Soyke, Mrs Jeffreys, Mrs Woodliffe, Barrington-Johnson, Milner and Ellery

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 Cllr Mrs Podbury - TWBC meeting.
3. **Disclosures of Interest:** There were none.
4. **Declarations of Lobbying:** Cllr Mrs Lyle had held discussions with LGCSA regarding funding for the drainage project.
5. **Minutes: RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Finance Committee meeting dated **25th February 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:** The Clerk advised of the following payments since the Full Council meeting: Mastercard: £9.00 monthly charges; £18.00 Land Registry enquiries; £12.49 Petrol; £17.98 Kidman's maintenance; £8.95 badge; £377.70 Microsoft 365.
Current account: £262.87 Pavilion monthly water bill; £50.00 Office underlease; £895.00 Hugo Fox website; £108.00 repair to pavilion window; £677.73 to Mastercard to bring balance to zero; £43.73 Groombridge street light.
Cllr Mrs Lyle asked the Clerk to call out the water company at a cost of £30 to locate the water meter to monitor usage.

- 8. Budget Virements:** It was agreed that the invoice for repairs to the Langton Green playground for £1,184 plus VAT would be paid out of the LGRG maintenance budget and the invoice for the KALC Planning training for £480 plus VAT would come from the training budget. No virements were considered necessary. It was agreed that a new heading “Groombridge Play Area” would be made and the £3K transferred, subject to Full Council approval. It was agreed that the grant towards the Groombridge playground would be made on the proviso that it is returned should the project not proceed.
- 9. Financial Position as at close of Financial year 2019 and review of expenditure vs budget to-date:** The finance sheets were reviewed and the Clerk answered Councillors’ queries.
- 10. Financial Position as at February 2019 and review of expenditure for the Pavilion:** The Clerk had circulated summary sheets. The pavilion may run at a loss during 2019/2020 due to maintenance costs and the café closure in August. The redecoration works would be carried out during this time and it was agreed quotations would be obtained from decorators. It was noted that expenditure was expected to rectify problems with the drains. Once the investigative report had been received, any come-back for bad design and/or workmanship would be considered.
- 11. Banking and Reserves:**
- a) The Chairman noted that as at the 30th April 2019, the accounts were all within their FCFS limits. SPC had not yet received £74K as the first half of the precept from TWBC.
 - b) Cllr Barrington- Johnson said that it would be sensible to review the banking and reserves, particularly in relation to Britain leaving the EU. Different investment options were discussed and it was agreed that Councillors will advise the Clerk if they know of any suitable bank accounts.
 - c) Changes to signatories were discussed and it was noted that after 13th May there would only be 4 signatories and it was agreed that Cllr Mrs Woodliffe and Cllr Ellery would become signatories.
- 12. Committee and Working Group expenditure:**
- a) Expenditure authorised but not yet invoiced – there were none.
 - b) **RESOLVED** to repair the pedal cycle at a cost of £736 and the gyrospriral at a cost of £990 from the Repair and Renewal fund, both as recommended by the Amenities Committee. A virement would be needed from Ear Marked Reserves, to be approved by Full Council.
 - c) **RESOLVED** to send the Groundsman on a pesticides training course at a cost of £495. A virement would be required from the contingency account, to be approved by Full Council
 - d) It was noted that a new man-hole cover was no longer required.
 - e) **RESOLVED** to fund kitchen improvements at the Pavilion for a floor-standing cupboard at a cost of £499.99 and a trolley at a cost of £254.68. This expenditure would come out of the Pavilion RRIM account, which was established for this purpose, and would require a virement, to be approved by Full Council.
 - f) It was **RESOLVED** to employ the Groundsman for footpath repairs and other similar jobs occasionally however it was noted that the volunteers should be used when possible in the first instance.
 - g) Drainage and water issues were noted.
 - h) The Clerk provided an update on progress regarding changing the telephone service and considered that BT may not be providing the service they have been asked to provide. Cllr Ellery said it was Vodafone who had not set up a broadband connection and it was agreed that Cllr Ellery and the Clerk would meet to take this matter forward.

13. Grant requests: RESOLVED to grant £1,000 to Speldhurst Village Hall towards road improvements on St Mary's Lane, Speldhurst. The grant was made in recognition of the fact that the private road is used by the community and visitors for access to the recreation ground, allotments, nursery and village hall facilities and on condition that residents contribute 15% towards the works.

- a) **RESOLVED** to grant £1,000 to St Martin's Church towards churchyard maintenance.
- b) **RESOLVED** to grant £600 to St Martin's Church towards publication of the broadsheet. The District Church Council had requested a contribution towards preserving archived Broadsheets for Ashurst. The historical significance to the village was recognised by Councillors and it was therefore **RESOLVED** to grant £150 towards this project.
- c) It was **RESOLVED** to ask LGCSA to redraft the grant request clarifying any contributions already pledged towards the cost of the drainage project for submission to Full Council and rewording the request to clarify that the grant was not to pay the VAT on the project. Councillors agreed that clarity on the tax situation needed to be obtained from HMRC before a final decision regarding the form of SPC's involvement in the project could be made.

14. Staff and Training:

- a) KALC Planning workshop fee was discussed under item 8.

15. Items for Information:

It was noted that it was Cllr Mrs Jeffrey's last Finance Committee meeting and the Chairman thanked her for all her valued guidance and contribution during her term on the committee.

There being nothing further to discuss, the meeting closed at 9.15pm.

Chairman