



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 19th October 2015 at 8.00pm

MEMBERS PRESENT: Cllrs Mrs Soyke (Chairman), Mrs Horne, Mrs Jeffreys, Mrs Lyle, Mrs Podbury, Milner, Parker and Barrington-Johnson (ex-officio arrived 8.25pm)

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

OFFICERS PRESENT: C May – Clerk and Mrs M Flemington – 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:** There were none.
3. **Disclosure of Interests:** Cllr Mrs Lyle declared an interest in item 15a) – she is a Governor of the school
4. **Declarations of Lobbying:** There were none.
5. **Minutes: RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Finance Committee meeting dated **28th September 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:** The Clerk reported that the tree for Stonewall Park Road will be purchased and planted in the planting season and that the signs for outside Speldhurst Doctor's surgery have not been purchased.
8. **Interim Payments:** There have been two payments from the current account since the last Full Council meeting on 5th October which will be listed on the minutes of the November Full Council meeting. They were approved by the Committee.
9. **Budget Virements:** There had been one budget virement since the last Full Council meeting on 5th October: a transfer of £6,700 from contingency to Langton Green maintenance for CCTV, which was approved by the Committee.

- 10. Financial Position as at October 2015 and review of expenditure vs budget to-date:** The Clerk had circulated all the financial papers and the position after seven months of payments and receipts was discussed and noted by the Committee.
- 11. The Precept 2016-2017:** The Clerk presented proposals for the next financial year which included provision for pensions; child care; reinstatement of the contingency fund; reinstatement of part of the highways budget; an increase in land management and facilities for sports clubs. The total spend for next year could be as high as £147,750 however the Clerk advised that next year's high expenditure was exceptional and that it should resume at previous levels in following years. He proposed that to keep the increase in the precept at a reasonable level that the reserves be used and then reinstated the following year. Following discussion it was proposed to increase the precept by £5000 to £137,500. It was **RESOLVED** unanimously to make this recommendation to Full Council at the November meeting.
- 12. Banking and reserves:** The Clerk reported on investigations of accounts with Metro Bank, Aldermore Bank and Cambridge Building Society. Following discussion it was **RESOLVED** to open an account with Cambridge Building Society and transfer the funds currently with CCLA to the Cambridge Building Society account.
- 13. Vacancy for Assistant Clerk:** The Clerk reported that there were 7 applicants, 4 of which are being interviewed and there should not be any requirement for further advertising.
- 14. 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) Following the decision taken at Full Council on October 5th to install CCTV in the LGRG at a cost of £6,700, the company had proposed two further options. Following discussion it was **RESOLVED** by a vote of 5 in favour and 3 against to change the camera overlooking the rear car park which reduced the cost to £6,050, a saving of £650.
- 15. Grant requests – to consider the following grant requests**
- a) Cllr Mrs Lyle advised on the need for further fencing at the school but abstained for the vote. It was **RESOLVED**, by a majority of 5 with a further two abstentions, to recommend to Full Council that a grant be awarded to Langton Green Primary School for £5,539.68 for the cost of new fencing between the school grounds and the road.
 - b) The Old Groombridge Community Group (OGCG) request for a grant for Christmas lights on The Green was discussed. It was agreed that further information on insurance and electrical certification was needed. The decision was deferred until the Full Council meeting on 2nd November.
- 16. Non-Domestic Rates:** It was **RESOLVED** by a majority of 4, with 4 abstentions, to instruct Goodman Nash to investigate any entitlement to the refund of non-domestic rates paid.
- 17. Items for Information:** There were none.

The meeting closed at 9.45pm

Chairman