



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 Thursday 24th April 2014 at 7.30pm**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Cllrs Owen (Chairman), Mrs Horne, Mrs Podbury, Mrs Soyke, Parker and Cllr Mrs Jeffreys (ex-officio)

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

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

1. **Apologies for Absence:** Cllrs Milner and Pendleton (both prior engagement)
2. **Declarations of Pecuniary or Non-Pecuniary Interests:** Cllr Mrs Soyke declared non-pecuniary interests in items 10e) and 13; Cllr Parker declared a non-pecuniary interest in item 10d)
3. **Declarations of Lobbying:** There were none.
4. **Minutes: RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting dated **17th February 2014**, copies having previously been forwarded to Members, be approved and signed as a correct record.
5. **Public Open Session:** There were no members of the public present.
6. **Matters Arising and Correspondence:** There were no matters arising or items of correspondence.
7. **Financial position as at April 2014:** The clerk had circulated all the financial papers and the position was noted by the committee. The Clerk reported £9,200 had been carried forward in the contingency account because work had not been carried out on LGRG car park as foreseen since the work was to be funded by KCC. He noted that earmarked reserves for repair and renewal now stood at £35,000 (the increase of £5,000 in the precept had been allocated to this section) and it was agreed that any unallocated funds at the end of the financial year would be transferred to this section.
The Clerk reported that a budget virement of £1,080 from Contingency to Langton Green maintenance was necessary because the increase in the Groundsman's hours was approved after the budget was set. It was agreed to recommend to Full Council that a virement transfer of £1,080 be made.

- 8. 2013-2014 review of expenditure vs. budget to-date:** The Clerk reported that the Parish Plan Working Group will be making a request for funds in addition to the original budget and that because there was an increase in the number of associations applying for support for local events is likely to go over budget.
- 9. Speldhurst Recreation Ground:** There is a Committee meeting on 28th April regarding the Play Area. **The Clerk to write to the recreation ground play area committee requesting a progress update.**
- 10. Grant requests:**
- a) The Committee was impressed with the detailed application. After much discussion it was agreed to grant a lesser figure than applied for because the Council had given a substantial grant two years ago, and it was too soon after the start of the financial year to commit such a large amount. It was **RESOLVED** to recommend to Full Council a grant of £4,000 to St Mary's Church, Speldhurst towards vegetation removal and new fencing.
 - b) It was **RESOLVED** to grant £800 to All Saints' Church, Langton Green for churchyard maintenance
 - c) It was **RESOLVED** to pay the sum of £382 being the cost of insurance for Speldhurst Fete. **The Clerk to ask that this grant be acknowledged in the fete programme.**
 - d) It was **RESOLVED** to grant £400 to Langton Green Rural Society towards the cost of insurance for Langton Green Fete. **The Clerk to ask that this grant be acknowledged in the fete programme.**
 - e) It was **RESOLVED** to grant £177 to Ashurst & Blackham Sports Association towards the cost of insurance for the raft race.
 - f) The grant request from Langton Green Netball Club was discussed and it was agreed that **The Clerk will ask the Club for their accounts, details of how many members live within the Parish and the affiliation fees per member.**
 - g) It was **RESOLVED** to grant £250 to Victim Support.
 - h) It was **RESOLVED** not to give a grant to West Kent Mediation at this time but **the Clerk to ask them if they are considering any involvement with Langton Green and Speldhurst Primary Schools in the future.**
 - i) The request for a grant towards the cost of a defibrillator for Speldhurst Village Hall was discussed. It was agreed that more information will be obtained on the medical benefits before making a decision.
 - j) The Clerk reported that £354 has now been paid for the cost of insurance for Speldhurst Pram Race.
 - k) The Clerk reported that the fun days will go ahead but no further information regarding the request for funds had been received.
 - l) The Clerk reported that he is awaiting further details regarding the transfer of the Community First Responder grant.
- 11. Banking and Reserves:** The Clerk reported that the £50,000 is now invested in CCLA, and the first half of the precept should be paid by TWBC into Unity soon. It was agreed that a decision where to transfer the precept funds will be made at the next Finance Committee meeting.
- 12. Parish Plan:** The Clerk reported that the working group is working on the budget before making a request for funds. This will be considered at the next meeting.
- 13. Ashurst Broadsheet:** The request from Ashurst Broadsheet for a contribution to printing costs was considered and after discussion it was **RESOLVED** to grant £400 towards this year's costs but

requested that the Clerk clarify that this would not be guaranteed every year and that they should ensure that all efforts were made to increase revenue.

14. KALC Clerks' Conference: It was **RESOLVED** to authorise attendance by the Clerk and Assistant Clerk on 12th June at a cost of £60 plus VAT per head.

15. Items for information:

Cllr Mrs Soyke enquired about the wiring for the Christmas lights in the trees at Groombridge.

The Clerk advised that no decision has yet been made on what to do for Christmas 2014.

Cllr Mrs Horne enquired about the NIC £2,000 threshold. The Clerk advised that Parish Councils are excluded from this.

The next meeting is on 23rd June.

The meeting closed at 8.55pm

CHAIRMAN