

Speldhurst Parish Council

Local Government for Langton Green, Speldhurst, Ashurst and Old Groombridge

Minutes of a Finance Committee Meeting held in The Committee Room, Ashurst Village Hall on Monday, 2nd November 2009 at 7.30pm

MEMBERS PRESENT: Cllr. Parker (Chairman)
Cllr. Mrs Podbury
Cllr. Mrs Soyke
Cllr. Mrs Waters
Cllr. Wheeler
Cllr. Mrs Jeffreys (ex officio)

OFFICER PRESENT: Chris May – Clerk

No members of the public present

- 1. Declarations of Interests:** Personal and Prejudicial: Clerk Chris May – Item 11 Request from Clerk for approval of overtime to be reviewed.
- 2. Declarations of Lobbying:** None received
- 3. Apologies for Absence:** Cllr Mrs Hull (holiday)
- 4. Minutes** of the meeting dated **27th August 2009**, copies having previously been forwarded to Members, were approved and signed.

Matters Arising and Correspondence - The Quinquennial report for St John's Church in Groombridge had been given to Cllr Parker who reported that there was nothing requiring immediate attention. The Clerk advised members that the £493 paid out for 9 bollards had been for Langton Green Recreation Ground.

There were a number of letters requesting donations, or contributions received too late to be put on the agenda but were brought to the attention of the committee so that they could make decisions either by email or recommendation to Full Council or for preparing the precept.

- KCC letter dated 26th October regarding routine play equipment safety inspections for the coming 12 months. It was decided to pay the £1762 plus VAT but not have the detailed annual safety inspection because we have one already by Craigdene Ltd.
 - Mayor Tunbridge Wells Toy Appeal 2009. This would be emailed to members for a decision to recommend to Full Council.
 - TW CAB wrote enclosing a copy of their annual report and requesting a donation under section 137 stating that had helped 53 clients from the Speldhurst/Bidborough area. This would be emailed to members for a decision to recommend to Full Council.
 - A request from LGCT for a contribution towards the cost of additional drainage channels to stop rain water flooding the grass area and eroding the earth between the plastic matting. This would be emailed to members for a decision to recommend to Full Council.
 - Victim Support requesting a donation towards victims of crime. This would be emailed to members for a decision to recommend to Full Council.
- 5. Financial Position as at 30th September 2009** - The Clerk had previously circulated the Financial Position and this was duly noted by the Committee.
- 6. 2009 – 10 Budget and Supplementary Information** – the Clerk had previously circulated the up-to-date Budget Sheet together with supplementary sheets. He had given out new sheets for the budget at the start of the meeting.

7. **Internal Auditor** – The Clerk had been in contact with Mr Roberts and he would be forwarding information to him and he would arrange a meeting with him and the Chairman as soon as is convenient for all parties.
8. **Ashurst Village Notice Board** – To comply with the Standards Board recommendation the Council must display notices at their Village Hall(s) or place of meetings. Currently Ashurst does not have one and is sharing the Church board. It was proposed that the board be made by Greenbarnes Ltd (they made the one at the old Post Office, Langton) but be a double sided one with legs and have the name of our Council above it. This was unanimously agreed at a cost £1,400 (ex vat).
9. **Speldhurst Recreation Ground: Pavilion Project** – The costing data for the project is ongoing and the Council were notified that an application for a grant would be forthcoming. It was noted that the main expenditure would be in the financial year 2010-11 and the potential grant was discussed but not agreed. Funds for some of the project are already included in the 2009-10 budget.
10. **Request from Clerk for approval of payments of overtime – A Review** – The Clerk indicated that the workload was substantial and that he was unsure whether it could be done on 25 hours per week, however he was still not sure if this was inexperience or volume of work and whether it would calm down in the New Year. He stated that he was receiving up to 40 emails a day and many required answering. The committee decided to recommend to Full Council that the overtime be paid until the next financial year when more would be known and a decision would be taken on hours or to employ an Assistant.
11. **Fencing on LGRG teen area** – The Clerk had received more information regarding the fencing of this area. It was decided to recommend to Full Council that Tate Fencing be employed to install 1.2 metre double wire welded mesh panel fencing along both sides of the area at a cost £3,805 (ex vat). It was decided that this fencing would last longer and be more economical in the long run.
12. **2010-11 Budget Forecast and consideration of the Precept** – The Clerk had contacted TWBC and they were currently using 0% for inflation and 2.5% for cost of living. A number of issues were discussed including most notably the coming works at the Speldhurst Recreation Ground Pavilion and consideration for funding the proposed Parish Office. All items were considered and the Clerk would update the figures for 2010-11 and these would then be circulated and another meeting would be held in December before the final Full Council meeting of the year so that the precept could be recommended.
13. **Items for information** – There were none.

The meeting closed at 10.15pm

CHAIRMAN