



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 20th October 2014 at 7.30pm

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

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

OFFICERS PRESENT: C May – 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. **Apologies for absence:** Cllr Pendleton (family commitment), Mrs M Flemington – Assistant Clerk (holiday)
3. **Declarations of Pecuniary or Other Significant Interests:** There were none
4. **Declarations of Lobbying:** There were none.
5. **Minutes: RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting dated **29th September 2014**, 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 informed the committee that he had spoken to Abbott Construction (Kent County Council contractors for the works at the car parks at Langton Green Recreation Ground (LGRG)) about having the white lines re-instated in the main car park at the same time that the new car parks have their lines painted. He has asked for a quote for consideration.
8. **Grant requests:**
 - a) Langton Green Brownies and Guides – the committee considered the request from the 1st Langton Green Guide Company and it was **RESOLVED** to grant £350 towards helping the group pay for costs in its start-up year
 - b) TW & District Citizens Advice Bureaux (CAB) – it was **RESOLVED** to grant £1,000 to CAB

9. **Interim Payments:** The Clerk reported three interim payments which were reviewed and agreed and will be listed in the Full Council minutes.
10. **Budget Virements:** The Clerk reported one budget virement; it was necessary to reverse the original budget transfer from s137 because he had found a power that could be used for the kit purchased for Community First Responder – 1936 Public Health Act s234 (power to purchase life-saving appliances). This was agreed.
11. **Financial position as at October 2014 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 noted by the Committee.
12. **The Precept 2015-2016:** The Clerk presented proposals for the next financial year. He had made changes from the figures circulated at the September meeting – making some minor increases and taking out allocations that were not viable. There were still some minor reductions in expenditure required to balance and the committee made a number of small changes. There was a small shortfall remaining and after a lengthy discussion, which included the need to preserve assets by building reserves, the likely level of necessary payments and proper requests for support, and the need to be circumspect in all expenditure, it was proposed to increase the precept by £2,500 or 1.92%. It was **RESOLVED** by a majority vote of 6 to 1 to make this recommendation to Full Council at the November meeting.
13. **Banking and reserves:** The committee decided not to change the banking arrangements at this time.
14. **Committee and Working Group expenditure:**
 - a) Environment – it was **RESOLVED** to promote environmental awareness in schools at a cost of £230
 - b) Environment – it was **RESOLVED** to refer the decision to re-join the Open Spaces Society at a cost of £45 to Cllr Mrs Hull.
 - c) Highways – it was **RESOLVED** to have three traffic surveys installed as per the recommendation of the Highways Committee at a cost of £550 each..
 - d) Highways – it was **RESOLVED** to replace the fingerpost at Silcocks Farm at a cost of £350 as per the recommendation of the Highways Committee
15. **Website:** After some consideration the committee decided against the recommendation of the website host, Prestige Web Marketing, to revert back to a HTML site. The Clerk was requested to inform the company and look into alternatives and report back.
16. **Items for information:** There were none.

The meeting closed at 9.03

CHAIRMAN