



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 30th March 2015 at 7.30pm

MEMBERS PRESENT: Cllrs Owen (Chairman), Mrs Horne, Mrs Podbury, Mrs Soyke, Milner, Parker, Pendleton 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:** There were none.
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 **19th January 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:** There were none
8. **Interim Payments:** There have been several payments made since the Full Council meeting of 3rd March to ensure the year-end accounts show the correct expenditure. These were approved by the Committee.
9. **Budget Virements:** The Clerk explained that the virement recorded in the Full Council minutes dated March 2nd of £2,232.50 from contingency to footpaths was reduced to £1,483 because of unused funds.
10. **Financial position as at March 2015 and review of expenditure vs budget to-date:** The Clerk had circulated all the financial papers and the position after twelve months of payments and receipts was noted by the Committee. The Committee reviewed the Clerk's calculations and it

was **RESOLVED** that a transfer be made between General Reserves and Earmarked Reserves of £10,000 at the start of the new financial year.

11. Banking and reserves: The committee noted that the Council’s funds were held in three separate accounts. No decision was taken on moving funds but this would be reviewed at the next meeting.

12. Committee and Working Group expenditure:

- a) Expenditure authorised but not yet invoiced – the Clerk advised the Committee of three items that were outstanding: a payment for £1,000 towards two new bus shelters; £2,500 granted to Speldhurst School; and an invoice for the fitting of the defibrillator outside the office in Langton.
- b) Amenities Committee – it was **RESOLVED** to approve the recommendation of the Amenities Committee that a tree be purchased and planted for Stonewall Park Road to include planting and scanning of £275, purchase of a tree to £185 plus delivery.
- c) Amenities Committee – it was **RESOLVED** to purchase a notice board for installation at a cost of £1,144.49 at Langton Green east – site to be determined and agreed prior to purchase.
- d) Governance Committee – it was **RESOLVED** to a purchase fire-proof cabinet for the office up to a limit of £1,000.
- e) Parish Plan working group – it was **RESOLVED** to approve the budget proposals and expenditure up to £2,025. The proposed expenditure for the questionnaire booklet and the Parish Plan document would be put before Full Council at the April meeting.

13. Grant requests:

- a) West Kent Mediation – it was **RESOLVED** not to give a grant at this time because there was insufficient information whether their work benefited residents of the parish.
- b) Speldhurst Pram Race – it was **RESOLVED** to grant £354 to pay for the insurance of this event.
- c) Speldhurst Village Fete – it was **RESOLVED** to grant £395.15 to pay for the insurance of this event
- d) Speldhurst Recreation Ground – after much deliberation it was **RESOLVED** to grant a further £3,000 towards the playground project.
- e) Speldhurst Ladies grant request towards a cabinet to house a community quilt - it was **RESOLVED** not to give a grant at this time. Councillors asked that a grant application be completed with more details of the project.
- f) It was **RESOLVED** not to grant money towards the Girl Guide inter-cultural youth development course because legally the Council cannot use s137 of the Local Government Act 1972 for the benefit of an individual. Councillors commended Ms Barrett for her efforts and wished her luck. Cllr Parker suggested that she approach the Langton Green Village Society for a grant.
- g) All Saints’ Church – it was **RESOLVED** to grant £800 towards the maintenance of the churchyard
- h) Langton Green Village Society – it was **RESOLVED** to grant £400 towards the fete insurance
- i) Groombridge magazine – it was **RESOLVED** to grant £140 towards the cost of publishing
- j) Ashurst magazine – it was **RESOLVED** to grant £450 towards the cost of publishing by a vote of 4-3 with one abstention.
- k) Ashurst and Blackham Sports Association (ABSA) – after much discussion it was **RESOLVED** not to make a grant. Councillors considered that the current information was insufficient and that they would like to see the grant offer from the Sport England in place before a commitment is made. Councillors asked to be kept in touch with the project and may consider a grant in the future.

- l) West Kent & High Weald visitors map – Councillors had many questions and it was **RESOLVED** not to grant money towards the project at this time. Councillors said that they might possibly re-visit it at a future date if the project gained enough support, costs were clear and it was of benefit to the parish.

14. To consider the following expenditure:

- a) It was **RESOLVED** to install a reflective solar film to glazed panels outside the office to protect the defibrillator from direct sunlight up to a cost of £290 – the committee noted that this would involve a virement from the contingency account
- b) It was **RESOLVED** to make repairs to two finger posts at The Green, Old Groombridge at a cost of £192 ex VAT.
- c) It was **RESOLVED** to pay for the recently widened footpath in the Langton Green Recreation Ground to have a level of tarmac at a cost of £1,460.00 to match the new stretch of footpath running along the school fence – the committee noted that this would involve a virement from the contingency account
- d) It was **RESOLVED** to make repairs to the pedal carousel in LGRG playground at a cost of £826.54 – the committee noted that this would involve a virement from Earmarked Reserves
- e) It was **RESOLVED** to upgrade the RBS Alpha book-keeping system at a cost of £50
- f) It was **RESOLVED** to accept the Langton Green Cricket Club proposal for rental of the cricket field for the summer of 2015 of £750

15. Training:

- a) It was **RESOLVED** to pay for four Induction courses for new Councillors at a cost of £25 each. Should they not be necessary then the Clerk was requested to cancel them.
- b) It was **RESOLVED** that both the Clerk and the Assistant Clerk should attend the Clerks' KALC training course on June 17th at a cost of £60 each (plus VAT)
- c) It was **RESOLVED** to subscribe to "Communities, Parish and Local Councils" website for one year at a cost of £25

16. BACS & Direct Debit (DD) payments: It was **RESOLVED** to recommend to Full Council that the use of BACS and DDs be continued for a further two years

17. To consider changing the way the agenda for the Finance Committee is presented in the future: It was **RESOLVED** that, to assist transparency and encourage a proportionate approach to items for consideration by the Committee, the Clerk would include in the agenda where practicable an indication of amounts, ranges, or limits of expenditure sought or contemplated by way of grant or payment.

18. Items for information: There were none

The meeting closed at 9.09pm

Chairman