

# Speldhurst Parish Council

## MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE

HELD ON THURSDAY, 28<sup>th</sup> AUGUST 2008 at 7.30pm

IN THE COMMITTEE ROOM, ASHURST VILLAGE HALL

**PRESENT:** Cllrs. Mrs Julia Soyke (Chairman), Mrs Rosemary Hull, Mrs Lynn Jeffreys, Gerry Colley and Trevor Parker

### 1. Declaration of Interests:

Cllr. Mrs Soyke declared a personal interest in item 7 - DCC member

### 2. Apologies for Absence

Cllr. Mrs Charlotte Waters - holiday

Cllr. Wheeler – prior meeting

### 3. Minutes of Meeting – 30<sup>th</sup> June 2008

The Minutes were agreed and signed

### 4. Financial Position as at 18<sup>th</sup> August 2008

The Financial Position as at 18<sup>th</sup> August, having previously been circulated with the Agenda, was agreed. Bank account balance - £130,921.65.

The Clerk advised that the Husson account of £120,000 (including VAT) for the play equipment would be due for payment in September and taking into account normal monthly expenditure the bank account balance would be reduced to £7,000 until the second half Precept was received in late September / early October. The Clerk would submit a half yearly VAT Claim in October.

### 5. Grants / Expenditure 2008 – 2009 and Budget Forecast to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2009

It was agreed that the following be moved to the 2009/10 budget :

- £20,000, agreed in principle, for the Ashurst Play Area
- £5,000 noted for the new roof St John`s Church, Groombridge
- £2,500 noted 2<sup>nd</sup> provision for Ashurst Church

It was agreed to keep the £5,000 set aside for the CCTV in the current financial year.

The Clerk confirmed that the £5,100 grant received for the Langton School safer crossing was part of the £12,000 allocated by Kent Highways for this project.

Taking the above into account this would currently leave an end of year budget balance of £42,000. It was noted that planned expenditure for the 2009/10 budget currently stood at £35,500, excluding regular spending.

The Rural Society's donation of £5,000 towards the Play Area had been received and it was agreed that a small plaque should be placed.

Cllr. Mrs Hull raised the question of allocation of funds proportionate to population. Cllr. Mrs Jeffreys explained that the Parish Council looked at requests on a needs basis and it was important that councillors were aware of projects within their villages that may require Parish Council funding.

## **6. Grant Request – St Mary's Church, Speldhurst**

Cllrs. Mrs Soyke, Mrs Hull, Parker and the Clerk had attended a meeting with Douglas Wren, Rector regarding a request to fund £13,000 towards a new amplification system for St Mary's Church. Cllr. Mrs Soyke advised the Rector that the Parish Council had discussed and agreed that this was a luxury and not something that the Parish Council could assist with funding.

The Rector advised that St Mary's Church were undertaking a number of projects and it was agreed that a further request would be sent to the Parish Council asking for consideration towards the part re-roofing of St Mary's Church.

An architect's cost guide for this work was £52,000. As this work would not commence until the Spring 2009 the Committee agreed that they would request copies of the Tenders and delay any recommendation until their October / November Budget meeting.

## **7. Grant Request – St Martin of Tours Church, Ashurst – Upkeep of Churchyard**

It was unanimously agreed to a grant of £500.

## **8. Weekly Inspection of Play Area and Grounds Maintenance – Langton Green**

The Parish Council have agreed the sum of £1,878 per annum to cover weekly routine visual inspections, operational inspections and a detailed annual inspection of the Play Area. It had been recommended by the Play Area's Project manager that the Parish Council should appoint a Groundsman and various options were considered.

It was the recommendation of the Finance Committee that the Parish Council should continue with the Inspection Contract and appoint a Grounds man for 4 hours per week to undertake general maintenance. This would be an additional cost of around £1,248 per annum.

## **9. Highways Projects**

Kent Highways had agreed that the Parish Council could fund 5 projects from the Highways Projects list at a total cost of £6,000.

It was unanimously agreed that this recommendation should be put to the Parish Council.

**Ashurst – Interactive Speed Sign** – a cost of £2,000 had been obtained from Kent Highways and the Committee unanimously agreed this expenditure subject to the approval of the Parish Council and Kent Highways.

## **10. Give Way White Lining / Speed Bump – Langton Green Recreation Ground**

The Committee agreed to the sum of £1,335 subject to the Parish Council's agreement to the work being carried out.

## **11. Matters for updating from the Minutes of the Meeting held on 30<sup>th</sup> June 2008**

**Delegated Powers** – the Parish Council had agreed the sum of £2,000.

**Legal fees – Transfer of Land Either side of the `Watson Hall` to the Parish Council** – the Parish Council had agreed a total sum of £3,000.

**Grant Request – Kenward Trust** – deferred to September Meeting of the Parish Council.

**Grant Request – Hospice in the Weald** – deferred to September Meeting of the Parish Council

The meeting closed at 9pm

**CHAIRMAN**