



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 28th September 2015 at 7.30pm

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

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC: There was one member of the public present

OFFICERS PRESENT: C May – Clerk and Mrs M Flemington – Assistant 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. **To receive and approve apologies for absence:** There were none.
3. **Disclosure of Interests:** Cllr Mrs Jeffreys declared an interest in item 14. a) – grant application from Speldhurst Cricket Club.
4. **Declarations of Lobbying:** There were none.
5. **Minutes: RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Finance Committee meeting dated **22nd June 2015**, copies having previously been forwarded to Members, be approved and signed as a correct record.
6. **Public Open Session:** Francis Booth Treasurer of Speldhurst Cricket Club handed out a status report and an artist's impression of the proposal to install two permanent cricket nets at Speldhurst Recreation Ground. He updated the Committee on the project advising that the club had carried out a survey in the village on the plans and that the club intends to apply for grants from sporting bodies as well as environmental ones. He notified the Parish Council that the club would be formally applying for a grant once he had an idea of what was available from other sources. He said that he hoped that the nets would be in use by mid-summer 2016 and he will keep the Committee updated prior to formally applying for a grant.
7. **Matters Arising and Correspondence:** The Clerk reported that the second tranche of the precept was received from TWBC on 25th September.

8. **Interim Payments:** There have been four payments (two from the current account and two on the pre-paid credit card) since the last Full Council meeting on 7th September which will be listed on the minutes of the October Full Council meeting. They were approved by the Committee.
9. **Budget Virements:** There had been no budget virements since the last Full Council meeting on 7th September.
10. **Financial Position as at September 2015 and review of expenditure vs budget to-date:** The Clerk had circulated all the financial papers and the position was discussed and noted by the Committee.
11. **The Budget 2016-2017:** The Clerk reported on the history of the precept over the last six years and outlined items to be considered for next year's budget. He advised that the committee will have to consider a number of issues when making the recommendation to Full Council which included replenishing the contingency account, Highways Committee funds, provision for computer security and contributing towards a Traveller fund. The Clerk said that at the next meeting on 19th October he would produce a draft budget with notes as a basis for discussion.
12. **Banking and reserves:** The Clerk reported that the auditor has confirmed that the CCLA account has to be considered as an investment and it was agreed that the Council should open an additional bank account. He will investigate whether the following institutions are covered by the Financial Services Compensation Scheme (FSCS); the Cambridge Building Society; Metro Bank and Aldermore Bank. He will report at the next meeting.
13. **Committee and Working Group expenditure:**
 - a) The Clerk advised the Committee of three items of expenditure authorised but not yet invoiced; £1,000 towards two bus stop shelters; £7,000 for SIDs and £500 for tree planting.
 - b) It was **RESOLVED** by a vote of 7 in favour and 1 against to recommend to Full Council that CCTV be installed in Langton Green Recreation Ground at a cost of £6,707.20.
 - c) It was **RESOLVED** to obtain an arboricultural survey of the trees on land owned by SPC at a cost of £1,320.
 - d) It was **RESOLVED** to cut back the trees overhanging the road at LGRG at a cost of £380.
 - e) It was **RESOLVED** to purchase a larger no horse riding sign for Pocket Park at a cost of up to £35.
 - f) It was **RESOLVED** to outsource the salary payments at a cost of £200 per annum.
14. **Grant requests – to consider the following grant requests**
 - a) Speldhurst Cricket Club – see public open session above. The Committee gave an in principle vote to support the project.
 - b) The Old Groombridge Community Group (OGCG) request for a grant towards their scheme for Christmas lights on The Green was discussed but no decision was taken. It was agreed that confirmation should be obtained from OGCG regarding insurance and electrical installation and reconsidered at the Finance Committee meeting on 19th October.
15. **Training Expenditure:**
 - a) It was **RESOLVED** for the Clerk to attend the Finance Conference at a cost of £60.
 - b) It was **RESOLVED** to pay £125 for the resubmission of the Clerk's CiLCA papers.
16. **Items for Information:** There were none.

The meeting closed at 8.45pm

Chairman