



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 17th September 2012 at 7.30pm

MEMBERS PRESENT: Cllr Hemming (Vice Chairman Finance Committee) Cllrs Mrs Podbury, Mrs Soyke, Milner, Owen, Parker, Pendleton

OFFICERS PRESENT: C May – Clerk

1. **Apologies for Absence:** Cllr Mrs Jeffreys (holiday)
2. **Declarations of Pecuniary or Other Significant Interests:** There were none
3. **Declarations of Lobbying:** There were none.
4. **Minutes** of the meeting dated **30th July 2012**, copies having previously been forwarded to Members, were approved and signed as a correct record.
5. **Public Open Session:** There were no members of the public present
6. **Matters Arising and Correspondence:** There was no correspondence. The Clerk was asked to confirm the contributions from Councillors who had said they would contribute towards the tree planting in Speldhurst.
7. **Financial Position as at September 2012** - The Clerk had previously circulated the Financial Position and this was duly noted by the Committee.
8. **2012-13 review of budget vs expenditure** – the Clerk explained that he had made some early notes on the budget, and clarified a number of questions that were asked about the figures. He said that the meeting in October would be primarily to review the budget so that a recommendation could be made to Full Council at the November meeting. He said that initial calculations indicated that the precept could be kept in the same region as last year and that if any increase is required it would be small. Full notes and figures would be prepared for review at the October Finance meeting.
The following virements were noted; from the Contingency account to Churches (capital grants) £7,750; £330 from Earmarked reserves to LG play area; £245 from office admin to broadband and £200 to APA for printing costs and £81.90 from Admin to APA and £61.25 to broadband to adjust for the meeting costs. He also advised that the costs of the office now came under Administration and that a separate section for CAB had been completed.

- 9. Annual review of Standing Orders Financial Regulations** – there were three amendments to the document; an increase in the amount the Clerk has authority to spend up to £200 (from £150 – refer minutes of Finance meeting dated 21st May 2012 17); an amendment to the people who can authorise expenditure up to £500 and changes to Banking arrangements. The amendments were **AGREED** and they would be recommended to Full Council in October for adoption.
- 10. To review the maturity of funds on one year deposit** – the Clerk said the reserves of £50,000 that were placed on deposit for one year at 2.5% mature on 22nd October. The rate at present for one year funds was still 2.5% but it may reduce before maturity. It was possible to earn 2.71875% for a 15 month deposit and the committee agreed that this was an option that would be considered.
- 11. Langton Green Primary School** – Mr Gillinder had supplied a further quote for a 2 metre twin wire weldmesh fence for £10,785 plus VAT. He was obtaining a third quote and approaching John Davies. He hoped to have the information available for the October Full Council meeting. The committee was reminded that this grant would come under s137.
- 12. All Saint’s Church, Langton Green** – further information had been supplied by the church and the grant would be considered at the Full Council meeting in October when Fr Michael Gentry would attend. No amount was recommended and payment may have to be deferred until the new financial year. The grant would also come under s137.
- 13. Speldhurst and Langton Scout group** – further information had been supplied and it was recognised that it was not practical to purchase a second hand trailer. The committee supported the application in principle but wanted to see the accounts and was concerned about security and insurance costs once it was purchased. The grant would also come under s137. **The Clerk was asked to contact the Leader for a copy of the accounts of the group.**
- 14. Amenities**
- i. It was **AGREED** to accept the recommendation of the Amenities Committee to purchase a strimmer for use in clearing footpaths and for the Groundsman’s use. Cllr Milner said that after discussions with Derek Robinson that a sturdier strimmer was being considered. It was **AGREED** to spend up to £500 on a strimmer which would then have to be added to the insurance and asset list.
 - ii. It was **AGREED** to accept the recommendation of the Amenities Committee to purchase the ownership sign for the Recreation Ground for £285 plus VAT.
 - iii. It was **AGREED** to accept the recommendation of the Amenities Committee to look in to the cost of purchasing a replacement bench made of teak for the Recreation Ground which would have a reference to the Diamond Jubilee. **The Clerk would have quotes available for the next meeting.**
 - iv. It was **AGREED** to accept the recommendation of the Amenities Committee to purchase three trees to replace the dead ones on the Recreation Ground. This cost may be reduced if the Rural Society decides to plant one of the trees.
 - v. It was **AGREED** to accept the recommendation of the Amenities Committee to proceed with the tree work required in Roopers after an inspection by the TWBC Tree Officer and after it had been put out to tender.
- 15. Banking Arrangements**
- i. The Clerk reported that the account was functioning well and the electronic payment system had been used successfully. He recommended the transfer of all funds to the account and the closure of the accounts with Barclays.
 - ii. It was **AGREED** to close the Barclays Accounts. **The Clerk was asked to compose a letter to this effect for two signatories.**

16. Other matters arising from the minutes of 30th July 2012

The Clerk reported that the new procedures that were in place for using all types of payments had pre-empted the Government Consultation paper on cheques and signatories. Therefore no action was necessary.

The Clerk reported that the local organisations that regularly apply for grants have been identified and will be notified of our grant request policy in due course.

He reported that no action had yet been taken on purchasing dog stickers.

The notice board was due to be ordered and residents of The Green would be contacted.

17. Items for information – There were none.

The meeting closed at 8.45pm

CHAIRMAN