



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 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2017 at 7.30pm**

---

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Cllrs Mrs Lyle (Chairman), Mrs Jeffreys, Mrs Podbury, Mrs Soyke, Milner, Parker and Barrington-Johnson (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. **To receive and approve apologies for absence:** There were none
3. **Disclosures of Interest:** There were none
4. **Declarations of Lobbying:** There were none
5. **Minutes: RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Finance Committee meeting dated **31<sup>st</sup> July 2017**, 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:** Cllr Mrs Lyle said that she keeps enquiring about the alarm situation but does not have an answer yet. She said the Management Committee has been in operation for a year and thought that membership should be reviewed on an annual basis. She queried whether the introduction of Microsoft 365 had taken place. The Clerk said it was outstanding but should be working soon. A letter had been received from the “Oil Club” asking that the Parish Council promote its organisation to parishioners. This was discussed and it was **RESOLVED** that it was not something that the Parish Council would consider.
8. **Interim Payments:** The Clerk advised that there had been 4 payments on the MasterCard: £6.00 monthly charge; £25.87 (with a refund of £4.70) for a lock and varnish; £32.38 stationery and £100.80 to CWCS for updating the host server. There were 4 payments from the current

account: : £190.33 transfer to pay off balance of Mastercard; £69.60 Veolia DD for waste collection; £11.83 Nappy Unit for pavilion and £852.38 pavilion electricity bill.

- 9. Financial Position as at October 2017 and review of expenditure vs budget to-date:** The current situation was discussed and there were no questions regarding current expenditure vs budget
- 10. The Budget 2018-2019:** The budget had been considered prior to the meeting by Cllrs Mrs Lyle, Jeffreys and the Clerk. The proposed figures were discussed in some detail and one major change was made - capital grants to schools be increased from £5k to £10k. This meant that total proposed expenditure for 2018-19 would equate to £153,710. Cllrs considered that an increase in the precept of 7.5% could not be justified and proposed a 3.5% increase in the precept to £148,000 on the basis that some figures would change before year end and some under-expenditure could be re-allocated or the excess could be taken from reserves. The Clerk would try and calculate the impact on Band D households for the Full Council meeting.  
**RESOLVED:** to recommend a 3.5% increase in the precept to £148,000 to Full Council.
- 11. Banking and reserves:** The Committee acknowledged that the Unity Bank account was slightly over the FSCS limit of £85k but the Clerk said that it would be back within limits soon after the November payments. The Committee agreed that a separate bank account should be set up for the pavilion accounts. **RESOLVED:** that the Clerk establishes another account with Unity bank to have the same electronic banking controls with 2 signatories authorising each transaction and a total of 4 signatories in all.
- 12. Committee and Working Group expenditure:**
- a) Invoices for the Burglar alarm £2,681.10; new SID £4,500; SID pole £800 and Highways work are outstanding.
  - b) The Clerk notified the committee of a new contract with Initial for nappy collection for the pavilion at a cost of £50pa.
  - c) **RESOLVED** to carry out repairs to the playground wet pour flooring and install new surfaces beneath the picnic tables at a total cost of £3,142
  - d) **RESOLVED** to apply selective herbicide and liquid fertiliser and carry out further aeration to the recreation ground up to a total cost of £1,056
  - e) Maintenance of the Pavilion: This item was deferred pending further information
  - f) **RESOLVED** to purchase a new laptop at a cost of £360
- 13. Grant requests:**
- a) **RESOLVED** to grant £1,000 to CAB TW & D.
  - b) **RESOLVED** to grant £250 to Victim Support.
  - c) The request for a grant of £500 was considered and the committee asked a number of questions: for example who would maintain the troughs? They also considered the amount excessive and it was **RESOLVED** to grant up to £250 to Speldhurst in Flower on a match funding basis.
  - d) Langton Green Allotment Society requested funding for legal advice. The Committee agreed to defer any decision pending a meeting with the owner of Groombridge Place which was being arranged by Cllr Barrington-Johnson.
- 14. Staff and Training:** **RESOLVED** to send the Clerk on a Crime Prevention and Safety Conference at a cost of £60.
- 15. Terms of Reference:** **RESOLVED** to recommend no change to the Terms of Reference to Full Council.

- 16. Items for Information:** The Clerk said that another 2 CCTV cameras were needed for full coverage. He would raise this at a future meeting.

The meeting closed at 9.20pm

Chairman