

Speldhurst Parish Council

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE

HELD ON MONDAY, 9th FEBRUARY 2009 at 3.30pm

IN THE SNOOKER ROOM, LANGTON GREEN VILLAGE HALL

PRESENT: Cllrs. Mrs Julia Soyke (Chairman), Mrs Rosemary Hull, Mrs Lynn Jeffreys, Trevor Parker and Pauline Lambell

Mr Mike Bullett (Treasurer of the United Parish of St Mary`s and St John`s and St Martin`s)

- 1. Declaration of Interests:** None declared
- 2. Declarations of Lobbying:** None declared
- 3. Apologies for absence:**

Cllr. Charlotte Waters – work commitments
Cllr. Gerry Colley – holiday
Cllr. Richard Wheeler – holiday
- 4. Minutes of Meeting – 10th December 2008** – the Minutes having previously been distributed to all Members, were agreed and signed.
- 5. Financial Position as at 8th February 2009** – noted. Bank account balance £43,706.10.
- 6. Income / Grants / Expenditure 2008 – 2009** - noted. Cllrs. Mrs Hull queried the £5,000 noted for the improvement to the allotment access in Speldhurst. This was held pending confirmation that this access would not be required following the re-surfacing of Barden Road and the cutting back of Turley Cottage`s hedge.
- 7. Budget Forecast to 31st March 2009.** The Committee noted that taking into account general expenditure the estimated balance would be £38,177 – this did not allow for any expenditure agreed at this meeting.
- 8. Grant Request – St Mary`s Church, Speldhurst – roof repairs** - Mr Bullett advised that St Marys had funds available for the stonework and that the work had commenced (23K). The cost of the roof repair (north slope of north aisle) would be £35K plus professional fees. They were now accepting the quote from B.W. May and hoped that work would commence later in the year. The church had £12K in unrestricted funds and £8K in the church repair fund (this included all investments - stocks and shares. There would be a shortfall of £17K for the roof work.

A discussion took place regarding the spending of the S137 monies in the current financial year. It was the unanimous decision of the Committee that a grant of £10,000 be recommended to full Council with strict conditions and assurances that the Grant must be used within a certain time scale.

9. Grant Request – St John`s Church, Groombridge – roof repairs - Mr Bullett advised that St John`s currently held £18,000 in the Church repair fund. They envisaged that the work would commence in the Autumn of 2009 at the earliest. The Parish Council would be contacted again when more information was known.

10. Parish Council Insurance – Renewal April 2009 - The Clerk advised that there were only three insurance companies who would insure Parish Councils. There was already a reduction in the premium for `long term undertaking`. The only insured reduction could be on the value of the Pavilion and it was agreed to contact David Crundwell and ask him to give a valuation.

It was unanimously agreed to accept the renewal quotation (subject to the above).

11. Install bollards – Langton Green Recreation Ground - It was unanimously agreed to accept the quotation of £493.38 for the supply and installation of nine bollards in the Recreation Ground to protect the grass verges.

12. Annual Maintenance Charges 2009 – Groombridge Green - It was unanimously agreed to accept the quotation from KCC Landscape Services.

13. Annual Maintenance Charges – Langton Green Recreation Ground - The Clerk had negotiated the renewal contract to include box mowing and strimming of the play area and the Recreation Ground entrance. It was unanimously agreed to accept the KCC Landscape Services` contract for 2009.

14. Speldhurst Village web site – grant - It was unanimously agreed to a grant of £54.89 to cover the annual maintenance of the village web site.

15. Grant Request – Speldhurst Pram Race Insurance - It was unanimously agreed to a grant of £300.

16. Salt bins – requests had been received to place salt bins in Lampington Row, Langton Green and Bird in Hand Street, Groombridge.

It was unanimously agreed that the Parish Council would fund these through KHS at a cost of £240.00 each, subject to survey. Cllr. Mrs Hull would check to see if Speldhurst required more bins.

17. Street Lighting Maintenance – Groombridge - The Clerk had obtained two quotations and it was unanimously agreed to accept the Direct Technical Services quotation of £34.64 annually.

18. Items for Information - The Clerk informed the Committee that she would be approaching the Parish Council to re-negotiate her Contract of Employment which was out of date. She would also be asking to be nominated to join the approved Pension Scheme, which would have financial implications.

The meeting closed at 4.50pm

Chairman