



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 16th September 2013 at 7.30pm**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Cllrs Hemming (Chair), Mrs Podbury, Mrs Soyke, Milner, Owen, Parker and Pendleton

OFFICERS PRESENT: C May – Clerk; M Flemington – Assistant Clerk

1. **Apologies for Absence:** There were none
2. **Declarations of Pecuniary or Other Significant Interests:** There were none.
3. **Declarations of Lobbying:** There were none.
4. **Minutes:** It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting dated **8th July 2013**, 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:** The clerk advised that no decision had been made regarding the installation of outdoor electric sockets as yet. He is still monitoring the situation. He advised that entrance gates to the LGRG will be cleaned during half term. He advised the committee that the recent tree work carried out in Speldhurst and Langton had exceeded the amount budgeted by £2,100. The work was required as per the survey but the outstanding work should have been spread over next year. The committee recommended that a transfer of £2,100 from the contingency account be approved by Full Council at the next meeting.
7. **Financial position as at 10th September 2013:** The clerk had circulated all the financial papers and the position was noted by the committee. He advised that the second tranche of the precept was due in late September. It was noted that there has been no further information about the Speldhurst playground project and the clerk was requested to find out the present position.
8. **2013-2014 review of expenditure vs. budget to-date:** The clerk had provided a draft budget to councillors so that they were familiar with the figures. The budget included projected expenditure and first ideas of next year's expenditure and these were discussed in some detail

but no decisions were made. The budget and precept would be proposed at the meeting in October for recommendation to the Full Council meeting in November.

9. **Banking arrangements:** The completed mandate was with HSBC and it was expected that the account will be open in the near future. The clerk would then arrange for the opening balance of £25,000 to be transferred. He suggested that councillors might consider increasing that amount when the precept was paid in full.
10. **Update Council manuals:** The clerk advised that a new publication was due in October entitled "Local councils explained". It was **RESOLVED** to purchase the book at a cost of about £50.
11. **Grant requests:** The Clerk had circulated requests from the following
 - St John's Church, Groombridge – an email dated 20th August they requested a contribution towards the maintenance of the churchyard. There was much discussion on the need for invoices for churchyard maintenance. It was **RESOLVED** to grant £500 without supporting documentation by a vote of 4-3.
 - Victim Support – a letter dated 5th August they requested support for victims of crime in the community. It was **RESOLVED** to grant £50.
 - Home Start – a letter dated 1st August they requested a donation of £20 towards their work supporting families in the area. It was **RESOLVED** to grant £20.
12. **Annual Audit:** The clerk advised that the annual audit had been returned by the external auditor Littlejohn without comment. The notice of conclusion had been posted.
13. **Items for Information:** Cllr Hemming advised that he is in the process of selling his house and moving out of the area. No date for his move was yet known.

The meeting closed at 8.28pm

CHAIRMAN