



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 30th July 2012 at 7.30pm

MEMBERS PRESENT: Cllr Mrs Jeffreys (Chairman), Cllrs Mrs Podbury, Hemming, Milner, Owen (arrived at 8.15pm), Parker, Pendleton

OFFICERS PRESENT: C May – Clerk, Mrs M Flemington - Assistant Clerk

- 1. Apologies for Absence:** Cllr Mrs Soyke (prior engagement)
- 2. Declarations of Interests:** There were none
- 3. Declarations of Lobbying:** There were none.
- 4. Minutes** of the meeting dated **21st May 2012**, copies having previously been forwarded to Members, were approved and signed as a correct record.
- 5. Public Open Session:** There was one member of the public present; Mr Gillinder of Langton Green Primary School in connection with the grant request for funding towards new fencing. It was **AGREED** to bring item 9.i. forward to this point in the agenda.

Mr Gillinder said that the School had just had an OFSTED report and they had judged the school to be outstanding in every area. The Inspectors noted an area for further development could be “Outdoors, Learning Environment” and he spoke about the details of the outdoor environment project for the School and explained that replacing the fencing is a pre-requisite. Cllr Mrs Jeffreys said that crime prevention and health & safety were concerns of the Parish Council and she and Cllr Parker suggested that the School also approach County Councillor John Davies. After discussion the Finance Committee agreed it was favourably inclined to support the project in principle, the grant amount to be agreed subject to further information and quotations being provided for the Full Council meeting on 6th August.

- 6. Matters Arising and Correspondence:** The Clerk reported email correspondence received from Langton Green Charitable Trust asking if the Parish Council would contribute 50% of the cost of three new bike racks outside the Village Hall and Parish Office. After discussion it was **AGREED** that the Clerk will establish the costs involved and deal with it either by email decision or at the next appropriate meeting.
The Clerk reported that a Government Consultation Paper has been issued recently regarding cheques and signatories for Parish Councils. **The Clerk will study the report and discuss with the Governance and Finance Committees.**

7. **Financial Position as at July 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** – After discussion it was **AGREED** to move budgeted amounts of £500 from Charities to Citizens’ Advice Bureaux (CAB) and £250 from Contingency to CAB.
9. **Langton Green Primary School**
 - i. It was **AGREED** to recommend to Full Council that in principle the project be supported subject to further quotations being obtained, information on other sources of funding being provided and the amount of grant being possibly made over two years.
 - ii. It was **AGREED** that a grant of £500 be given to LGPS to support their trip to Marchiennes in 2012-13.
10. **To discuss appropriate levels of checks for local organisations requesting grants** – Cllr Mrs Jeffreys said that there has previously been an element of trust and the Clerk added that there has been some distinction between regular and new applicants. After discussion it was **AGREED** that the grant awarding guidelines be sent to all regular applicants with an appropriate covering letter and circulated to all Finance Committee members.
11. **St Mary’s Church, Speldhurst** – Details of this application had been circulated to members and a grant of £15,000 has been requested. After discussion it was **AGREED** in principle to support the project at a financial level to be decided but subject to answers to a number of further questions and production of the accounts. The Clerk advised that Alan Legg of TWBC is giving consideration to whether any heritage grant funding would be available from TWBC. **The Clerk to advise St Mary’s Church and request they attend the Full Council meeting on 6th August.**
12. **All Saint’s Church, Langton Green** – After discussion it was **AGREED** that this application held little of the information requested in our grant-awarding guidelines and cannot be considered in its present form. **The Clerk to write to All Saint’s Church requesting more information in accordance with the guidelines and advising them that we have other grant requests that have provided considerably more information.**
13. **Speldhurst Pram Race** – It was **AGREED** in principle to support the Pram Race in 2013 by granting the cost of the insurance premium provided they meet the grant awarding guidelines.
14. **The Big Tree Plant** – The Clerk reported that to date thirteen residents from Furzefield Avenue residents have replied that they were willing to contribute £20 or more and only one household had declined. Clear Track has confirmed that their quotation from 2011 for scanning and planting remains unchanged and availability and costs of the trees is being checked.
15. **Quotation regarding grass verge on The Green, Langton Green** – After discussion it was **AGREED** that on this occasion the quotation from A1 Garden Services be accepted but that all the maintenance work be put out to tender in November 2012.
16. **Open Spaces Society** – It was **AGREED** not to renew the subscription to the Open Spaces Society. **The Clerk to contact the Open Spaces Society to confirm.**
17. **Amenities**
 - i. It was **AGREED** to accept the recommendation of the Amenities Committee and instruct Treework to carry out the urgent work on the trees at LGRG at a cost of £650.
 - ii. After discussion it was **AGREED** to instruct Treework to carry out the urgent tree maintenance requested by LGPS during the school summer holidays.
 - iii. It was **AGREED** to instruct Treework to carry out a tree survey on the pocket park and other land owned by the Parish Council in Speldhurst.

- iv. After discussion it was **AGREED** to order 100 “clean it up” dog stickers/small signs at a cost of £100.
- v. The cost of the repairs to the Gyrospiral on the teen play area of £378.74 plus VAT was **AGREED**.
- vi. It was **AGREED** that a new Notice Board be purchased for The Green, Langton Green to replace the one outside the old Post Office. The exact location to be confirmed.
- vii. It was **AGREED** to extend the footpath gravelling on The Green at a maximum cost of £1,500
- viii. It was **AGREED** to renew the contract with Cory for emptying the litter bins and cleaning the car park at Langton Green.

18. Groundsman – The Clerk confirmed that he, the Assistant Clerk, the Groundsman and Cllr Hemming recently attended a Playground Inspection Course and that from March 2013 the Groundsman (or one of the others above) will carry out inspections of the playground. **The Clerk to check the notice period to be given to KCC.**

The Clerk had asked the Groundsman for a quote to tidy up the car park area, specifically the posts but Cllr Parker said that the matter was in hand so no decision was needed. After discussion it was **AGREED** to accept the Groundsman’s quotation for cutting the hedge at the entrance to LGVH where it is encroaching on the footpath.

19. Banking Arrangements – The Clerk reported that all direct debits will now be taken from the Unity Trust Bank account and that in August the Clerks’ salaries will be paid by internet payment.

20. Items for information – Cllr Mrs Jeffreys reminded all members of the importance of Councillors speaking in turn in meetings in order to allow proper discussion and to enable the clerks to take minutes.

The meeting closed at 9.30pm

CHAIRMAN