



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 29th September 2014 at 7.30pm

MEMBERS PRESENT: Cllrs Owen (Chairman), Milner, Parker, Mrs Horne, Mrs Podbury, Mrs Soyke and Mrs Jeffreys (ex-officio)

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC: There were no members of the public present.

OFFICERS PRESENT: C May – Clerk and Mrs M Flemington – Assistant 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. **Apologies for absence:** Cllr Pendleton (family commitment)
3. **Declarations of Pecuniary or Other Significant Interests:** Cllr Mrs Soyke declared a significant interest in item 8a) grant request from Ashurst and Blackham Sports Association. The Clerk and Assistant Clerk both declared a pecuniary interest in item 13a) Clerks' salaries.
4. **Declarations of Lobbying:** There were none.
5. **Minutes: RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting dated **23rd June 2014**, 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:** There was no correspondence to report. The Clerk reported that Speldhurst Recreation Ground Committee has received the grant from Veolia towards the new playground but that there is a delay over a non-material amendment to the planning consent. The payment of the SPC grant of £25,000 will be made with the October payments.
8. **Grant requests:**
 - a) After discussion it was **RESOLVED** to grant £2,500 to Ashurst and Blackham Sports Association (ABSA) towards the cost of installing a disabled toilet. The Clerk informed the committee that Mr Wheeler of ABSA had said that funds raised to-date will be used to

renovate the old cricket pavilion which is no longer fit for purpose and said that they think they will be able to complete the cricket pavilion project with grants from other bodies.

- b) After discussion it was **RESOLVED** to grant £800 to St Mary's Church, Speldhurst for churchyard maintenance. The committee will review the position towards the end of the financial year and consider the possibility of a further grant should funds be available.
- c) After discussion it was agreed to ask Langton Green Brownies and Guides to complete a grant application form and provide further information in support of their request for a grant towards the costs of hiring Langton Green Village Hall for their meetings. **The Clerk to contact them.**

9. Interim Payments: In accordance with the National Association of Local Councils (NALC) Financial Regulations the Clerk reported five interim payments which were reviewed and agreed and will be listed in the Full Council minutes.

10. Budget Virements: The Clerk reported two budget virements; the first instalment of stoolball field rental of £100 had been credited to the incorrect code and required re-posting and £608 required moving from contingency to churches capital grants in respect the grant awarded to St Martin's Church, Ashurst. Both were agreed.

11. Financial Regulations: It was **RESOLVED** that the Financial Regulations will be reviewed by the Governance Committee.

12. Financial position as at September 2014 and review of expenditure vs budget to-date: The clerk had circulated all the financial papers and the position was noted by the committee. The Clerk reported that the second tranche of the precept was received from TWBC on 26th September.

13. Preview of budget and precept requirement for 2015-16 to include:

The Clerk had circulated the budget and answered members' questions.

- a) It was **RESOLVED** to increase the Clerks' salaries in accordance with the recommendation of the Governance Committee.
- b) After discussion it was agreed to make a decision on the review of the Groundsman's contract at the next meeting.
- c) High Weald Councils Aviation Action Group – there will be an update at the next meeting.
- d) Parish Plan Working Group – there will be an update at the next meeting.

Other items of potential expenditure mentioned were further maintenance work on Langton Green Recreation Ground (LGRG) football pitches, grant application from Speldhurst Cricket Club in connection with the nets project and a possible grant application from Speldhurst Recreation Ground Committee in connection with the addition of a bicycle track at the playground.

14. Banking and reserves: After discussion it was agreed to defer any decision on banking and reserves to the next meeting.

15. Committee and Working Group expenditure:

- a) On the recommendation of the Amenities Committee it was **RESOLVED** to spend £363 plus VAT on two trees and £450 plus VAT on the related scanning and planting at The Green, Langton Green.
- b) It was **RESOLVED** to aerate the football pitches at Langton Green Recreation Ground at a cost of approximately £500.
- c) It was **RESOLVED** to grant an additional £200 to the First World War Working Group.

16. Kent Association of Local Councils Learning & Development Workshop: Openness in Local Government Bodies 2014: It was **RESOLVED** that the Clerk attend this course at a cost of £25 including VAT.

17. Items for information: There were none.

The meeting closed at 9.13pm

CHAIRMAN