

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE SPECIAL PROJECTS COMMITTEE
HELD ON 19th MARCH 2008 AT 10.20 a.m. AT HARTLEY LIBRARY, ASH ROAD**

Present : Cllr Mr L Abraham
Cllr Mr A Barnett
Cllr Mr J Gaywood (Chairman)
Cllr Mr M Harris
Cllr Mrs A Oxtoby
Cllr Mr B Ramsay

In attendance : Mrs J Hoad (Clerk)
2 members of the public
Cllr Mrs P Cole

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies had been received from Cllr Mr C Alford.

2. Declarations of Interest

Cllr Mrs A Oxtoby declared a personal interest under minute item 6, "Hartley Wood – Village Green application", as her private residence bordered Hartley Wood. She considered her interest to be personal as the discussions under minute item 6 involved the Village Green application on the part of Hartley Wood owned by Southwark Council which did not immediately border her land.

3. Minutes

RESOLVED: That, the minutes of the meeting of the Special Projects Committee held on 27th February 2008, be approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record, subject to the following amendment:

Cllr Mrs P Cole be shown as an attendee at the meeting.

4. Hoselands Green

The Committee examined a report on the title of the land at Hoselands Green, together with associated documentation, prepared by Sevenoaks District Council's Legal Section.

It was reported that Kent County Council had confirmed it was willing to allow Hartley Parish Council to cut the grass on land owned by the County Council on Hoselands Green, provided the contractor employed by the Parish Council held £5 million public liability insurance. The Clerk confirmed that the Parish Council's contractor held the required level of insurance.

RECOMMENDED: That, the report on the title of the land at Hoselands Green be accepted and Sevenoaks District Council be informed that the Parish Council wishes to proceed with the purchase of the land at Hoselands Green, pursuant to powers under the Local Government Act 1972, Section 124.

5. Exclusion of the press and public

RESOLVED: That, under the Public Bodies (Admissions to Meetings) Act 1960, the press and public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of minute item 6, "Hartley Wood – Village Green application", on the grounds that the likely disclosure of exempt information would prejudice the public interest by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted.

Members of the public left the meeting at 10.30 a.m.

6. Hartley Wood – Village Green application

At a meeting of the Council held on 10th March 2008 it had been resolved that, (1) the Council be legally represented, if deemed necessary by the Special Projects Committee, at the forthcoming non-statutory Public Inquiry into the Parish Council's application to register part of Hartley Wood as a Village Green and, (2) the Special Projects Committee be authorised to determine and appoint the Parish Council's legal representative at the forthcoming non-statutory Public Inquiry.

The Committee considered a letter from solicitors, Beachcroft LLP, confirming they would be willing to advise and act on behalf of Hartley Parish Council and setting out the scope of their legal work, including costs, should the Council decide to engage their services in respect of the Village Green application on land owned by Southwark Council in Hartley Wood.

RESOLVED: That,

(1) Beachcroft LLP be instructed to provide initial advice as to the law and evidence in respect of the Village Green application on land owned by Southwark Council in Hartley Wood, including advice on the prospects of success and that expenditure on the said legal work be capped at £6,000 and,

(2) Beachcroft LLP be asked to provide advice on initiating discussions with Southwark Council to secure public access in that part of Hartley Wood owned by Southwark Council in perpetuity.

7. Date of the next meeting

To be confirmed.

The meeting closed at 11.10 a.m.

Signed:.....
Chairman

Date:.....

