

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE SPECIAL PROJECTS COMMITTEE
HELD ON 31st MARCH 2008 AT 10.00 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 (*arrived at 11.05 a.m.*)

In attendance : Mrs J Hoad (Clerk)

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies had been received from Cllr Mr C Alford and Cllr Mr B Ramsay for his late arrival.

2. Declarations of Interest

Cllr Mrs A Oxtoby declared a personal interest under minute item 5, “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 5 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 19th March 2008 be approved and signed by the Chairman.

4. 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 5, “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.

5. Hartley Wood – Village Green application

The Committee received a report on the current position regarding the Parish Council’s application to register land owned by Southwark Council in Hartley Wood as a Village Green. The Committee considered a letter dated 19th March 2008 from Southwark Council setting out its position regarding the Village Green application and reiterating it would prefer to settle the matter by agreement between the parties. The Committee considered advice from its legal representative on the Council’s application, which he believed would be successful and on the recent correspondence from Southwark.

Cllr Mr B Ramsay arrived at 11.05 a.m.

RECOMMENDED: That,

(1) Hartley Parish Council accepts the advice of its legal representative and welcomes the proposal from Southwark Council to reach an accommodation with Hartley Parish Council to enable the public to continue their use and enjoyment of the woodland and that Hartley Parish Council should consider Southwark Council’s suggestion to take the woodland into its ownership, enabling the woodland to continue to be used for the benefit of the general public,

(2) the Parish Council should be legally represented at any settlement discussions with Southwark Council.

(3) residents be encouraged to support the Parish Council with its application to register land owned by Southwark Council in Hartley Wood as a Village Green by convening a public meeting, displaying public notices in Hartley Wood, through the Parish Council's newsletter and providing information in Hartley Library and in Hartley Post Office, and at the Parish Plan Open Day on 26th April 2008.

RESOLVED: That, the Communications Committee be asked to prepare for the distribution of a special newsletter encouraging residents to support the Parish Council with its Village Green application.

6. Date of the next meeting

To be confirmed.

The meeting closed at 11.30 a.m.

Signed:.....
Chairman

Date:.....

