

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE SPECIAL PROJECTS COMMITTEE  
HELD ON 18<sup>th</sup> JUNE 2008 AT 10.35 a.m. AT HARTLEY LIBRARY, ASH ROAD**

**Present :** Cllr Mr L Abraham  
Cllr Mr C Alford  
Cllr Mr A Barnett  
Cllr Mr J Gaywood (Chairman)  
Cllr Mr M Harris  
Cllr Mr J Minns  
Cllr Mrs A Oxtoby  
Cllr Mr B Ramsay (*arrived at 11.05 a.m.*)

**In attendance :** Mrs J Hoad (Clerk)

**Apologies for absence**

There were no apologies for absence.

**1. Election of Chairman**

RESOLVED: That, Cllr Mr J Gaywood be elected Chairman of the Special Projects Committee until the Annual meeting of the Council in May 2009.

**2. Election of Vice Chairman**

RESOLVED: That, Cllr Mr M Harris be elected Vice Chairman of the Special Projects Committee until the Annual meeting of the Council in May 2009.

**3. Declarations of Interest**

Cllr Mrs A Oxtoby declared a personal interest under minute item 7, "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 7 involved the Village Green application on the part of Hartley Wood owned by Southwark Council which did not immediately border her land.

**4. Minutes**

RESOLVED: That, the minutes of the meeting of the Special Projects Committee held on 31<sup>st</sup> March 2008 be approved and signed by the Chairman.

**5. Terms of Reference**

RECOMMENDED: That, the terms of reference of the Special Projects Committee be amended, as set out in appendix 1 attached to these minutes.

**6. 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 7, "Hartley Wood – Village Green application", and minute item 8, "New Burial Ground" 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.

**7. Hartley Wood – Village Green application**

The Committee considered a verbal report on progress to register land at Hartley Wood as a village green.

The Committee welcomed the views expressed by residents at a public meeting held on 7<sup>th</sup> May 2008 in respect of the application to register land at Hartley Wood as a village green, which had

demonstrated a great strength of feeling amongst residents in favour of the application. The public meeting had been attended by 132 members of the public and it was reported that in excess of 100 further evidence forms had been completed and returned to the Parish Office.

The Committee examined the Inspector's directions in respect of the non-statutory public inquiry, which set out a timetable for the inquiry and gave details of the documentation and information required from all parties. The Committee noted that the public inquiry would commence on 30<sup>th</sup> September 2008 and could continue, if necessary, for four days.

The Committee questioned whether there would be sufficient staff resources within the Council to prepare the necessary documentation to comply with the Inspector's directions and felt that guidance should be sought from the Council's legal advisor.

The Clerk reported that the inquiry would be held locally at All Saints Church Centre, Ash Road, subject to Kent County Council's inspection of the premises to assess its suitability and that use of the Pavilion, Manor Field, free of charge, had been offered to all groups and organisations which ordinarily would have met at All Saints Church Centre during the inquiry dates.

The Committee was reminded of a letter dated 7<sup>th</sup> March 2008 from Beachcroft LLP which detailed an estimate of costs, as set out below:

- (1) initial advice as to the law and evidence, including as to prospects of success, expenditure capped at £6,000 exclusive of VAT,
- (2) preparing for and representing the Council at the non statutory public inquiry, expenditure capped at £8,000 exclusive of VAT. (Total expenditure capped at £13,000 plus VAT.)

RESOLVED: That,

(1) the Finance and General Purposes Committee be asked to make available sufficient funds to meet the Parish Council's legal costs of the non-statutory public inquiry in respect of the application to register land at Hartley Wood as a village green.

RECOMMENDED: That,

(1) subject to funds being made available by the Council, the professional services of Mr T Child of Beachcroft LLP be engaged to prepare for and represent the Parish Council at the non statutory public inquiry, as set out in a letter dated 7<sup>th</sup> March 2008,

(2) the Clerk's actions to make arrangements for the non statutory public inquiry to be held locally be confirmed and,

(3) the Clerk be authorised to make whatever arrangements necessary to ensure the required documentation is prepared for the non-statutory public inquiry as directed by the Inspector.

## 8. Date of the next meeting

To be confirmed.

The meeting closed at 11.30 a.m.

Signed:.....  
Chairman

Date:.....

## Special Projects Committee

### Terms of Reference

1. To consider any projects referred to it by the Council and to report back after such investigations.

2. ~~The Chairmen of the Amenities and Open Spaces Committee, Burial Grounds and Gardens of Remembrance Committee, Finance and General Purposes Committee and Planning Committee will be ex-officio members of the Special Projects Committee~~

***\*To examine and, where appropriate, deal with any matter referred to it by the Council.***

### Delegated Powers

1. To seek any necessary advice.

2. To spend such monies as allocated by the Council.

### ***\*Membership***

***Chairmen of the following Committees:***

***Amenities and Open Spaces Committee,***

***Burial Grounds and Gardens of Remembrance Committee***

***Finance and General Purposes Committee***

***Planning Committee***

***plus other members as may be appointed by the Council.***

***\*proposed amendments shown in bold italics***