

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE SPECIAL PROJECTS COMMITTEE
HELD ON 7th JULY 2008 AT 9.30 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 Mrs A Oxtoby
Cllr Mr B Ramsay

In attendance : Mrs J Hoad (Clerk)

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence had been received from Cllrs Mr M Harris and Mr J Minns.

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.

3. Minutes

RESOLVED: That, the minutes of the meeting of the Special Projects Committee held on 18th June 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 (a) and 5 (b), “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

(a) The Committee considered an e mail dated 4th July 2008 from Southwark Council.

RESOLVED: That, the Clerk be asked to respond to Southwark Council seeking further information and clarification on issues raised in its e mail of 4th July 2008.

(b) The Committee considered a letter dated 24th June 2008 from Beachcroft LLP explaining the division of responsibilities if the Parish Council engaged their services to act as the Council’s advocate at the non-statutory public inquiry on 30th September 2008. It was reported that Beachcroft LLP would be responsible for preparing the inquiry bundles and serving these on the various parties. The Committee raised a number of questions in relation to the drafting of witness statements on behalf of those residents willing to give oral evidence and those who would not be cross examined, but whose written statements would be used as evidence.

RECOMMENDED: That,

- (1) authority be delegated to the Clerk, in consultation with the Chairman of the Council, to employ additional staff to assist with the preparation of papers in respect of the non-statutory public inquiry, if required and,
- (2) authority be delegated to the Clerk, in consultation with the Chairman of the Council, to progress and resolve any issues arising in relation to the non-statutory public inquiry.

6. Date of the next meeting

To be confirmed.

The meeting closed at 10.25 a.m.

Signed:.....
Chairman

Date:.....

