

Minutes of the **EXTRAORDINARY MEETING** of the
Swanage Town Council held via Zoom on **FRIDAY 12th**
FEBRUARY 2021 at 1.30 p.m.

PRESENT:-

Councillor M.P. Bonfield – Chairman

Councillor A. Harris

Councillor T. Foster

Councillor D. Monkhouse

Councillor C. Moreton

Councillor N. Rogers

Councillor G. Suttle

Councillor C. Tomes

Councillor W. Trite (from 1.45 p.m.)

Councillor M. Whitwam

Public Participation Time

There were no members of the public in attendance.

127. **APOLOGIES**

Apologies for her inability to attend the meeting were received from Councillor Finch.

128. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Members were invited to declare their interests and consider any requests for Grants of Dispensations in accordance with paragraphs 9 - 13 of the Council's Code of Conduct and regulations made under chapter 7 of the Localism Act 2011.

There were no declarations to record on this occasion.

129. **ITEMS OF INFORMATION AND MATTERS FOR FORTHCOMING AGENDAS**

There were no items of information or matters for forthcoming agendas.

EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

Proposed by the Town Mayor, seconded by Councillor Moreton, and RESOLVED: -

That, under Standing Order No. 1 c), in the public interest, the press and public be excluded from the Meeting in view of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted under agenda items 4 and 5 for reasons of legal and commercial confidentiality.

130. **AWARD OF CONTRACT-GREEN ENERGY SUPPLY**

Consideration was given to a briefing note prepared by the Finance Manager setting out the options available with regards to procuring a green electricity and gas supply to be effective from 1st October 2021, within the target dates as set out in the Council's Environmental Policy.

It was reported that the Environmental Working Group had reviewed the options for procuring electricity through LASER, a Public Buying Organisation, using a framework compliant with the Council's Financial Regulations and the Public Contracts Regulations 2015. It was noted that the Council's current contract was procured using a LASER framework agreement.

It was stated that a new LASER framework for procuring green energy had recently been introduced, to be effective from 1st October 2021 and it was noted that there were three green options: a green tariff, a green basket or PEPPPA (Public Energy Partnership Power Purchase Agreement). In reviewing the three options, the Environmental Working Group had recommended the procurement of electricity option 2: Green Basket for a 2-year period. It was reported that this option fulfilled the Council's Environmental Policy objective, with the electricity being directly sourced from a renewable generator.

Following a brief discussion, during which additionality and the possibility of electricity generation from solar panels on Council property in the future was noted, it was proposed by Councillor Foster, seconded by Councillor Moreton and **RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:**

To agree to award a contract for the supply of electricity through the LASER PBO framework agreement, Option 2: Green Basket for a 2-year period, effective from 1st October 2021.

It was **FURTHER RESOLVED:**

That the Town Council moves towards a policy of additionality, working through the Environmental Policy Working Group to achieve this.

Councillor Trite joined the meeting at 1.45 p.m.

Members then considered the procurement of gas. The briefing note set out quotes, or indicative costings, from four energy suppliers, in compliance with Financial Regulations. Giving due consideration to the Council's Environmental Policy, the quotes were sourced from suppliers who supplied gas that had been produced, in various proportions, from Biomass, and also the Council's current supplier Total Gas & Power via the LASER framework. It was noted that the higher the proportion of Biomass produced gas, the higher the cost of the supply. However, Members noted that the Council's Environmental Working Policy stated that the Council would look to move towards a biomass supply. It was further noted that the quotes provided by suppliers included one supplier with a 100% Biomass produced gas, with others being 10%, 5% and nil (the Council's current supplier).

Having given due consideration to the quotes provided by the suppliers, and following discussion on the desired quantity of gas produced from Biomass sources, it was proposed by Councillor Monkhouse, seconded by Councillor Tomes and **RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:**

To prioritise the weighting of Biomass produced gas and award the contract to the 100% Biomass produced gas supplier, Green Energy UK, for a 1-year period effective from 1st October 2021.

131. **REPORT FROM THE RENTS AND LICENCES PANEL – FURTHER CONSIDERATION OF SECTION 26 NOTICE**

Further to Minute No. 126 of the Council Meeting held on 25th January 2021, consideration was given to a briefing note setting out the latest position in respect of a Section 26 Notice which had been served on the Council under the Landlord and Tenant Act 1954 by the lessee of commercial property in the Council's ownership. This matter had been considered by the Rents and Licences Panel on 11th February and the briefing note set out the legal advice received and the Panel's recommended course of action.

After careful consideration of the Council's options it was proposed by the Town Mayor, seconded by Councillor Tomes and RESOLVED UNANIMOSLY:

To accept the Rents and Licences Panel's recommendation and instruct the Council's solicitor to serve a counter-notice opposing the grant of a new tenancy on the grounds of sections (b), (f) and (g) of Section 30(1) of the Landlord and Tenant Act 1954, for the reasons set out in the briefing note.

The meeting concluded at 1.55 p.m.
