

Minutes of the **EXTRAORDINARY MEETING** of the
Swanage Town Council held via Zoom on **WEDNESDAY,**
23rd SEPTEMBER 2020 at 12.30 p.m.

PRESENT:-

Councillor M.P. Bonfield – Chairman

Councillor C. Finch (from 12.50 p.m.)
Councillor T. Foster
Councillor A. Harris
Councillor D. Monkhouse (from 12.50 p.m.)
Councillor C. Moreton
Councillor J. Page
Councillor C. Tomes
Councillor W. Trite
Councillor M. Whitwam

Public Participation Time

There were no members of the public in attendance.

35. **APOLOGIES**

Apologies for their inability to attend the Meeting were received from Councillors Rogers and Suttle.

36. **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.

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

- (a) **Covid-19 – Update** – the Town Clerk reported that consideration would be given to the government's latest announcement at a meeting of the management team tomorrow.

EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

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

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 to 6 for reasons of legal and commercial confidentiality.

38. **PLAY EQUIPMENT AT RECREATION GROUND AND DAY'S PARK - AWARD OF CONTRACT**

Consideration was given to a briefing note prepared by the Operations Manager and the Town Clerk setting out an analysis of the tenders received for the above contract. Three companies had submitted bids for the fixed price of £175,000, and each had made a presentation to a panel of officers and councillors on Friday 18th September. Their submissions had been scored in accordance with the criteria set out in the tender pack, the outcome of which was set out in the briefing note.

It was proposed by Councillor Foster, seconded by Councillor Whitwam and **RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:**

That the contract for the refurbishment of play areas at the Recreation Ground and Day's Park be awarded to Sutcliffe Play (South West) Ltd in the sum of £175,000, subject to a 10-day standstill period which will commence with the issuing of a notice of intention to award the contract.

39. **TOWN CENTRE RECOVERY PROMOTIONAL FILM – AWARD OF CONTRACT**

Consideration was given to a briefing note prepared by the Visitor Services Manager setting out a proposal to commission a promotional film on behalf of Swanage and District Chamber of Trade to assist in the recovery of town centre businesses following the Covid-19 lockdown earlier in the year. This would be funded from a grant of £2,500 which had been awarded to the Town Council by Dorset Council for this purpose.

Councillors Finch and Monkhouse entered the meeting at 12.50 p.m.

Councillor Finch declared a non-pecuniary interest in this item by reason of being a member of the Swanage and District Chamber of Trade.

The Chamber of Trade had identified an appropriate film-maker, whose work was of a high quality and was available to produce the film prior to the Christmas season. A request had been made to award the contract outside of the Town Council's Financial Regulations which required officers to strive for three quotes prior to awarding a contract of this value. Members accepted that this was a legitimate request given the urgency of the matter and the relatively low value of the contract, which was de minimis in terms of the Public Contracts Regulations 2015.

It was proposed by Councillor Tomes, seconded by Councillor Foster and **RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:**

That Financial Regulation 10.4 be suspended in order for a contract for the production of a promotional film to be awarded to Mr Kevin Babey for a sum not exceeding £2,500.

40. **REVIEW OF TOWN COUNCIL'S ENERGY CONTRACT**

Detailed and lengthy discussion took place regarding the Council's options in relation to the purchasing of gas and electricity, which were set out in a briefing note prepared by the Finance Manager. In light of the forthcoming expiry of the Council's existing supply contracts, the briefing note set out the possibility of seeking quotes for the supply of green energy. However, it was noted that this option was likely to be significantly more expensive than continuing to procure energy through the LASER framework, which the Council had used since 2011.

During the debate Members expressed a strong commitment to delivering the Council's pledge to become carbon neutral by 2030, which had been made in September 2019. It was suggested that the Council should set aside funds during the forthcoming budget process for renewable energy projects, such as the installation of solar panels on Town Council properties.

It was proposed by Councillor Foster and seconded by Councillor Tomes:

That the Town Council should continue to procure gas and electricity through the LASER framework agreement, budget for renewable energy projects and appoint a working party in order to establish

how to achieve a 100% renewable energy supply at the earliest possible opportunity.

Upon being put to the Meeting, SEVEN Members voted IN FAVOUR of the Proposition, ONE AGAINST, and there was ONE ABSTENTION, whereupon the Proposition was declared CARRIED.

The meeting concluded at 1.35 p.m.
