

Dorchester Town Council

Special Meeting of the Dorchester Town Council

19 June 2018

Present: Mayor D. Taylor and Councillors B. Armstrong-Marshall, T. Harries, J. Hewitt, S. Jones, T. Jones, F. Kent-Ledger, A. Lyall, R. Potter and M. Rennie.

Apologies: Councillor C. Biggs, R. Biggs, A. Canning, A. Chisholm, G. Duke, S. Hosford, G. Jones, K. Rice and P. Stein.

13. **Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960**

A Councillor asked for an explanation regarding the need to exclude the public from the meeting. The Clerk explained that it was Council practice to exclude the public when considering the receipt of tenders, with the added uncertainty on this occasion regarding the selection of tender should the Council choose to vary the final contract.

Resolved

That in view of the fact that publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest by reason of the confidential nature of the following matters the public and representatives of the press be excluded from this meeting during their discussion.

14. **Poundbury Cemetery Infrastructure**

The Town Clerk presented a report covering the history of the development of the Poundbury Cemetery, its current operational activity and how it had changed over time, and the need to commission the next phase of infrastructure works.

He reported the outcome of the tendering exercise and options that officers had considered to reduce overall cost. He responded to questions regarding the wall's relationship to adjacent development and the need for a wall of the design described in the report, explaining that it mirrored other walls on Poundbury. He also responded to a question regarding the potential to shorten the wall even further.

Members considered the options of building the length of wall as planned, as well as an alternative shorter wall with a cleft chestnut post and rail fence. Members recognised that surrounding the green burial area with a cleft chestnut fence was consistent with their original ideas for the space, as well as not disturbing tree roots on the site's boundary.

The Town Clerk confirmed that the lowest tender submission could be readjusted to produce a financial saving consistent with a reduced length wall. He also identified

that any variation in specification would first need to be discussed with the Duchy of Cornwall.

Resolved

- i) That, subject to positive engagement with the Duchy of Cornwall, the contract specification be amended to replace c. 60 metres length of wall with a post and rail fence and that C.G. Fry be appointed as contractor to deliver the contract, at a cost of c. £150,000
- ii) That, should i) not be achieved, C.G. Fry be appointed to deliver the contract as originally specified at a cost of £181,000
- iii) That £100,000 is transferred from the Corporate Projects Reserve to the Cemetery Reserve to undertake the works and that the annual contribution to the Cemeteries Reserve is reduced from £12,000 to £5,000 from April 2019

Council discussed the poor state of the existing walls and buildings and invited the Town Clerk to discuss these with the contractor with a view to remediating their condition. There was discussion regarding the current design and form of the walls.

Council also agreed to receive a further report regarding the future use of the workman's building, the on-site toilet, the use of the temple area for ashes, and the future maintenance regime for green burials.

Mayor