

TOWN CLERK REPORT

7. EVENING & NIGHT TIME ECONOMY STREET MARSHALS CONTRACT
(the tender information supplied by the companies includes their identities. It can be supplied before the meeting. The item is in the open session and the companies referred to as Contractor A and Contractor B) – To note the receipt of tenders. To note the increase in the gross cost of the scheme by £1,064. To note and approve an increase in the Town Council contribution by £532. To consider and accept one of the tenders.

Background - At the 18th May 2021 Council meeting a bid prepared by our partners Safer Liskeard was considered and the Council resolved to:

Minute 016 / 21 OPCC – GRANT APPLICATION – to submit a bid to the OPCC, to the “alternative” option £13,749.55 (£6,874.78 match funding contribution), to submit a bid to the Welcome Back Fund to cover as much of the match-funding for the project as proved eligible.

OPCC Grant – the application was submitted by the 19th May deadline and approved on the 25th May (which is a very short turn-around time). The amount approved was £6,874.78.

Welcome Back Fund – has not yet opened for the receipt of applications. The additional CCTV hours would not be eligible only the Street Marshals aspect of the Evening & Night Time Economy project. Logos for the sponsoring organisations had been included in the procurement process should it open in time. There is an intention to submit a bid to the Welcome Back Fund for additional planning and street furniture in any case once the fund is open.

Tenders - from the list of 9 SIA approved contractors’ supplied by Safer Liskeard and the Cornish Times Advert and the details on our website, these were the eventual responses to the contract offer. One response is a “they do not have the manpower at this time”. The other two quotes both use £18 per hour against the set specification. The difference will lie therefore more in other factors. One (Contractor A) does seem to be a smaller and more local to Plymouth company. The company is also “seeking” SIA accreditation. The other bid is from a larger more established company (Contractor B) which might have the manpower resources to cover gaps in provision due to sickness and accident etc. I have included Lucy and Rupert in the e-mail in case of any views on either company.

Notes on Tenders – the estimated hourly rate of the Street Marshals in the bid was £14 per hour. Both the contractors provided quotes at £18 per hour.

The original bid was estimated to be operating from the 21st June as the coming out full Lockdown date. The date of 2nd July 2021 was used in the advertisements and specification.

The net difference is that the quote is £1,064 higher than the initial bid. The OPCC have indicated that they would be able to fund half of the Increase. This would need the Town Council to fund the £532 difference.

RECOMMENDATIONS: That Contractor B is accepted. That the Town Council confirm an increase of £532 in its contribution.

19 FINANCE, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE – To approve the resumption of meetings of the Finance, Economic Development and General Purposes Committee.

Background - the Town Council has a system of holding alternate monthly Town Council or Finance, Economic Development & General Purposes Committee meetings. The Finance, Economic Development & General Purposes Committee has the same authority to make decisions as Council. It usually undertakes a more detailed look at things not possible during the time constraints imposed on the Town Council meeting itself. During the initial year of the present Covid pandemic, the Council discontinued holding Committee meetings and held monthly meetings of the Town Council.

Most Committees have now resumed, and it is recommended the Town Council recommence the holding of Finance, Economic Development & General Purposes Committee meetings. The following dates would become the current years' meeting of the Finance, Economic Development & General Purposes Committee.

27th July 2021, 28th September 2021, 30th November 2021, 25th January 2022 and 29th March 2022.

RECOMMENDATION: That the Council approve the resumption of meetings of the Finance, Economic Development and General Purposes Committee.

21. UNIT 2 – THE GUILDHALL – To confirm the granting of a new lease to PH Fish Services Ltd.

Background – the tenant of Unit 2, at the Guildhall has sold their business. They have surrendered their lease. The new business has been subject to a credit reference check which showed no cause for concern. A new lease is being prepared. It is recommended that the Council approve the granting of a new lease.

RECOMMENDATION: That a new lease be granted to PH Fish Services Ltd.

22. WEED TREATMENT REVIEW (SEE ATTACHED A. HERBICIDE FREE PROPOSAL B. SPRAY REDUCTION PLAN – CASTLE STREET PLAN) – (referred from the 30th March 2021 Environment and Climate Emergency Working Party) – To consider and adopt the Herbicide Free Proposal.

Background – the Town Council 's Environment and Climate Emergency Working Party includes representation from residents and community organisations. One of

its aspirations is to improve bio-diversity. The Spray Reduction Plan (attached) includes the piloting of special measures in targeted locations. The intention being to learn from the process, not least being in the informing of members of the public.

The project proposal was originally put forward by Claire Briault (initially a resident on the Working Party) and Councillor Richard Dorling. The trial area extends from the old Job Centre in Castle Street to Plymouth Road. (see attached Castle Street Plan) The area is to be excluded from the Town Council's annual spraying contract with a view to monitoring the plants and insects that appear and the reaction of local residents and public. The project will be run by volunteers with the support of the Town Council. The project will last for 12-months (June 2021 to May 2022). It links well with the work being undertaken by Making Space for Nature and the wildflower verges initiative being coordinated by Cormac. The proposal fits with the Pesticides Reduction Plan i.e. identifying pilot areas for new approaches to weed management.

Points of Note (Proposers comments included below in relation to questions asked on the detail of the project)

- “There are three possible sites for the notice board which will be a freestanding one similar to the Slimming World ones you see all over the town, which I can make neatly from wood offcuts. The sites are where the pavement widens inwards away from the road and so are not in the path of pedestrians. The first is just before the Barley Sheaf pub by the mounting steps, and the second is next to the old chapel (gym) in Church Street nearly opposite the Smile Centre. The third is a spacious grass verge just before the junction with Plymouth Road. The board would be brought in before nightfall, and not displayed every day.”
- “Richard and I will run the Facebook page, we felt it was very important to have several streams of access for residents and will be making special effort to engage with young people, who feel particularly disenfranchised regarding action for the climate emergency”.
- “Regarding the negative feedback we have to accept that change is always difficult but now the banks and verges, in their second year ,are looking resplendent with their buttercups and large swathes of bright blue Birds Eye Speedwell. Some of the information will focus , succinctly , on sharing the concept that all plants are biomass in the big moves towards carbon capture, but also that their presence supports the wellbeing of insects within the town. That is the challenge of the project, to help people to envision a more diverse urban flora. At the moment the plants we see are those most able to regroup after chemical obliteration , but hopefully as time goes by and their niches continue to detoxify we will see a much greater and more exciting variety of plants, especially after the MSFN flowers set seed.”
- “We will be happy to specify that the trial is run by volunteers supported by the Town Council and will include that if we are given the go ahead. We will include that when we fine tune the flyer very closely on the content we have already submitted”.

“Gardening fashion is all about Bee Friendly and residents of the town are able to see how beautiful the Making Space for Nature sites are becoming, colourful and lush and abuzz with insects. We are very fortunate as a town to be included in that and can show our active appreciation by realising the zeitgeist as widely as possible in Liskeard, already outstanding with Liskeard in Bloom.”

RECOMMENDATION: That the Town Council approves Herbicide Free Proposal.