

PETERSFIELD TOWN COUNCIL

An extraordinary meeting of the Petersfield Town Council was held
at the Town Hall, Petersfield
on 23rd March 2015 at 6.30 pm.

PRESENT: Cllr Mrs S Harwood (Town Mayor), Cllr V Clarke, Cllr J Deane,
Cllr Mrs J Dickinson, Cllr Mrs L Farrow, Cllr W Organ, Cllr Ms
M Vincent and Cllr G Watkinson.

Also in attendance: Mr N Hitch (Town Clerk), Mr N Randle OBE (Local
Government Resource Centre Limited), Mrs S Shippen (Local
Government Resource Centre Limited) and 1 member of the
public. There were no Press present.

C 0706 TOWN MAYOR'S REMARKS

The Town Mayor introduced Nick Randle OBE and Sam Shippen from the local Government Resource Centre who had acted as the Council's consultants throughout the tender process for the awarding of the new Grounds Maintenance Contract and thanked them for attending as well as for their hard work. The process followed was then summarised.

C 0707 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence had been received from Cllr G Budden, Cllr C Mills, Cllr P Marshall and Cllr A Tarver.

C 0708 GRANTING OF DISPENSATION UNDER SECTION 33 OF THE LOCALISM ACT (2011)

There were no requests for dispensation.

C 0709 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of disclosable pecuniary interest made.

C 0710 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

No request to speak had been received.

C 0711 GROUND'S MAINTENANCE CONTRACT

Members received and considered a report from the Local Government Resource Centre following the completion of the tender process for the new grounds maintenance contract. Four tenders had been received that varied in price from £40,921.30 to £81,843.96 and each of the submissions had been analysed, line by line by the consultants. It is normal to exclude the lowest and highest tender when undertaking this process with sums as wide apart as

this but because the lowest tender is from a firm already known to the Council, it was still being considered. Having undertaken the analysis and careful scrutiny of the tenders the consultants could see no reason not to recommend tender number 2.

Members asked a variety of questions on the process as well as the tender outcomes. The main discussion centred on why one tender was significantly lower in amount than the other three and whether this suggested a fault with the specification. The consultants advised that the specification was consistent with that used for the previous contract and from their analysis and scrutiny there was no misunderstanding or misinterpretation of the specification. It was pointed out that the main area of difference in the figures lay with the tenderers pricing of the cutting and maintenance of the sports pitches. The consultants also pointed out that when considering the sums tendered for the previous contract, bearing in mind the work and land areas removed from that contract and adding in inflation, their expectation had been for a contract sum in the order of £38-40,000 which is broadly in line with that submitted by tender number 2. Using this 'test of reasonableness' added to the justification for considering and recommending the lower tender.

RESOLVED: that tender number 2 be accepted in the sum of £40,921.30 to undertake the Grounds Maintenance Contract with effect from 1st April 2015 for a five year term with a 3 year break clause.

The successful tender was revealed to be from G Burley & Son Limited

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 6.55p.m