

Minutes of the **POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE** meeting held in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, Ferryhill, at 7pm on **WEDNESDAY, 1st MAY 2019**.

PRESENT: Councillor: J. Cansella (Chair)

Councillors: Councillors D. Farry, N Jones, J. Makepeace, Z. Roddam, L. Smith and R. Smith

Officials: D. Shingleton, Acting Town Clerk
E. Gildersleeves, Finance & Administration Manager

P&R57.18-19 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor P Atkinson

P&R58.18-19 MEMBERS DISPENSATION

No requests for dispensations had been received in relation to any item of business on the agenda.

P&R59.18-19 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

P&R60.18-19 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

A member of the public asked why item 9, on the award of contracts, was included in the private part of the agenda. The Acting Town Clerk explained that this was normal practice for reasons of commercial sensitivity. He would, however, write to the member of the public with a fuller explanation.

P&R61.18-19 MINUTES OF MEETING ON 6th MARCH 2019

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the meeting held on 6th March 2019 be agreed as a true and accurate record.

P&R62.18-19 EUROPEAN ELECTIONS – PURDAH

Members considered a report from the Acting Town Clerk concerning the restrictions on political activity between now and the date of the European elections on 23 May 2019. A copy of the report had been provided to all Members of the Council.

RESOLVED

That the restrictions be noted and that no action be taken which could potentially breach the rules.

P&R63.18-19 EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC AND PRESS

RESOLVED

That in accordance with the provision of Section 1 of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, as amended by Section 100 of the Local Government Act 1972, the Council do now exclude the public and press for the remaining items of the Agenda by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted since publicity would be prejudicial to public interest.”

P&R64.18-19 MINUTES OF SUB-COMMITTEES

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the Personnel Sub-Committee held on 25 February 2019 be received.

P&R65.18-19 CONTRACTS

Members considered a report from the Acting Town Clerk regarding contracts for the year 2019/2020 in respect of Plant Watering and Gang Mowing services. In accordance with Standing Orders three quotes had been sought for the contracts, although only two had received in respect of the Gang Mowing service.

It was **RESOLVED** that, being the lowest quotations received, the contract for Plant Watering be awarded to Thinford Nurseries and for Gang Mowing be awarded to IC Liddle.

P&R66.18-19 TELEPHONE SYSTEM AND INTERNET LINE

Members considered a report from the Finance and Administration Manager, which highlighted the need to replace the Council’s telephone system, which is now thirteen years old. A number of options were considered.

It was **RESOLVED** that:

- a) The Town Hall fax line be removed, as it is no longer required;
- b) The offer by 24/7, our current computer supplier, of a week’s trial of their hosted SIP internet based system, be accepted. This is completely hosted off-site in a data centre and does not require a maintenance contract as there is no equipment on-site to maintain. If the trial is successful, then the contact be agreed. If not, the situation be reported back to Members;
- c) In future, work to be started on considering contracts which are due to end at least three months before the end date.

PR67.18-19 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

To be agreed following the Annual Meeting.

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 8.05pm

CERTIFIED AS A TRUE RECORD

CHAIR.....

DATE.....