
Extraordinary Meeting of the Parish Council

Tuesday 20th September 2016, 7.30pm

Present: Cllr T Higham, Cllr P Quinn (arrived at 8.10pm), Cllr J Thornton and Cllr S Wigley

In attendance: G Wright (Clerk) and 5 members of the Public.

Chair of Meeting: Cllr J Thornton

Clerk for Meeting: G Wright

1. To receive apologies for absence and declarations of interest

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs Birdwood, Thistlethwayte and Wood.
There were no declarations of interest.

2. Public participation

The Chairman opened the meeting for public participation. Questions were received and Cllr Thornton and others present at the meeting responded to them; the questions included: -

- **Who pays?** - Funded from accumulated PC funds (reserves) as Hambledon Parish Council (HPC) currently has cash reserves above recommended levels and also from a contribution of £2,000 received from Hambledon Horticultural Society (Hort. Soc.).
- **What would it look like?** – Whites, Yellows & Purple flowers; planting restricted to Plants under one metre in height, due to closeness to road and avoiding interfering with sight lines at junction; some hard landscaping using granite sets to help ensure a robust, durable surface and improve the general look of the area. Also, short growing grasses and Hebe's would be planted.
- **Who designed/approved design?** – Paul Hensey, a professional Landscape Designer produced the design for the project; the design was subsequently approved and agreed upon by members of the PC and the Hort. Soc.
- **Who will help maintain the beds?** – A member of Hort. Soc. said that lists of volunteers were currently being collated and also, that hopefully this was something that the Village would take a pride in and help maintain.

Other comments made during this part of the meeting: -

A member of the Public said that hard landscaping was vital in order to help protect planted areas from significant footfall especially at peak times; another said this was the opportunity to restart and recover from previous bad occurrences that had affected the Village; and another said they preferred the areas grassed as it would need less maintenance. No further comments were made and Cllr Thornton closed the Public session.

3. Village Maintenance

Cllr Thornton explained that this meeting had been called because although plans had been approved at the PC meeting held on 5th September 2016, quotes had not been available. As a result, expenditure approved at that meeting (£3,000 excluding VAT) had been agreed in order

to prevent a delay in the work being carried out. However, upon receipt of the compliant quote, for carrying out the hard landscaping work on all of the beds, the sum previously approved (£3000 excluding VAT) had been found to be insufficient to meet the quote received (£4,535 excluding VAT). Therefore, in order to comply with HPC's Financial Regulations it was necessary for HPC to consider the compliant quote and, if satisfied to approve expenditure, and award the contract to the successful tenderer. Cllr Thornton confirmed that Mildren had agreed that their compound could be used to facilitate the work and that the Landscaper had kindly agreed to be available on the new date of 1st Oct 2016.

Cllr Higham was unhappy with the cost increase (compared to expenditure previously approved) and proposed the following motions: -

1. 'That the Hort. Soc. be requested to fund half of the increased cost (i.e. £750) for the hard landscaping work' – This motion was not seconded and was, therefore, disposed of.

2. 'That £1,500 was cut from the earmarked reserves to fund the increased cost' – This motion was not seconded and was, therefore, disposed of.

3. 'That the Finance Working Group be invited to recommend removal of £1,500 from existing budgets to fund the increased cost' – This motion was not seconded and was, therefore, disposed of.

Cllr Quinn arrived at the meeting.

Cllr Wigley proposed that Paul Gale (the compliant tenderer) be awarded the contract to carry out the hard landscaping works at Hambledon [Green Man] Junction as per his quotation of 20th September 2016 for the sum of £4,535.00 (excluding VAT) and that expenditure of this amount be authorised with the provision that if 'Marshall' sets were considered to be a suitable alternative to Granite sets, they be used and that any price reduction for this be realised. This proposal was seconded by Cllr Thornton and approved unanimously.

The meeting closed at 8.20pm.