

**MINUTES OF THE TOWN COUNCIL EXTRAORDINARY MEETING HELD
ON-LINE ON THURSDAY 17TH DECEMBER 2020**

PRESENT: R TAPLIN (Town Mayor)
Councillors: J HLADKIWSKYJ; A HOOKER; R MAHMOOD; P MORGAN; Mrs M RADFORD; P ROUND; C THOMAS; Mrs S WORTHINGTON (Deputy Mayor); J YOUNG

Town Clerk: Ms V PRYCE
Minute Taker: Mrs C WHITLOCK

MINUTES

Action

20/201 TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES AND REASONS FOR ABSENCE:

Cllrs CAMPBELL, CONBOY, S WILSON and G WILSON – alternative meeting
Cllr HYAMS – apologies received (after the meeting)
Cllr IRVING (IT problems)
Cllr VANE PERCY

20/202 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:

None.

20/203 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION SESSION:

None present.

20/204 RECREATION GROUND PLAY EQUIPMENT TENDERS:

Cllr HOOKER provided the Council with a brief outline of the report he had circulated prior to the meeting. He confirmed, following the tendering process, that Kompan had been identified as the preferred supplier of the new play equipment which would be located on the Recreation Ground. As result, Cllr HOOKER would be seeking approval on several key items and opened the floor to questions. Cllr WORTHINGTON noted the lack of reference to any annual inspections and any annual maintenance costs for the proposed equipment. Cllr HOOKER confirmed that the equipment would need to be part of an inspection regime, as with other Council play equipment. However, he advised that the structure would be made of steel and therefore would only require minimal maintenance. Spare parts would be available for approximately ten years.

Cllr HOOKER advised that the tender process produced five proposals. Out of those suppliers who requested tender documents, only one tender was sent back. One of the three quotes which had been received was from All Play Solutions, who had a similar structure to what had been asked of them and would fulfill the Council's requirements. Cllr HOOKER reported that, as the quote was for £20,000 more than the equivalent Kompan tender, it was not recommended. Viridi had provided designs for a log pirate ship and a 'climbing forest'. Unfortunately, the former design was not inspiring and the latter cost £138,000; hence, he could not recommend these either.

Cllr HOOKER advised that Kompan had provided two designs, the smaller design (Octanet) at cost of £49,772,59 (plus VAT) however, the larger option (Spacenet) was more exciting and had additional features. Their original design had been redeveloped and now included two pendulum swings and an additional slide. The slides would be accessed via rope bridges, with hexagonal half house pods and a wobble bridge. Cllr HOOKER explained, in an effort to be sympathetic to its surroundings, that the four, six-metre masts be powder coated in a sage green which would incur an additional cost of £4,500 (plus VAT) – hence the total cost would be £79,754.45 (plus VAT) out of CIL. Inspection charges of £375 (plus VAT) would come out of the Environment Portfolio's annual budget. Cllr HOOKER confirmed that there would be a 50% discount on the planning application but would not know the exact figure until the application was submitted online. He thought the fee would be £231 which would possibly include VAT.

Cllr HOOKER advised that an expert (such as ROSPA inspector) would be required to sign off the

works. The TOWN CLERK advised that the charge for an inspector to sign off the public toilets at Judith's Field would be £2,800 and the cost would be dependent on the size of the project. Cllr HOOKER confirmed that unfortunately that cost had not been included in the report but would need to be considered. The TOWN CLERK thought costs would not exceed £2,000 (if the work only took two weeks as scheduled to do so) for a ROSPA engineer to inspect the work which would be covered by CIL money.

Cllr HOOKER finished his presentation advising that although seven firms submitted outline designs, only three submitted formal tenders. He asked the Council to approve the items as detailed in his report, having discounted the other suppliers in favour of Kompan and to accept their tender of £75,254.45 (plus VAT).

The MAYOR proposed that the Council accept the design and tender provided by Kompan for the Spacenet structure with slides at a cost of £75,254.45 plus VAT. All were in favour and it was so **resolved**.

The MAYOR proposed that the Council accept the provision of four green (RAL 6029) powder coated main masts from Kompan at a further cost of £4,500 (plus VAT). All were in favour and it was so **resolved**.

The MAYOR proposed that the Council accept the provision of three operational inspections at a cost of £375 (plus VAT) which would come from the existing Environment budget. All were in favour and it was so **resolved**.

The MAYOR proposed that the Council appoint a ROSPA contractor to carry out an inspection following construction of the equipment at a cost not exceeding £2,000 (plus VAT). All were in favour and it was so **resolved**.

The MAYOR proposed that the project be named 'Skyworld' (one word). All were in favour and it was so **resolved**.

Cllr HOOKER requested permission to act as the agent for the Council in submitting the planning application to Huntingdonshire District Council (HDC). He agreed he would provide the TOWN CLERK with copies of the online planning application submission, and confirmed that the application would be in the name of the TOWN CLERK. The MAYOR proposed that Cllr HOOKER act as the agent for the Town Council, in conjunction with the TOWN CLERK, in submitting a planning application for the Skyworld project. All were in favour and it was so **resolved**.

Cllr THOMAS asked for it to be recorded that the expenditure for the project would be coming out of CIL money.

Cllr MORGAN assumed that, by the Council giving permission to start the planning process now, the work would be completed by the first weekend in July in time for Gala Weekend. Cllr HOOKER confirmed that was the plan. The planning process would take some time. However, he hoped that any problems would be identified by the planners early on and that permission would be granted within eight weeks. Kompan required 15 weeks (including the powder coating process) to manufacture the structure but could overlap with the planning process to reduce timescales.

The MAYOR advised that the Council had a number of District Councillors who would be able to overview the process at HDC. Concern had been raised that the high level pods could attract antisocial behaviour. Cllr HOOKER confirmed that the parts of the structure could be added or removed making areas more open and visible.

20/205 PERSONNEL REPORT:

Cllr WORTHINGTON reported that, due to the number of apologies received prior to the Personnel meeting scheduled for last Monday, the meeting was not quorate for it to go ahead.

Cllr WORTHINGTON was able to report that the recruiting process for a third administrative post, to be based at the Nursery, had started internally. If no internal applications were received then the position would be advertised externally in the New Year.

The MAYOR wished everybody a merry, and safe, Christmas and a happy and healthy 2021!

The meeting closed at 7.24