

# LYDNEY TOWN COUNCIL

## EXTRAORDINARY MEETING OF THE COUNCIL – 2021/01/25 – 54

Minutes of the meeting held via Zoom<sup>1</sup> on Monday 25<sup>th</sup> January 2021 at 6.45pm.

**PRESENT:** Cllrs W Leach (Mayor and Chairman of the meeting), J Carr, A Harley, R Holmes, S Holmes, R Kemsley, P Macklin and S Stockham

Mr S Holley – Town Clerk and Minute Taker

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1. **APOLOGIES**

None received. Cllrs Greenwood and Preest were absent.

2. **DECLARATION OF INTERESTS**

There were no declarations of interest.

3. **MOTION TO EXCLUDE THE PUBLIC AND PRESS**

The Council resolved to continue in ‘Closed Session’ under the provisions of The Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 as the following business to be conducted was considered to be of a confidential nature.

*Note: The following Minute is made available to the Public for openness and transparency. The Council approves Confidential Minutes with substantially the same content, but with the inclusion of names of individuals or other parties when appropriate. Other Confidential business (such as legal matters and employment issues) may appear in the Public Minutes only as an Agenda /Minute heading*

4. **CONTRACT FOR REGENERATION AND COVID RECOVERY PROJECT**

The Council was requested to consider the three proposals and quotations previously circulated for the meeting held on 14<sup>th</sup> December 2020. At that time, a decision had been deferred in order to allow for presentations by the three firms. A day of presentations had subsequently been held the previous Friday, 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2021.

The covering report issued for the December meeting had been re-circulated with the written proposals, covering the amendment of the Specification issued earlier in 2020 to include Covid Recovery and work to revive a Chamber of Commerce and drawing attention to the Financial Regulation specifying that the Council was not required to accept the lowest tender offered (a regulation which put ‘Best Value’ above lowest price). It had been agreed in December that this approach was particularly relevant to this important project and the Council should appoint the contractor it felt (a) had put the best scheme forward and (b) was best able to deliver its proposal.

After discussing the various merits of the three proposals, the Council unanimously RESOLVED to appoint Place Studio of Bristol, subject to ‘Due Diligence’ enquiries in accordance with the advice obtained from the Council’s Solicitor and the Gloucestershire Association of Parish and Town Councils. It was noted that the fees proposed by Place Studio were the lowest at £7,000. The Council confirmed it would be appropriate for these fees to be met from the £10,000 Small Business Covid Relief Grant received in the Autumn. The consultants had been made aware that the Council had budgeted up to £32,000 in 2021/22 for ‘pump priming’ activities of direct benefit to the community, preferably in partnership with other stakeholders and grant providers.

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<sup>1</sup> The Local Authorities and Police and Crime Panels (Coronavirus) (Flexibility of Local Authority and Police and Crime Panel Meetings) (England and Wales) Regulations 2020

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The meeting closed at 9.24 pm

**Chairman .....**

**Date .....**