



**MINUTES OF CAM PARISH COUNCIL PARISH MEETING
HELD ON FRIDAY 23 FEBRUARY 2024, 6:00pm
AT CAM PARISH COUNCIL OFFICE, 4 NOEL LEE WAY, CAM**

PRESENT: J Fulcher (Chair), M Morton, S Temlett, D Andrewartha, K Chandler, J Dormer, G Gough, M Grimshaw, M Clifton, B Tipper, J Fowler,

APOLOGIES: J Bishop,

ABSENT: B Walker, S Angell,

IN ATTENDANCE: Deputy Clerk,

Chair opened the meeting and welcomed everyone present.

FC.23.220 To Receive Apologies for absence.

Apologies were noted as above.

FC.23.221 To Receive Declarations of Interest and any requests for dispensations

None received.

FC.23.222 To receive any questions, statements, or submissions from members of the public in attendance

None present

FC.23.223 To approve and sign minutes of the meeting held February as a true and correct record

Deferred to next Full Council in March

FC.23.224 To note any matters arising from the minutes and not covered by agenda items, for information only

Not relevant

FC.23.225 To resolve that by the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 and under Section 100(A) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public and press be excluded for the following item of business, on the grounds it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in the Acts

Council RESOLVED to exclude members of the press and public

FC.23.226 To receive documentation associated with legal request, agree formal response and agree any other actions

It was noted that further advice was gained from a solicitor through SLCC, who gave a different interpretation of the law compared to that given by GAPTC. The advice is as follows –

Generally a local Council has to be careful when employing a Councillor or awarding a contract to a Company controlled by a Councillor to avoid allegations of favouritism or corruption. So far as the Councillor is concerned there are difficulties as they have a pecuniary interest and cannot take part in any discussions. The Council cannot merely dismiss the application without considering it on its merits. They therefore advise that the Council should run the process again, including advertising, and then consider the applications received without reference to any previous decisions and purely on merit.

The project is still in progress, whilst the original deadline for applications has passed, Full Council RESOLVED to readvertise the 'call out' to maximise competitive interest with the addition of a scoring matrix to be approved by FPGP Committee. All renewed bids will be scored against the matrix and fully redacted to ensure there is no bias.

Council requested that if a councillor wishes to resubmit an application, they must be strongly encouraged to declare an interest in the interest of public transparency where it is appropriate and in the public interest.

Council accepted that challenging the Judicial Review is not good use of tax payers money.

18:50 Cllr Gough left the meeting.

Deputy presented the full advice from the solicitor. Council made appropriate changes to the drafted wording and RESOLVED the final draft of the response. Deputy will sign the letter in the absence of the Clerk.

Chair closed the meeting at 19:50