**Report: F&GP and Full Council**

**Title: Update on projects**

**Author: Clerk. Date: 4 January 2020.**

**Agenda Item 3. Insurance**

The town council has reached the end of a 4-year insurance contract with Zurich. The clerk has tendered to other council insurance suppliers and the outcome is as follows:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Came and Company (Broker)** | One year | 3 years pa |
| Ecclesiastical: | £6700 | £6429 |
| Hiscox | £7572 | £7194 |
| AXA | £7528.00 | £7240 |
|  |  |  |
| **Zurich** | £4269 | £4120 |
|  |  |  |
| **WPS** | £3653 | X |

**Recommendations:** Following receipt of all quotations and documentation, the recommendation for the council’s insurance is Ecclesiastical. This is one of three quotes obtained for the council by the broker Came and Company.

The quotes all offer similar cover, with some small difference in the sums insured.

The recommendation is made because it gives the council more cover than the previous insurer Zurich, together with others firms who have quoted. The cover from Ecclesiastical, Hiscox and AXA all include Key Person cover with Ecclesiastical providing the highest amount of cover at £400.00 per week for 10 weeks.

The company will also include a physical survey of the Sir John Barrow monument for insurance purposes within the premium. This is an important and useful inclusion as the cost of independent survey for insurance purposes could be considerable.

Any claims or queries for this company would be made through Came and Company, a recognised broker for town and parish councils.

**Town Band Grant**

The clerk emailed members of the committee prior to Christmas following an issue which arose regarding insurance for town band instruments. The town band understood that the instruments were insured for all risks on an annual basis. This has not been the case to the clerk’s knowledge during her tenure. The instruments were only insured for visits to Albert. During the quotation process it became clear that ensuring the instruments at all was challenging as they do not belong to the town council. It was suggested by several insurance companies that the town band get a quotation for insurance and the town council may consider paying it from the grants budget. The e mail response from members indicated that members would approve this expense from the councils grants budget. The total cost is £483.54

**Recommendation:** That F&GP formally approve this expenditure and recommend to full council.

**Agenda Item 4. Christmas Lights and fencing**

**Replacement Lights:** When new lights were purchased by the BID 3 years ago it was understood that they were LED lights which like standard lights have a limited life. When the individual 5 metre strands fail, they are dim before failing completely. Members will have noticed that this has happened to the lights on Brogden St, which were the initial batch of lights purchased. Some small areas have failed completely throughout the town. Minor additional purchases have been made in previous year to replace those that have failed.

The town council has the opportunity to purchase some spare lights at a cost of £40.00 per 5 metres length from Luminaire in Barrow. This compares favourably with other quotes: £62.50 from Lite and £78.00 from Blachere. The company has 300 metres available This would cost £2400.00 which at the moment is not affordable.

**Wicket Fencing:** Members will have noticed the barrier fencing around the Christmas tree. It is proposed that council replace this necessary but unattractive barrier with a white ‘wicket’ style fence, the same size as the current barriers, with retractable footing and the facility to be bolted together. The barriers can be stored in the Gill Toilet store. The outline cost for this is between £500 and £800; this is from a provisional estimate from the town council handyman.

**Recommendation**:

1. That council purchase 150 metres of replacement lights at a cost of £1200. This would replace all of the lights on Brogden Street and provide sufficient for replacements elsewhere.
2. That council approve the production of bespoke wicket fencing for 2021 subjects to a firm quotation.

**Agenda Item 5. Project Update**

Revitalisation Programme Update – paper attached.

CCTV: SLDC Planning now have all of the required papers for the necessary planning permission for the cameras.

Gill Toilets: Planning has now been approved for the new roof and works should start within the next two weeks. This will be followed by the replacement doors and the refurbished toilet cubicles.

**Decision Required:** Council to consider whether to pay the cleaning company the full amount during the period of closure of the Gill toilets which could amount to 4 weeks in total or to pay a retainer.

**Agenda Item 6. Neighbourhood Planning.**

The following e mail was sent to Ulverston East members prior to Christmas concerning the potential and appetite for a defined Neighbourhood Plan broadly encompassing the North Lonsdale Road corridor. All of the Ulverston east members and members who are residents in the area responded positively to the draft proposal.

*“I am writing to gauge your initial views on a proposal I would like to put to F&GP and council for consideration about the potential and desirability for a Neighbourhood Plan in Ulverston East Ward/South Ulverston.*

*The proposal is to consider a Neighbourhood Plan for what I am going to loosely term the ‘North Lonsdale Road corridor’ I think you will have heard about Neighbourhood Planning. It is a way for the community be involved at the highest level in deciding what can happen in terms of spatial planning within the area they live, this includes designation of green spaces etc.*

*It is a community led document, which if approved by a referendum in the community would be adopted by SLDC as the planning authority and could give greater protection and direction to the development of the area. It will add more weight to the current local plan and would be a formal planning document. In essence it is a plan led by the community who would also decide on the geographically spread of the plan.*

*It is important to note that it is not a document that prevents development, rather a document that allows the community to pragmatically decide where development could go and what it could be and which then is enshrined in law if voted for..*

*Members will recall that a town wide neighbourhood plan was rejected by council several years ago. This draft proposal is for a plan in a defined area of Ulverston.*

*Agreement will require a high level of commitment from council both in staff and councillor time and also cost. A grant is still available from government, but much of the cost would need to be borne by the town council – I would hope grants might be available from others and it may be, although this would require checking, that CIL funds could be used. For any success in any project, it will require a project champion to energise this and to really get the community involved because it is their plan.*

*In the first instance I would recommend reading the document in the link below and letting me know your views. There are several professional planning organisations that support (for a fee) neighbourhood planning and it would be essential to have a planning professional involved to write the policies and advise on the practicalities and deliverability of any ideas that come forward. It may be that we could ask such an organisation to come and talk to the council in the first instance.*

[*https://neighbourhoodplanning.org/wp-content/uploads/NP\_Roadmap\_online\_print\_friendly.pdf*](https://neighbourhoodplanning.org/wp-content/uploads/NP_Roadmap_online_print_friendly.pdf)

**Potential next Steps:**

* Clerk to arrange for SLDC and planning consultants to outline the proposals to members
* Local members to discuss the possibility with community groups in the area to gauge a response.
* Clerk to understand the funding available and the likely costs. Initial research suggests 10k plus Government grant plus a further possible 9k for special reports. The costs of a Neighbourhood Plan could be between 20 – 30k+ If a plan goes ahead, it is important to set a top limit for expenditure and make sure that this figure is known to the community and any consultants who are employed otherwise costs could spiral.

**Agenda Item 7. Shop front Improvement Scheme Update**

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|  | **Shop Front Improvement Scheme 2020** | | | |  |
|  | **Budget Available £6500** | |  |  |  |
|  |  | **£ 0.40** | **Quotation** | **Paid** |  |
| **Date** | **Business Name** | **Recommended** |  |  |  |
| 15/01/20 | The Salon | **£ 400.00** | Yes | **28/07/20** |  |
| 29/01/20 | L'al Churrasco | **£ 250.00** | Yes | **NO** |  |
| 03/02/20 | Cut Price | **£ 300.00** | Yes | **21/07/20** |  |
| 10/02/20 | Nevinsons Carpets Ltd | **£ 400.00** | Yes | **25/06/20** |  |
| 10/02/20 | Morgan Joinery Ltd | **£ 300.00** | Yes | **NO** |  |
| 18/02/20 | The Hot Mango Deli | **£ 286.00** | Yes | **03/08/20** |  |
| 16/03/20 | Harrison Coward | **£ 400.00** | Yes | **18/10/20** |  |
| 30/03/20 | Beerwolf | **£ 200.00** | Yes | NO |  |
| 31/03/20 | Jute | **£ 200.00** | Yes | **20/05/20** |  |
| 30/04/20 | Harmony Rejuvenation | **£ 400.00** | Yes | **20/05/20** |  |
| 02/06/20 | Brocklebanks | **£ 400.00** | Yes | **29/06/20** |  |
| 02/06/20 | The Little Kraft Shed | **£ 400.00** | Yes | **01/07/20** |  |
| 10/08/20 | Cut the Wrap | **£ 325.00** | Yes | Withdrawn |  |
| August | Serenity | **£ 165.00** | Yes | **23/09/2020** |  |
| 23/09/20 | WERK | **£ 145.00** | Yes | **21/10/2020** |  |
| 03/12/20 | Squirrel | **£ 400.00** | Yes | **16/12/2020** |  |
|  |  | **£ 4,971.00** |  |  |  |
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