

Committee: Open Spaces

Date: 5 December 2023

Title: Contract for plants

Purpose of Report

For Members to receive information regarding the current plant contract and to delegate to officers to obtain quotes for a new contract.

Recommendation:

1. Members to delegate to officers to obtain quotes for a new 3 year contract for plants for the troughs and hanging baskets.
2. Members resolve to authorise the purchase of 10 hanging baskets.

Background:

1. The Town Council usually plants troughs at the bottom of Orchard Vale, and Strawberry Bank, planters at the entrances to the town, the hanging baskets in the Market House, the flowerbed and planters in The Minster.
2. At the Open Spaces meeting held on 4 October 2022, Members resolved:
22-0050-OS Contract for plants
Members discussed the quotes to supply plants for the town's planters and troughs. Discussions included whether to look at a one or three year contract due to the rise in inflation.

Members **RESOLVED** unanimously to enter a contract with supplier 3 on the report to supply plants for the next 3 years starting in 2023/24 as per their quote.

Proposer Cllr Hamilton **Seconded** Cllr Paul

3. The supplier chosen was Mousehole Nurseries for a three year contract.

Report:

1. During 2023/2024, Mousehole supplied all of the plants requested for the summer and winter seasons.
2. On 5 November 2023, the officers received the following message from Mousehole Nurseries:
I am writing to inform you of our decision to stop growing plants at the end of this year and therefore will not be able to supply plants for the Council next year.
After over 20 years of supplying Ilminster Town Council we would like to thank you for your custom.

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3. Officers responded to the email and thanked them for their work, and also asked if they could recommend other suppliers. Unfortunately, there was no response.
4. Members to delegate to officers to obtain quotes for a new 3-year contract for plants for the troughs and hanging baskets.
5. Officers would also like to bring to the attention of the committee the need to replace the hanging baskets that are used on the Market House during the summer months.
6. The current hanging baskets can be seen in this photo:



7. Members may wish to see all 10 hanging baskets on the Market House being of one design, which will enhance the look of the Market House, and it is suggested that any new hanging baskets have a water tray underneath to help with keeping the plants fresher for longer.
8. If Members agree, officers have identified a suitable hanging basket at a cost of **£325.50 (ex. VAT)** for 10 cup and saucer hanging baskets. These could be funded from Earmarked Reserves of £2,506.00 currently held for Open Spaces Purchases.



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9. Members may wish to resolve to authorise the purchase of 10 hanging baskets.

Julie Earp
Deputy Town Clerk/RFO
December 2023