



CLERK'S REPORT NO. 2023- 096 CONTRACTORS APPOINTMENTS

THE MATTER OF GREEN SPACES, TREES AND TOWN UPKEEP

JPC Financial Regulations Document JPC-2021-10010 [Proposal_03_04_2022]

10. Orders for work, goods, and services

10.1. An official order or letter shall be issued by the RFO, for all work, goods and services unless a formal contract is to be prepared or an official order would be inappropriate. Copies of orders shall be retained.

10.2. All members and officers are responsible for obtaining value for money at all times. An officer issuing an official order shall ensure as far as reasonable and practicable that the best available terms are obtained in respect of each transaction, usually by obtaining three or more quotations or estimates from appropriate suppliers, subject to any de minimis provisions in Regulation 11 below.

The above is an extract from the JPC current Financial Regulations which states that the RFO must obtain value for money at all times, and that the RFO must ensure that the best terms in respect of each transaction are obtained. **This does not mean that cheapest is best**, as 'value' can be defined as ability to react to requests for emergency works or that the service provided is exemplary and not limited by time restrictions imposed by the contractor.

The Clerk suggests that **NO AGREEMENTS** or **CONTRACTS** are placed by the JPC for the scope of works detailed herein, that at the next meeting, Monday 6th next, the Clerk recommends the continued use of Colin Harrison, based on his outstanding record to date. Thereafter, he invoices the JPC *ad hoc*, based on **a reasonable hourly or daily rate**, as is the case with all other contractors to the JPC.

The Clerk will also recommend to members that they retain T Mousley & Sons, for another season. The proprietor, has again responded to emergencies without fail and that the other tree contractors have run out of patience coming second best to Mousley's competitive tenders.

Finally, the matter of grass cutting. We were served very successfully by WS Gardens until it became impossible for him to cover the work due to staffing problems. Colin Harrison, arranged for his grandson to take up the slack, when a disastrous end to the cutting season may have prevailed. The charges for this service were **identical to WSG**, who were the **most competitive**, when we asked for quotes in late 2020.

REVIEWS

In all cases, the Clerk will periodically request estimates for specific services as a general check for value for money highlighted in the Financial Regulations.

Members should consider this new approach and if appropriate, vote to adopt this working arrangement as *status quo* until reviewed in twelve months' time.

Ray Evans
Parish Clerk & Proper Officer - Date: 1st February 2023