

FARMS ESTATE COMMITTEE

9 December 2019

Present:

County Councillors

Councillors R Edgell (Chair), J Brook, J Berry, T Inch and C Whitton

Co-opted Members

L Warner (Tenants' representative)

Apologies

Councillors A Dewhirst and C Chugg

* **107** **Minutes**

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meetings held on 9 September 2019 and 25 November 2019 be signed as correct records.

* **108** **Items Requiring Urgent Attention**

There was no item raised as a matter of urgency.

* **109** **Revenue Monitoring (Month 7) 2019/20**

The Committee received the Report of the County Treasurer (CT/19/119) on the County Farms Estate Revenue Monitoring (Month 7) 2019/20, noting the increased target surplus of £464,000 and providing a summary of the annual budget and detailing income and expenditure to date.

* **110** **Capital Monitoring (Month 7) 2019/20**

The Committee received the Report of the County Treasurer (CT/19/118) on the County Farms Estate Month 7 Capital Monitoring Statement for 2019/20, noting that the approved capital programme for 2019/20 included schemes totalling £600,000 and with scheme slippage of £558,337 resulted in a capital programme for 2019/20 of £1,158.337.

* **111** **Exclusion of the Press and Public**

RESOLVED that the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business under Section 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraphs 1, 2 and 3 of Schedule 12A of the Act, namely information relating to, and which was likely to reveal the identity of, tenants and information relating to the financial or business affairs of tenants and the County Council and, in accordance with Section 36 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, by virtue of the fact that the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighed the public interest in disclosing the information.

* **112** **Holdings and Tenancies etc.**

(An item taken under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 during which the press and public were excluded, no representations having been received to such

consideration under Regulation 5(5) of the Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012)

* **113 Higher Artiscombe Farm, Gulworthy**

(The tenant of Higher Artiscombe Farm, Gulworthy attended to speak to this item at the invitation of the Chair.)

The Committee considered the Report of the Head of Digital Transformation and Business Support (BSS/19/12) relating to Higher Artiscombe Farm, Gulworthy.

It was **MOVED** by Councillor Brook, **SECONDED** by Councillor Inch and

RESOLVED

(a) that the granting to the tenant of Higher Artiscombe Farm, Gulworthy a security of tenure excluded Landlord and Tenant Act 1954 lease of part NG 3090 amounting to 1.50 acres or thereabouts of land forming part Higher Artiscombe Farm for a fixed term commencing 25 March 2022 and expiring 25 March 2032, on a subject to contract basis, be approved; and

(b) that the advertising of the farmhouse, buildings and 214.82 acres or thereabouts of land at Higher Artiscombe Farm, Gulworthy as an equipped residential progression dairy farm in internal competition between existing tenants of the Estate and on a Farm Business Tenancy commencing 25 March 2022 and expiring 25 March 2037, on a subject to contract basis, be approved.

* **114 Outcome of Tenants' monitoring visits**

The Committee considered the Report of the Head of Digital Transformation and Business Support (BSS/19/13) on the monitoring of tenants on an initial Farm Business Tenancy.

It was **MOVED** by Councillor Brook, **SECONDED** by Councillor Inch and

RESOLVED that letters be sent to the tenants of Northground Farm, Milton Abbot, Prixford Barton Farm, Marwood and Chapel Farm, Marwood recording the current and satisfactory level of competency attained to date.

It was **MOVED** by Councillor Brook, **SECONDED** by Councillor Berry and

RESOLVED that a further monitoring visit be made in 12 months' time to the tenants of Manor Farm Holcombe.

It was **MOVED** by Councillor Brook, **SECONDED** by Councillor Inch and

RESOLVED that the tenant of Lower Northchurch Farm, Yarnscombe be offered a second but final seven year Farm Business Tenancy of the holding for a term commencing 25 March 2021 and terminating 25 March 2028, subject to terms being agreed.

***DENOTES DELEGATED MATTER WITH POWER TO ACT**

The Meeting started at 2.20 pm and finished at 3.23 pm