

FARMS ESTATE COMMITTEE – DECISION NOTICE

19 February 2024

Present:-

Councillors J Yabsley (Chair), J Brook (Vice-Chair), R Chesterton, A Dewhirst, C Whitton and Mr M Warner (Tenants' representative)

Apologies:-

Councillors J Berry and H Gent and Mrs L Warner

* 1 **Minutes**

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meetings held on 10 November 2023, 20 November 2023, 18 January 2024 and 19 January 2024 be signed as correct records.

* 5 **Management & Restructuring Issues**

(a) Lower Chitterley Farm, Bickleigh

RESOLVED that:

- (i) The tenant's early surrender of Lower Chitterley Farm, Bickleigh be accepted.
- (ii) Lower Chitterley Farm, Bickleigh be advertised to let on the open market as a new entrant opportunity and on a Farm Business Tenancy for a term of seven years commencing 25 March 2024 (or as soon as practically possible thereafter) and terminating 25 March 2031, subject to terms being agreed.

(b) Thorne Farm, Ottery St Mary

RESOLVED that the 10.33 hectares (25.41 acres) or thereabouts of bare land at Thorne Farm, Ottery St Mary be advertised to let in internal competition between the tenants of Cotley Farm, Ottery St Mary; New Ford Farm, Rockbeare; Topshayes Farm, Aylesbeare; Lower Barton Farm, Aylesbere; and Perriton Barton Farm, Whimble on a series of 12 Month Farm Business Tenancy Agreements, subject to the first Agreement being for a term of 1.5 years terminating 25 March 2026, and subject to terms being agreed.

* 6 **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.

* **7** **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.)

RESOLVED that further monitoring visits be made to the tenants of Thorndon Farm, Broadwoodwidge; Nunford Farm, Colyton; and Southcott Farm, Okehampton in Autumn 2024 when the tenants will be expected to present their farm accounts for consideration.