



CITY OF ELY COUNCIL  
CHRISTMAS LIGHTS COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF A MEETING  
HELD ON 16<sup>TH</sup> JULY 2012 AT 7.15 PM

PRESENT:

The Mayor, Cllr W Burton  
Cllr P Eden  
*Mr T Overall*

Cllr J Chaplin  
*Cllr N Clarke*  
*Mr J Dennick*

Cllr S Overall  
*Mr M Chinery-Colyer*

Cllr A Arnold

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Cllr E Every and Mr I Newstead.

2. REQUEST INTENTION OF THOSE IN ATTENDANCE WHO WISH TO SPEAK ON AN AGENDA ITEM

– (as per standing order 83 b)

There were no intentions.

3. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING & MATTERS ARISING

Minutes of the meeting held on 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2012, were agreed and signed as a true record after Cllr Eden's apologies were added. Pages CL 99 and CL100 refer.

4. TO RECEIVE FEEDBACK ON BUDGET UPDATE FROM FINANCE GROUP

Cllr Chaplin reported that the Finance Committee had met prior to this meeting and that there were no significant variances within the budget. It had been agreed not to proceed with purchasing a tree from Elvedon Trees, but to purchase one as in previous years, from Simpson Nurseries.

5. TO DISCUSS STRUCTURAL TESTING ON LAMP POSTS

Cllr Clarke informed members that calculations, of the load of the lights to be erected on the lamp posts had been supplied to Balfour Beatty, at their request. A response had been received to say that following a visual inspection by Balfour Beatty it would be necessary for the units to be structurally tested before any additional loading can be put on to the columns. A reply to this response was that the City of Ely Council felt that it is unfair that it should have to pay for structural testing, as it had already paid for information regarding loading, which would not have been necessary if Balfour Beatty had initially carried out a visual inspection. A definitive response from Balfour Beatty as to whether or not features can be hung from the lamp posts is awaited.

6. TO DISCUSS RING PULL TESTING ON BUILDINGS

Following the Cambridgeshire County Council's refusal to erect banners on the High Street, enquiries were made to them with regard to the erection Christmas Lights. Although the County Council advised Christmas Lights do not currently need licensing, they would be looking at them in the very near future. Therefore, in anticipation of this, Cllr Clarke advised that it would be necessary to have the ring pulls structurally tested. However in order for this to be undertaken, it is necessary to have the load calculated. Therefore members agreed for Cllr Clarke to contact Prior Associates in order for this to be carried out. It will also be necessary to ascertain if it will be necessary to have structural testing carried out on an annual basis.

Members discussed the cost implications that this work will bring, which will be in the region of £3750 and agreed it will be necessary to request that further funds from Full Council be made available to Christmas Lights in order to pay for this. The budget for 2013/14 could then be reduced by this amount. This matter will be discussed at the Full Council meeting to be held on the 23<sup>rd</sup> July 2012.

7. TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE FROM THE LIGHTING GROUP

Mr Chinery-Colyer advised that the amount of lights that will be erected is dependent on the permission being given by Balfour Beatty for the lamp posts and also the ring pull structural testing on the buildings.

8. TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE FROM THE SWITCH ON GROUP

Cllr Eden reported that the main act has been booked for the evening, the stage has been provisionally booked, and road closures are in place. He also advised that a bag packing day has been booked with Waitrose and also a green coin collection.

9. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The Assistant Clerk reported that at the last Full Council meeting members requested that all committees be asked if they had any Section 106 projects that could be considered a priority. Members agreed that the installation of 50 sockets on lamp posts is necessary to improve the infrastructure and would enable more features to be installed on the approach to Ely. The costs for this project will be around £7500.00. This suggestion will be submitted for consideration at the next Section 106 meeting.

10. DATE OF NEXT MEETINGS

Monday 8<sup>th</sup> October at 7.15pm, Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2013 at 7.15pm, 18<sup>th</sup> March 7.15pm and Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> June at 7.15pm.