



CITY OF ELY COUNCIL
CHRISTMAS LIGHTS COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF A MEETING
HELD ON 31ST JANUARY 2011 AT 7.15 PM

PRESENT:

The Mayor, Cllr B Ashton	Cllr R J Hobbs	Cllr J Chaplin	Cllr P Eden
Cllr N Covell	Cllr J Yates	Cllr S Overall	<i>Mr P Sindall</i>
Mr T Overall	Mr M Chinery-Colyer	Mr J Dennick	Mr N Clarke

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Cllr Pearson and Mr Newstead.

The Mayor congratulated the volunteers on the lighting display for 2010 and that their continued dedication is very much appreciated.

2. REQUEST INTENTION OF THOSE IN ATTENDANCE WHO WISH TO SPEAK ON AN AGENDA ITEM
– (as per standing order 60 b)

There were no intentions.

3. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING & MATTERS ARISING

Minutes of the meeting held on 2nd November 2010, were agreed and signed as a true record.
Page CL 88 refers. There were no matters arising.

4. TO RECEIVE FEEDBACK ON BUDGET UPDATE FROM FINANCE GROUP

Cllr Hobbs reported that the Finance meeting had met prior to this meeting and that there were no significant variances within the budget. Any surplus money within the budget will be carried forward to 2011/12. The Assistant Clerk will look at including the expenditure for the switch on evening within the Christmas lights budget.

5. TO DISCUSS ARTIFICIAL TREE

Cllr Hobbs advised that the committee needs to make a decision on whether or not to proceed with the artificial tree for 2011 or to return to having a real Christmas tree. Mr Chinery-Colyer advised that they had done everything they could to make it work, but unfortunately it was not strong enough. Cllr Hobbs said the trust in the artificial tree had gone and therefore proposed the Council does not continue with it. This was seconded by Cllr Yates and unanimously agreed by members. A letter will be drafted to Festive Lights explaining why the Council is unable to proceed with another artificial tree.

6. TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE FROM THE LIGHTING GROUP

Mr Chinery-Colyer said 2010 was the best year they have had and that there had been very few failures. The lights will continue to be static. Ideas are in progress for 2011, along with modifying the existing lighting. An order will be placed in the next few weeks for the 2011 display. Cllr Eden suggested that as we now have a healthy lighting display it would be a good idea to have a reserve fund for replacement equipment in the future. This will be discussed when the budget is set in October.

7. TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE FROM THE SWITCH ON GROUP

Cllr Eden reported that the switch on evening had returned a small loss however over the past 3 years it had broken even. There had been less sponsorship this year, however the income from the stalls had increased. A report of the income and expenditure for the Switch on Evening is attached to these minutes.

He also advised that the road closures for 2011, have been applied for. It was agreed that the Switch on Event will be on the 25th November 2011.

Cllr Eden requested that a member of the Lighting Group attends the Safety Advisory Group meeting at ECDC on 16th September 2011 at 9.30am.

Cllr Eden advised that Glamnights Entertainment had promised to provide an act for the Switch on Evening from the proceeds from the Boogie in the Park event held in July 2010. Unfortunately the Switch on Group were let down by the organiser as they did not come forward with an act.

8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Cllr Hobbs explained that the Deputy Mayor, Cllr Yates has been charged with putting together an event for the day of the Royal Wedding on the 29th April 2011. Various local organisations are helping with this and Cllr Yates requested if the Lighting Group could put up bunting within the City. Mr Chinery-Colyer agreed that they would do this, however they will require a hoist. The Lighting Group will advise the length of bunting required and the Council will provide this.

9. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

23rd May 2011 7.15pm