



CITY OF ELY COUNCIL
CHRISTMAS LIGHTS COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF A MEETING
HELD ON MONDAY 1ST FEBRUARY 2016 AT 6.30PM

PRESENT:

The Mayor, Cllr E Every Cllr A Arnold Cllr S Friend-Smith Cllr S Pittock
Cllr M Lansell
Mr M Chinery-Colyer Mr J Dennick

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Cllr Lindsay.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

To receive Declaration of Disclosable Pecuniary & other interests, from Councillors as per standing order 83 b

No interests were received.

3. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING & MATTERS ARISING

Minutes of the Christmas Lights Committee meeting held on the 9th November 2015, were agreed and signed as a true record. CL 128 & 129 refer.

Matters Arising: - CL 128 – Shelving for the containers had been installed at a cost of £649.92, which had been analysed to the Switch On budget.

CL129 – Cllr Arnold reiterated that any press releases should be sent via the Deputy Clerk. The Deputy Clerk reported that she had spoken to the Clerk regarding the suggestion of a ‘Donate Now’ link on the Ely Lights Facebook page, the outcome of which was, this would be looked at when the Council changes to online banking.

4. BUDGET UPDATE

Members noted the budget update dated 1st February 2016. There were no significant variances.

The Deputy Clerk reported that it is necessary to carry out remedial work to the electrical connections, which the lights connect to. This work has been ordered and will be undertaken in February, at a cost of £2430.00. This will be analysed to the Switch On budget.

The Deputy Clerk reported she is still awaiting monies from the Switch On night to be received, from Mr Newstead. Once this has been received, a final carry forward figure to 16/17 will be calculated.

5. TO ELECT A COUNCILLOR ON TO THE SWITCH ON AND LIGHTING WORKING GROUPS

Cllr Pittock was elected onto the Switch On Group and Cllr Arnold was elected onto the Lighting Group. Both Councillors will attend meetings and report back to the Christmas Lights Committee.

6. TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE FROM THE LIGHTING GROUP

Mr Chinery-Colyer reported that all went well with the lights, apart from there were a few issues with the electrics, for which remedial work has been ordered. Mr Chinery-Colyer reported that taking down the lights was particularly difficult due to traffic issues. The Mayor agreed to speak to the Police at the next Community Forum regarding how they can help with this.

For 2016/17 it was agreed if the sockets have been included in the new lamp posts then permission will be sought to wrap strings of lights around them and also hang features. Cllr Pittock had been in conversation with Balfour Beatty via email regarding the sockets, and will forward this information to the Deputy Clerk, to follow up.

The general feedback received was that the Christmas lights looked good again this year in particular Sessions House. It was agreed to purchase a new feature for Sessions House instead of a tree, as originally planned, as it was felt a tree would not be seen behind the display on the railings.

Mr Chinery-Colyer advised some new features for across the streets, and also replacement icicle lights for the buildings will also need to be purchased.

7. TO RECEIVE UPDATE FROM SWITCH ON GROUP

There was no update as Mr Newstead was absent from the meeting.

Members noted the letter of complaint received from the Drayman's Son. The points raised in the letter were discussed and it was agreed to invite the owner to attend both Switch On and Lighting working Groups, to see how the Council can work with the businesses in Fore Hill in order to engage them within the Lights and Switch on event. It was recognised that mistakes were made on switch on day and these must be avoided in the future.

8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS.

The Deputy Clerk will place an order for a book which gives guidance to erecting lights.

Mr Chinery-Colyer advised it will be necessary to obtain a Christmas Tree from elsewhere as the existing supplier is no longer trading.

9. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Tuesday 19th April 2016 @ 6.30pm. Additional meetings will be arranged if they are required.