



**CITY OF ELY COUNCIL
CHRISTMAS LIGHTS COMMITTEE**

**MINUTES OF A MEETING
HELD ON 12TH JULY 2010 AT 7.15 PM**

PRESENT:

Cllr R J Hobbs
Cllr N Covell

Cllr S Overall
Mr P Sindall

Cllr J Chaplin
Mr N Clarke

Cllr P Eden Cllr Pearson
Mr M Chinery-Colyer Mr J Dennick

In the absence of the Mayor and Deputy Mayor, the Assistant Clerk chaired the meeting for items 1 and 2.

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from The Mayor, Cllr B Ashton, The Deputy Mayor, Cllr J Yates & Mr T Overall & Mr I Newstead.

2. ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN AND CO-OPTION OF MEMBERS

The Assistant Clerk requested nominations for Committee Chairman. Cllr Eden proposed Cllr Hobbs, which was seconded by Cllr Overall and unanimously agreed by members. Cllr Hobbs then chaired the meeting and requested nominations for co-opted members. Cllr Eden proposed Mr P Sindall, Mr M Chinery-Colyer, Mr T Overall, Mr T French, Mr N Clarke, Mr J Dennick, Mr J Simmonds & Mr I Newstead, which were seconded by Cllr Overall and unanimously agreed by members.

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

There were no intentions.

4. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING & MATTERS ARISING

Minutes of the meeting held on 15th March 2010, were agreed and signed as a true record.

Page CL 84 refers.

Cllr Eden reported that the letter received from a parishioner regarding the blandness of the Market Place, had been referred to the Street Furniture Committee. This was currently being discussed with East Cambridgeshire District Council. Mr Chinery-Colyer reported that the Cheese and Wine evening had been a great success with just over £600 being raised for the Christmas Lights.

5. TO RECEIVE FEEDBACK ON BUDGET FROM FINANCE GROUP

Cllr Hobbs reported that the finance meeting had met prior to this meeting. He advised members that new lights will be purchased for the artificial Christmas tree. However all members of the committee need to be conscious of the budget and all requests for purchasing equipment must be forwarded to the Assistant Clerk for approval, in order to keep spending to a minimum.

6. TO RECEIVE UPDATE ON ARTIFICIAL TREE

Mr Chinery-Colyer advised that the replacement artificial tree was on its way from the manufacturer. He also advised that the supplier was happy that the tree had now been strengthened adequately. The Assistant Clerk will request a structural engineers report from the supplier prior to the delivery of the tree. The Assistant Clerk advised members that she had written twice to the supplier requesting compensation for the cost of purchasing a real tree last year, at short notice. However no response to this letter had been received. Mr Colyer will telephone the supplier on Friday to discuss the matter further.

7. TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE FROM THE LIGHTING GROUP

Mr Chinery-Colyer advised that the lighting team had been out a few weekends, testing equipment etc. The same team will be erecting the lights, however extra people will be required to erect the Christmas tree.

8. TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE FROM THE SWITCH ON GROUP

Cllr Eden reported that a donation from the proceeds of the Boogie in the Park to be held on the 24th July will be made to the switch on evening. He also said things were moving forward and that there will be a celebrity from X Factor at the switch on evening. He is still waiting to hear from the Churches Together in Ely regarding the Living Nativity.

9. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Cllr Overall requested that the artificial tree be erected in one day. Cllr Hobbs requested that the tree be erected on the last day possible so as not to interfere with the market.

10. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Thursday 16th September 2010 at 7.15 pm