



CITY OF ELY COUNCIL  
CHRISTMAS LIGHTS COMMITTEE

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MINUTES OF A MEETING  
HELD ON MONDAY 18<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2013 AT 6.30 PM

PRESENT:

Cllr E Griffin-Singh	Cllr S Overall	Cllr J Mackay
Cllr C Jones	Cllr P Eden (arrived 7.07 pm)	<i>Cllr N Clarke</i>
<i>Mr M Chinery-Colyer</i>	<i>Mr T Overall</i>	<i>Mr J Dennick</i>
<i>Mr J Tanner (member of the public)</i>		

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from The Mayor, Cllr W Burton, Cllr J Chaplin, Cllr A Arnold, Mr J Dennick and Mr I Newstead. Cllr Eden had advised the Assistant Clerk that he may be late to the meeting or possibly be unable to attend. In the absence of Cllr Chaplin, Cllr Overall as vice-chair, chaired the meeting.

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 19<sup>th</sup> November 2012, were agreed and signed as a true record. CL 105 and 106 refers. There were no matters arising.

4. TO RECEIVE FEEDBACK ON BUDGET UPDATE FROM FINANCE GROUP

Cllr Overall reported that the Finance Group had met prior to this meeting and that there were no significant variances within the budget. She reported that a decision had been made to incorporate the Finance Group meeting in with the Christmas Lights Committee meeting, as the same members attended both. Therefore, there will only be one Christmas Lights Committee meeting in future.

5. TO RECEIVE UPDATE ON LAMP POSTS

Cllr Overall and Cllr Clarke had carried out an inspection of the lamp posts in the City Centre. There are three temporary lamp posts on the Market Place. A response from Cambridgeshire County Council is still awaited regarding permission to use the lamp posts for Christmas lights. Permission is necessary for the display to work strategically.

Mr Chinery-Colyer asked if there had been any progress with the request for Section 106 monies to install sockets. The Assistant Clerk reported that she was sure the request had been rejected, but would check and report back at the next meeting.

Members agreed that permission to install sockets on thirteen lamp posts on the High Street should be obtained from Balfour Beatty, and the costs for doing these.

6. TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE FROM THE LIGHTING GROUP

Mr Chinery-Colyer reported that it had been very difficult erecting lights on buildings. The group lacked core volunteers and to overcome this he would be circulating a form, requesting people to complete when they are available, and the task they would be willing to carry out. He said there should not be a need to purchase many lights this year, other than white icicle lights for the Market Place. This will enable them to concentrate on the infrastructure. He also agreed to look at the box, which in previous years has surrounded the Christmas tree, to see if this could be used.

#### 7. TO RECEIVE UPDATE FROM SWITCH ON GROUP.

Cllr Eden reported that there was nothing to report, other than that Mr Newstead is getting on with things. He reported that the 2012 switch on evening had broken even.

#### 8. TO DISCUSS REQUEST FROM KD THEATRE PRODUCTIONS.

The Assistant Clerk reported a request had been received from KD Theatre Productions to put advertisement banners around the Christmas tree. The group would be willing to put forward volunteers to help erect the lights. They would also like to walk around the square on switch on evening, handing out leaflets and helping to create a festive ambience.

Members were unable to agree at present, the request for the banners around the Christmas tree, as a review of what structure will surround the tree is to be undertaken.

With regard to helping with the lights and providing entertainment on the switch on evening, they will be requested to contact Mr Chinery-Colyer and Mr Newstead respectively.

It will be necessary to carry out a fixed wiring test. Mr Chinery-Colyer will contact Mr French to obtain the cost for this.

#### 9. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Members agreed that a new Council Christmas banner should be purchased.

Mr Chinery-Colyer gave thanks, on behalf of the Committee to Mr Tanner and his team of volunteers for all the help they gave in erecting the lights. Without their help the Christmas lights in Ely would not have been possible. The Assistant Clerk requested possible dates for the presentation of the certificates to be made by the Mayor to the volunteers from USAF Mildenhall.

The successful winner of the Christmas Lights competition came from Littleport.

A competition for 2013 could be arranged with Ely Traders. Cllr Griffin-Singh will mention this at their next meeting.

Mr Chinery-Colyer said the Cadets would like to arrange another joint fundraising event, possibly a 1940's dance. This will be discussed at the next meeting.

#### 9. DATE OF NEXT MEETINGS

Monday 10<sup>th</sup> June at 6.30pm, Monday 16<sup>th</sup> September at 6.30pm, Monday 11<sup>th</sup> November at 6.30pm, Monday 20<sup>th</sup> January 2014, at 6.30pm, Monday 31<sup>st</sup> March at 6.30pm 2014, Monday 9<sup>th</sup> June 2014 at 6.30pm