



CITY OF ELY COUNCIL
CHRISTMAS LIGHTS COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF A MEETING
HELD ON MONDAY 26TH FEBRUARY 2019 AT 6.30PM

PRESENT: Mrs S Jay – Deputy Clerk to the Council

The Mayor - Cllr M Rouse

Cllr A Arnold

Cllr I Lindsay Mr J Dennick

Mr P Eden

Mr M Chinery-Colyer

Mr I Newstead

Mrs T Harding – Tourism & Town Centre Manager

Before the meeting commenced, The Mayor advised members that Cllr J Pearson had resigned from the Council. This was noted by members.

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Cllrs Hobbs & Every.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were received.

3. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING (HELD ON 4th FEBRUARY 2019) & MATTERS ARISING

It was agreed to defer the minutes of the Christmas Lights Committee meeting held on the 4th February 2019, to the next meeting to be held on 1st April 2019.

4. TO DISCUSS PROS AND CONS OF CHANGING SWITCH ON EVENT TO A SUNDAY

Before any discussion took place and before a decision was made, members agreed that a change to the event day would not be implemented in 2019.

Members discussed the following points:-

A. Costs

- Market
- Refuse Collection
- Traffic Management
- First Aid
- Stage
- Acts
- Staff overtime

B. Stalls

- Availability of stall holders
- Availability of Fair Rides

C. Shops

- Sunday trading hours

D. Volunteer

- Availability
- Hereward Rotary – Availability of stewards

E. Expected Attendance

Mr Newstead circulated a report which includes the above points and reflects the thoughts of the Switch On Sub Group. This report is attached to and forms part of these minutes.

Chairman
1st April 2019

The Deputy Clerk reported that although Cllr Hobbs was unable to attend the meeting, he had sent an email in support of changing the day to a Sunday, as he felt there would be less disruption to residents and businesses.

Further comments were made by members:-

- Possible complications with the existing Sunday Market and ECDC.
- Traffic Management – greater numbers of cars etc on a Sunday.
- Stage set up would take longer, as the event would need to run from 12 noon, so set up would be from 1 am Sunday morning. Therefore road closures would need to be in place for longer (from midnight Saturday).
- The availability of fair ground rides and stall holders is unknown.
- Attendance is likely to be greater and therefore more of an increased risk to safety.
- Barriers and stewards would be needed for longer.

The Mayor thanked Mr Newstead for his report. He asked if it would be possible in anyway, to scale the event back to a more traditional theme and to extend the event over the weekend to benefit the business more. Also look at the possibility of working with Ely Markets to deliver a Christmas themed market. The Deputy Clerk advised that the weekend is outside of the remit of this Committee and would need referring to the Tourism and Town Centre Committee. Mrs Harding advised there could be conflict in working with Ely Markets, however she said they could consider working with businesses to provide ‘feature’ events, not just for the weekend, but for the 24 days prior to Christmas. Cllr Arnold requested that the Tourism and Town Centre Committee liaises with the Christmas Lights Committee regarding this.

Mr Newstead said he could look at scaling back the event but people have come to expect the existing format.

All members agreed that the Mayor and Deputy Mayor should arrange to meet with ECDC markets to resolve the ongoing issues with regards to erecting the lights etc.

5. SUMMARY AND PROPOSAL

The Mayor proposed that a recommendation is made to Full Council that the Christmas Lights Switch on Event will remain on a Friday evening, the fourth Friday before Christmas. This proposal was seconded by Cllr Arnold and unanimously agreed by members.

6. DATE OF NEXT MEETINGS

- Monday 1st April @ 6.30pm.
- Tuesday 11th June @ 6.30pm.
- Monday 19th August @ 6.30pm
- Monday 14th October @ 6.30pm
- Monday 11th November @ 6.30pm
- Monday 3rd February 2020 @ 6.30pm
- Monday 16th March @ 6.30pm
- Additional meetings will be arranged if required.

Chairman
1st April 2019