



**CITY OF ELY COUNCIL
CHRISTMAS LIGHTS COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF A VIRTUAL MEETING
HELD ON WEDNESDAY 29TH APRIL 2020**

PRESENT: Mrs S Jay – Deputy Clerk to the Council

Cllr K Wilkins	Cllr S Austen	Cllr S Bellow	Cllr E Every
Cllr R Denness	Mr I Newstead	Mr P Eden	Miss L Newstead
Mr M Chinery-Colyer			

ABSENT:

Cllr M Downey

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Mr J Dennick.

2. TO RECEIVE DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were received.

3. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING (HELD ON 11TH NOVEMBER 2019) & MATTERS ARISING

Minutes of the meeting held on the 11th November 2019 were agreed by members and taken as signed by the Chairman, as a true record. Pages CL 177 & CL 178 refer.

There were no matters arising.

4. BUDGET UPDATE

Members noted the budget update circulated with the agenda and also the income and expenditure report dated 24th April 2020. There were no significant variances.

5. HEALTH AND SAFETY ISSUES

Mr Newstead advised that ECDC's Safety Advisory Group has changed the document that is required for the Switch On event and he will be required to complete this in future. He also advised that the Council should not put Christmas Lights on the Sessions House railings.

Mr Chinery-Colyer advised that the Lighting Group were short-handed on the take down of the lights. This could be alleviated this year as the USAF volunteers may be getting involved.

The Deputy Clerk advised that it will be necessary to have the electrical installations inspected this year.

Chairman
9th June 2020

6. TO DISCUSS LIGHTING PLAN FOR 2020 AND APPROVE ORDER FOR LIGHTS

Mr Chinery-Colyer advised that there had been some failures with the lights last year and that it is necessary to purchase additional icicle lights to be used on the High Street. The Deputy Clerk had obtained 3 quotations for these, the cheapest being £3219.71 plus VAT from Festive Lights. Cllr Wilkins proposed that an order be placed for these, this was seconded by Mr Eden and unanimously agreed by members.

The existing lights that are currently stored, will be tested and the best of which will be used to compliment the new ones.

It was agreed the lights will be erected this year, as long as circumstance allow and the necessary Government restrictions are adhered to, with regards to social distancing etc.

7. TO DISCUSS TIMESCALES FOR PLANNING SWITCH ON EVENT FOR 2020 AND FORMAT BASED ON CURRENT BUDGET

Mr Newstead advised that the Switch On sub group had met via Zoom to discuss the event for 2020. After discussion it had been decided that given the current pandemic situation and the restrictions regarding public events, social distancing etc, which may still be in place towards the end of the year, it would not be possible to hold the event planned for the 25th November 2020. Members agreed with this decision. The Deputy Clerk will issue a press release advising of this decision.

Members agreed to arrange an alternative ‘Online Switch on Event’ that will include the community. Once this idea has been discussed further, details will be released in due course.

8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Mr Chinery-Colyer requested that the lighting feature that is usually hung on the Market Place building be erected, with a message thanking the NHS and all those on the working on front line during the current pandemic. Members thought this was very appropriate and agreed to this request.

9. DATE OF NEXT MEETINGS

- Tuesday 9th June 2020 at 6.30pm via Zoom

Due to enforced social distancing caused by the Coronavirus, this meeting took place by video communication, accessed by the Zoom meetings facility.

Chairman
9th June 2020