

CITY OF ELY COUNCIL CHRISTMAS LIGHTS SUB COMMITTEE MINUTES OF A MEETING HELD AT THE MALTINGS, SHIP LANE, ELY ON THE 14TH JULY 2021

PRESENT:

Mrs A Bennett – Tourism & Town Centre Manage Cllr S Bellow Miss L Newstead Mr I Newstead

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Mrs S Jay, Cllr I Lindsay, Cllr A Arnold, Mr J Dennick & Mr M Chinery-Colyer

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were received.

3 TO APPROVE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 5TH MAY AND MATTERS ARISING The minutes of the meeting held on the 5th May were agreed and signed as a true record. Page CLS 001 and CLS 002 refer. Matters arising – Cllr Bellow requested follow up with the Lakenheath volunteers for the event.

4. BUDGET UPDATE

Members noted the budget update, dated 12th July 2021. There were no significant variances.

5. TO RECEIVE UPDATE FROM LIGHTING GROUP

The tree has been ordered £1600 inclusive of delivery and erection.

Mr Chinery-Colyer is working on what lights are required, this will include 9 new features and new icicle lights. The hoists have been booked.

6. TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE FOM THE SWITCH ON GROUP

Cllr Bellow raised the question to Ian and Lucy Newstead regarding the budget for the event, and that as it stands, the event could not proceed with the budget deficit and the cost implications to the City of Ely Council.

Mrs Bennett explained that it may be more appropriate to hold a scaled down event this November, to avoid deficits due to the lack of sponsorship money. Ian Newstead commented that there was plans afoot to secure a large sponsor for the event. Mrs Bennett commented that the health and safety aspect needs to be clarified, and if the event is scaled down, a stage this year and all the other huge outgoings wouldn't be possible. With the current guidelines and covid cases on the rise, the crowds may decide to stay away. Miss Newstead disagreed and said the people will still come along and expect the event to be the same size as it's been in previous years. Mr & Miss Newstead also commented that the event couldn't happen without them, and there was currently no 'plan b', the event plan and budget plan remained the same as it has done in previous years.

Chairman 25th August 2021 Mr Newstead commented that he would be looking to do two things. Firstly, secure event acts which required no deposit, as he was very keen to proceed with planning. Safety Advisory Group meetings were discussed. Mrs Bennett explained that a COVID Risk Assessment would be required, plus the group would require visitor numbers to the event and advice on how this would be monitored as safety was paramount. Mrs Bennett provided a template to Miss Newstead to start populating in order to give it some thought as to how to proceed.

Mr & Miss Newstead were unclear on the budget allocations and requested some clarification from Mrs Jay.

The meeting concluded with the decision that Mr Newstead would take another look at the budget and try to drop more costs where possible. Cllr Bellow said this is crucial as we cannot raise the precept under any circumstances.

Points of action were discussed. Miss Newstead requested Mrs Bennett liaise with the City traders as to what they would like to happen as Mrs Bennett, as Town Centre Manager requested this is has lapsed over the years and the businesses are not involved. Mr Newstead replied that the event over the years has not received the support and publicity it required to generate interest from the town centre.

All decided that the event would need to better be spaced out and perhaps using the High Street as a link to the event and create involvement with the High Street. Mrs Bennett said it's very important this event was community based after lockdowns and lack of trade. Fund raising options were discussed for forthcoming Apple and Harvest Day, October 9th, and other ideas.

7. ANY OTHER BUSINESS.

There was no any other business.

8. DATES OF NEXT MEETING Wednesday 25th August 2021 @ 6.30pm, at the Maltings

Chairman 25th August 2021