



CITY OF ELY COUNCIL  
CHRISTMAS LIGHTS SUB COMMITTEE  
MINUTES OF A MEETING  
HELD AT THE MALTINGS, SHIP LANE, ELY  
ON THE 25<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2022 AT 6.00 pm

PRESENT:

Mrs S Jay – Deputy Clerk	Mrs A Bennett – Tourism & Town Centre Manager	
Cllr S Bellow (Chair)	Cllr A Arnold	Mr M Chinery-Colyer
Mr J Dennick	Cllr E Every	Mr P Eden
Mr I Newstead*	Miss L Newstead*	

\*Arrived 6.07pm

1. APOLOGIES

No apologies were received.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were received.

3. TO APPROVE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 9<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2021 AND MATTERS ARISING

Members approved the minutes of the meeting held on the 9<sup>th</sup> November 2021, these were then signed by the Chairman as a true record. Page CLS 10 refers. There were no matters arising. Cllr Every thanked all those involved in putting up the lights, the display was truly amazing and had raised everyone’s spirits.

4. BUDGET UPDATE

Members noted the budget update dated 18<sup>th</sup> January 2022, there were no significant variances.

5. TO RECEIVE UPDATE FROM LIGHTING GROUP

Mr Chinery-Colyer reported the team had to overcome a few problems and lighting failures, some may need investigating by an electrician. He said the turn out from the USAF volunteers has been amazing and that a date to present them with their certificates will be arranged in due course. The Mayor will be requested to write a thankyou letter to the volunteers in recognition of all their hard work. The provision of refreshments will be brought in house and charged to the Christmas Lights budget accordingly. The team had thought about going to the NEC Spring Fair, however Mrs Jay reported that only one supplier that is of interest, will be at the show and therefore it may not be worthwhile. Mrs Jay advised she would not be attending due to her current workload.

6. TO RECEIVE UPDATE FROM TOURISM AND TOWN CENTRE MANAGER REGARDING THE FUTURE OF THE SWITCH ON EVENT AS DISCUSSED AT THE TOURISM AND TOWN CENTRE COMMITTEE MEETING

Mrs Bennett reported on the success of the Christmas Light shopping event and that there had been stalls inside and outside the house with 1800 people attending. The City Centre traders had also had a successful day from visitors who collected a map from Oliver Cromwell’s House and were able to benefit from offers from participating shops.

Cllr Bellow then reported that the Tourism and Town Centre Committee had a discussion on how to deliver the Switch On Event in future years. It had been agreed the event would be brought in house and an event similar to last year would be built on to include City Centre traders and charities. Mr Newstead, Miss Newstead and Mr Eden were extremely unhappy at this decision and took it very personally. Mr Eden asked why this decision had been made. Cllr Bellow replied that Covid had given the Council the opportunity to look at the events it delivers and this event costs a great deal of money to put on, and that it will be more cost effective to reduce the event in scale whilst still being a community event, but also benefit the traders at the same time.

Mr Newstead, Miss Newstead and Mr Eden did not agree with the explanation and advised the event costs the Council £5145.00 and the rest is gained from sponsorship.

*At 6.30pm Miss Newstead left the meeting. At 6.35 pm Miss Newstead returned.*

Cllr Bellow confirmed the decision to deliver the event differently had been made, however the Council would not have any objection to Mr Newstead looking at providing a similar event as he had in the past, but unfortunately this would be without the support, financial or otherwise of the Council. Miss Newstead expressed her dismay with this suggestion.

*Miss Newstead, Mr Newstead and Mr Eden left the meeting at 6.45 pm.*

Members were understanding that the Newstead family and Mr Eden were very disappointed with the decision. It was noted that they had all dedicated many years in providing the event for which the Council is grateful, but for the reasons as already stated it is felt a more trader involved approach was necessary to see this event develop to benefit the City Centre economy.

#### 7. ANY OTHER BUSINESS.

There was no any other business.

A member of the public arrived at 6.50 pm and requested to ask a question, but as there is no public participation allowed at the meeting, was unable to speak.

#### 8. DATES OF NEXT MEETING

26th April 2022 (change from 19th April) @ 6pm

The meeting ended at 6.55pm