



CHRISTMAS LIGHTS COMMITTEE

Minutes of the Christmas Lights Committee meeting held in the Cowie Room, Public Hall on Wednesday 16th January 2019 at 12 noon.

190 PRESENT

Cllr. Mrs Page, (Chairman) Cllr. Cheeseman, Cllr Corbett, Cllr. Turner, Mr D Beazer, Mrs J Moss, Mrs H Upham; also Mrs C Bright (Town Clerk).

191 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cllr Faulkner and Miss W Wallbridge.

192 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST & DISPENSATIONS

No declarations were received.

193 MINUTES OF THE CHRISTMAS LIGHTS COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 20TH NOVEMBER 2018

The minute of the Christmas Lights Committee meeting held on 20th November 2018 having previously been circulated were confirmed and signed as a correct record.

194 OBSERVATIONS & FEEDBACK

(a) Christmas trees and lighting

General consensus on lighting:

- Beaminster looked good, especially the lights in Church Street
- white and gold color theme had been well received
- the additional business trees boosted the display

The negative - it was felt that the main Christmas tree would have been more of a prominent feature had it had more lights.

The suggestion was put forward to investigate the possibility of some form of lighting to highlight 'Julia' all year round.

(b) Activities in the Square

Santa's Grotto situated in 'Julia' had been a success as was the snow machine.

Members felt the band and carol singers had been in the best position next to the Christmas tree.

The children's activities were well received – but not enough to hold their attention.

It had been regrettable that the lantern parade had not been wholly visible, changes would be pursued for 2019.

Members noted the lack of co-ordination with regard to timings which resulted in some confusion. It was **AGREED** there must be a designated person in overall control of the programme of events.

(c) Beaminster School Christmas Fair

Resounding success in the Church – lovely atmosphere, 24 stalls and sufficient room.

Some internal layout issues had been highlighted and an earlier start required.

In general the unloading/loading timetable and one way traffic system worked well although more helpers were required to assist stallholders transport goods to/from their vehicles.

(d) Road closure and marshalls

No significant problems with the road closure or marshalls with the exception that the Memorial Playing Field gate needed to be unlocked earlier as there had been a queue of cars waiting to park.

The suggestion was put forward that the marshalls should be offered some form of refreshment at the end of the evening, this would be considered for 2019.

(e) Advertising

It was **AGREED** that advertising posters/copy were required a lot earlier in order to be consistent in all forms of advertising.

195 BUDGET IMPLICATIONS 2019

Discussion took place with regard to the Committee's budget requirements for 2019/2020 and it was **AGREED** to **RECOMMEND** an increase in the lighting budget requirement to £5,000 and the entertainment budget to £1,000.

Discussion ensued with regard to business Christmas trees and it was agreed that 2018 had been an exception due to the ATM raid and a charge should be levied for Christmas trees in 2019, albeit reduced from previous years – the cost of £15 per tree was suggested.

Members **AGREED** to make a donation in the sum of £100 to Weldmar Hospice for assistance with disposal of the business trees and a donation to Beaminster Young Farmers in the sum of £10 for their assistance with putting the lights on the trees.

196 DATE OF 2019 CHRISTMAS LIGHTS FESTIVAL 2019

The date of the Christmas Lights Festival 2019 was set for Friday 29th November.

In order to streamline discussion as committee meetings members **AGREED** to focus on just one aspect of the evening per meeting, the first being the main Christmas tree and lighting.

Suggestions were put forward for consideration – roast chestnuts, ice cream, glitter tattoos, children's Entertainer and transform the Square into a Christmas scene with helpers in costume.

197 FUNDRAISING

Members **AGREED** that in order to enhance the Festival and lighting, additional monies would have to be raised during the year. One suggestion put forward was to place 'donation tins' in shops and businesses for people to donate loose change.

198 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The date of the next meeting to be arranged to the convenience of Torbay Display.

199 MEETING

The meeting which started at 12 noon closed at 2.00pm

