

BEVERLEY TOWN COUNCIL

BEVERLEY CHRISTMAS LIGHTS (Working Group Meeting)

23rd June 2015

Present: Councillors Dodsworth and Willis, Peter Jacobson (ERYC), Phil Scaife (Chamber of Trade) Prue Blake (Fund Raising Group) and Harry Burton (Beverley Lions)

In attendance: Carol Oliver (Deputy Town Clerk)

Introductions took place

1. To receive apologies for absence

No apologies for absence were received.

2. To elect a Chair for the next municipal year

Councillor Willis was elected as Chair for the next municipal year.

3. To elect a Vice-Chair for the next municipal year

Councillor Dodsworth was elected as Vice-Chair for the next municipal year.

4. To note the minutes of the meeting of the 21st April 2015

The minutes of the meeting on the 21st April 2015 were noted.

5. Matters arising not on the Agenda

Mrs Blake said that in minute 467 it was a “Last Night of the Proms” concert and not concerts in general.

Mr Burton said that in minute 469, “there is another Lions Club called Westwood Lions Club”.

6. To receive the financial accounts

Financial accounts stand at:

- Town Council £666 (half precept of £3750 and VAT refund of £2924.73 are awaited from the Town Council in the next few days)
- Fund Raising Group £8323

7. To discuss the future of the erection of the Christmas trees

The health and safety issues relating to the erection of the Christmas Trees was discussed. Cllr Dodsworth said he would be able to get drivers for free for a scissor lift and would make enquiries for provision of scissor lifts for free. A discussion took place about businesses entering a “best Christmas window” competition. There would be a charge of £5 to be entered into the

competition and a plaque and certificate would be presented to the winner. Mr Scaife agreed to discuss this with the Chamber of Trade and report back at the next meeting.

An additional issue this year is that all the brackets need stress testing and this will increase the cost to the businesses as they pay for this. Fewer companies are undertaking this work due to the insurance and risks as the work can damage the wall. If brackets fail, it is expensive for the business to have the bracket repaired. The option is to give the lights to the businesses and advise them of the specification of the tree and the responsibility would then lie with the businesses. The cost of stress testing is to be obtained. Mr Jacobson is to send the Deputy Town Clerk details of companies she can contact to obtain quotations.

8. To receive an update on fund raising events

Mrs Blake reported events are planned:

The Ladies' Day has sold out.

Walking Treasure Hunt on 2nd July £7 to include supper. It is leaving from the Royal Oak at 630pm and returning at 8pm for supper.

Claire West Artist Evening on the 9th July 2015

Bag Pack on the 21st November at Tesco

Other events in the planning are:

Flower Demonstration in November, Sculptor workshop, Quarto Event in February, Jewellery Making evening, Scientist Skin event, Valuation Event, Fashion Show and Games Night.

Cllr Dodsworth suggested a Santa's Grotto in the lead up to the event whereby parents would donate for a photograph of their child with Santa. The parents take the photograph on their own camera or telephone. Cllr Dodsworth is to approach Tesco to enquire whether a Santa's Grotto can be held on the bag pack day in Tesco to raise awareness and funds for Christmas Lights Appeal Group.

9. To discuss the 2015 event

Mr Burton reported the Market Cross Service is all organised with the Minster County Primary School Choir and Stephen Caddy from Toll Gavel Church leading this.

The Deputy Town Clerk is to approach both school and community choirs to enquire whether they would be prepared to take part in the event.

Mrs Blake reported that Ben Shires from Officially Amazing on CBBC has agreed to switch the lights on. The competition for the children is to design a Christmas Outfit for Ben to wear. He will judge the competition, present the prizes and switch on the lights on the trees.

Mr Scaife reported that the Chamber of Trade are discussing the event. They have agreed not to have the movie this year as it is not worth it. The ice rink, charity stalls and fun fair are all to be kept. Beverley FM are to be approached in connection with the stage area.

The Deputy Town Clerk is to enquire if the handyman would be able to assist with the moving of the staging from the Beverley Minster to Wednesday Market on the 28th November.

10. To consider any future purchases

Mrs Blake showed the committee the survey she had received from Festive Lighting. A meeting is to take place with Mr Parnaby and other officers from the East Riding of Yorkshire Council and Mrs Blake and members of the Christmas Lights Appeal Group to ask if East Riding of Yorkshire Council would be prepared to consider the installation of the lighting up of the three trees in front of County Hall.

The Christmas Lights Appeal Group would like to purchase 6 little blizzards to be placed on the lamp posts in Saturday Market so they have two on them which would give more impact. They had agreed that any future sponsorship of lights would be for three years. The Group would also like to purchase string lights for the area from Hugh Rice to Mountain Warehouse.

Mrs Blake said the consideration of the purchase of a Cone Tree for Wilkinson needs to take place.

A tree for the garden near the Wykeland Development was looked at and the Beverley Christmas Lights Group are to approach the new centre manager to enquire whether they would consider funding the siting of this.

Mr Jacobson said that the storage at Dreamers is at capacity and more storage would be needed to store new purchases. Cllr Dodsworth and Mr Jacobson are to meet to look at the storage and whether shelving would be of assistance.

It was agreed another meeting would be required as some of the purchases have a three month lead in time for ordering and September would be too late to order these.

Mr Burton asked if a letter of appreciation could be sent to Mrs Kate Gray for all her sterling work whilst she was Chair of the Christmas Lights committee. All members agreed. The Deputy Town Clerk is to write to her on behalf of the Christmas Lights committee.

The date of the next meeting is the 21st July 2015 at 1.30pm.