

# BEVERLEY TOWN COUNCIL

## BEVERLEY CHRISTMAS LIGHTS (Working Group Meeting)

9<sup>th</sup> February 2016

**Present:** Cllrs Willis (Chair) and Dodsworth, Joy Jack (Appeal Group) and Harry Burton (Beverley Lions)  
Phil Scaife (Chamber of Trade) Julian Minshall (Chamber of Trade)

**In attendance:** Graham Tait (Wykeland), Judy Sager (Beverley Westwood Lions), Les Ford (Beverley Westwood Lions), Natalie Acton (UK Event Associates) and Carol Oliver, Deputy Town Clerk

Cllr Willis welcomed everyone to the meeting and wished everyone a Happy New Year.

### **30 To receive apologies for absence**

Apologies of absence were received from Cllr T Astell, Mrs Prue Blake, Rod Towse (Event Officer ERYC), Ray Holmes (Cascare) and David Fewster, Beverley FM (due to ill health).

### **31 To note the minutes of the meeting of the 11<sup>th</sup> November 2015**

The minutes of the meeting held on the 11<sup>th</sup> November 2015 were noted.

### **32 Matters arising not on the Agenda**

No matters arising.

### **33 To receive the financial accounts**

The Deputy Town Clerk reported in the Town Council account there is £7088.96 but the account from East Riding of Yorkshire Council is awaited for their work in erecting and dismantling the lights and snowflakes around the town.

Joy Jack reported that there is £9028.37 but some invoices are yet to be paid for lights purchased - invoices are awaited.

### **34 To discuss the storage of Christmas Lights**

Joy Jack reported that the cone tree base for the tree which was outside Wilcos is too big to be stored in the storage unit and also at her premises. At present, the base is being stored by East Riding of Yorkshire Council. The smaller pieces can be stored once the container has been rearranged. A friend of Joy's has a shipping container in Hull that would be able to accommodate the smaller pieces but it is the large cone tree base which needs storage. Cllr Dodsworth said he could assist with the storage of the smaller pieces if required.

### **35 To discuss the lights outside County Hall**

Joy Jack reported that the lights outside County Hall have not been erected due to problems with electricity. Joy has been informed that the electricity problems will be sorted to ensure the lights are working before Christmas 2016. It is intended that the lights will be lit for six months of the year which will enhance the lighting in the area and link with the lighting of East Riding Theatre.

### **36 To discuss the 2015 event**

Cllr Willis gave everyone present the opportunity to give their positives and negatives of the 2015 event.

#### **Positives:**

- Sleigh was very good
- Despite immense pressure from the weather the event went ahead with some modifications.
- It was good to see Flemingate involved for the first time.
- Ben Shires was a credit to Beverley and interacted well with the young people.
- Businesses stepped up.

- The connection between the different places was better this year.
- Town Crier excellent
- Market Cross service was excellent – it is well established and works well.

**Negatives:**

- Variety of charity stalls
- Due to the success of the event, companies are trying to charge more for attractions.
- Wednesday Market was quiet
- Infrastructure, medical cover and security needed refining.
- Did not feel like Christmas
- Impact of lights due to early switching on
- Not feel like Christmas
- Saturday Market looked bland – needs more colour/sparkling up
- Communication not good
- Plans changed for Father Christmas 10 days before the event
- Present not satisfactory
- No traffic management when fair was taken down

Cllr Dodsworth thanked the Beverley Westwood Lions for the sleigh and also the Beverley Christmas Lights Appeal Group for all their hard work throughout the year and at the event.

The history of how the event came about was explained. It was a switch on event for the last 15 years on different evenings and starting at Wednesday Market or Market Cross with a procession led by a local band. Five years ago the Chamber of Trade became involved in order to put something on in Saturday Market in recognition of the High Street. The Chamber of Trade funded fireworks the first year and other events have been brought in each year. Two years ago the fairground was introduced. The fairground splits its profits 50/50 with the Chamber of Trade. The Saturday Market event is funded by the Chamber of Trade in order to attract footfall to Beverley and enhance the high street. The Deputy Town Clerk explained that as part of the precept the Town Council gives £7500 to fund the infrastructure of the event. There are no available funds in the monies received from the Town Council for an event.

Mr Tait said Flemingate want to be included and are keen to help and participate in conjunction with Beverley Town Council.

As the event is a victim of its success, the event is getting beyond what the Chamber of Trade can manage for health and safety. The purpose of the event needs to be looked at which needs to be decided by Beverley Town Council. The event needs to be a blend of history, tradition, signifies the start of Christmas, enhance the feel of the event and high street in Beverley.

Cllr Dodsworth asked if the finances from the Chamber of Trade for the Christmas event could be available to see. Mr Minshall said the accounts are audited every year for the Chamber of Trade. He said donations have been made to Beverley Lions and Beverley Westwood Lions in the sum of £150 each.

**37 To discuss the 2016 event**

After discussion it was agreed that the event would be held on Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> November 2016. Members agreed to ask Beverley Town Council what they wanted the event to be as it is held on their Licence and insurance. Members asked whether the Town Council wanted:

- (a) A switch on of the lights, children's competition and Beverley Lions service at Market Cross.
- Or
- (b) All of (a) together with an event in Saturday Market which signifies the start of Christmas, enhances the high street and brings the people of the town together.

The Deputy Town Clerk is to put this proposal to Beverley Town Council meeting on the 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2016.

It was agreed to co-opt a member of Beverley Westwood Lions onto the working party of Christmas Lights.

**Date of next meeting:** 1<sup>st</sup> March 2016 at 1.30pm at 12 Well Lane.

Meeting closed at 2.45pm.