

**CHRISTMAS SUB COMMITTEE MEETING OF THE
WITNEY TOWN COUNCIL**

Held on Monday, 21 October 2019

At 6.00 pm in the Gallery Room, The Corn Exchange, Witney

Present:

Councillor J Aitman (Chair)

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| Councillors: | T Ashby | J King |
| | D Butterfield | R Smith |
| Officers: | Nicky Cayley | Democratic Services Officer |
| | Tracy Minns | Cemeteries & Projects Officer |
| | John Hickman | Operations & Estates Officer |
| Others: | 2 members of the public. | |

418 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

An apology for his absence was received from Cllr Owen Collins.

419 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest in matters to be discussed at the meeting.

420 **MINUTES**

The Committee received and considered the minutes of the meeting held on 1 July 2019.

There were no matters arising.

RESOLVED: that the minutes of the meeting held on 1 July 2019 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

421 **UPDATE ON CHRISTMAS LIGHTING DISPLAY**

The Sub Committee received and considered the report of the Operations and Estates Officer.

Members discussed the environmental impact of the Christmas Lights being continually on and estimated that they could save half of the carbon emissions if they were only on from 2pm – 2am, for example. However, it was noted that at this stage in the contract it would not be sensible to fit timers, and therefore this should be something required in the next tender.

RECOMMENDED:

1. that the report be noted;

2. that the Committee notes that it is aware of the carbon footprint of the Christmas Lights and that timers will be looked at when the contract is retendered.

422 **UPDATE ON SWITCH ON EVENT FROM ROTARY**

The Committee welcomed Mr Tony Carter from Rotary and Mrs Dianne Parks from Witney Wonderland.

From a Rotary perspective, preparations were going well and the event would follow the same format as the previous year.

A new addition would be a lantern parade in conjunction with Witney Wonderland. Mr Carter and Mrs Parkes explained that the two organisations had been working well together. Mrs Parks said that there had been a huge surge towards the Church at the end of the switch on which had overwhelmed Witney Wonderland and therefore this year, no events would begin until 6.30pm, giving a half an hour transition period. She suggested that the Town Crier could be used to gather people together for the lantern procession

The Operations and Estates Officer raised concerns about the safe passage of pedestrians without a road closure at the end of Corn Street, as he felt it had been somewhat dangerous last year when everyone had turned to go down to the Church. Mr Carter replied that Rotary could apply for a road closure and put members in fluorescent jackets at points on Corn Street to advise motorists. They could also put marshals on the zebra crossing on Langdale Gate to help traffic and pedestrian management.

A member commented that he felt that a press release should be issued asking people not to use cars on the night of the switch on.

RECOMMENDED:

1. that the update from Rotary be noted;
2. that the update from Dianne Parks of Witney Wonderland be noted;
3. that Rotary applies for an additional road closure for the end of Corn Street (where it meets the High Street) between 6 and 6.30pm to ensure crowd safety when the Switch On ends and the crowds disperse to the church – marshals should be stationed along Corn Street to advise motorists that there is no through road; additionally marshals should be stationed at the zebra crossing on Langdale Gate to allow traffic and pedestrians to use the road in turn.

423 **UPDATE ON ADVENT FAYRE**

The Committee received and considered the report of the Projects Officer.

She added that she was still looking for a Father Christmas if anyone knew of anyone that might help. Mr Carter replied that he would ask his fellow Rotary members as they may be able to help out on this.

RECOMMENDED:

1. that the report be noted;
2. that the Project Officer makes contact with Tony Carter from Rotary to see if a Father Christmas could be sourced from Rotary members;
3. that the Chair would speak to fellow members about volunteering for the Advent Fayre;
4. that the Chair would come back to the Project Officer with craft ideas.

The meeting closed at: 6.35 pm

Chair