

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

Held on Thursday, 27 February 2020

At 4.00 pm in the Gallery Room, The Corn Exchange, Witney

Present:

Councillor J Aitman (Chair)

Councillors:	T Ashby O Collins	R Smith
Officers:	Nicky Cayley John Hickman Tracy Minns	Democratic Services Officer Operations & Estates Officer Cemeteries & Projects Officer
Others:	# members of the public.	

X71 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for their absence were received from Cllrs Butterfield and King.

X72 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

X73 MINUTES

The Committee received and considered the minutes of the meeting held on 21 October 2019.

RECOMMENDED: that the minutes of the meeting held on 21 October 2019 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

X74 FUTURE OPTIONS FOR CHRISTMAS LIGHTS DISPLAY

The Committee received and considered the report of the Operations and Estates Officer concerning options for a new contract for the Christmas Lights. Members were very keen to consider environmentally friendlier options especially solar powered options. It was agreed to request that contractors should be asked to provide these alongside the traditional lights. This should help the Council achieve its carbon neutral target, although it was acknowledged that greener electricity may have to be sought as well.

It was agreed that the Christmas Tree should be retained but as there had been comments that it was too small, that contractors should be asked to provide a wider tree. The idea of an extra tree at the Corn Exchange was also well received.

As members agreed to extend the icicle lighting down to Bridge Street, members asked if businesses could be contacted to see if they might like to contribute. The Operations and Estates officer commented that this might be good coming from Councillors.

RECOMMENDED: that the report be noted and that the new specification for a tender includes the following conditions: -

1. Town Centre Tree should be kept, and that a minimum width should be included.;
2. To add in a large Christmas at the front of the Corn Exchange utilising the existing socket;
3. To extending the current display further down the High Street (the current display is limited to 6 LP Motifs and 1 x Wall motif between Welch Way and the bridge), including any additional LP connections;
4. To include installation of timing devices to all LP connections.
5. To cease installing LP column motifs especially close to trees as many ineffectual due to surrounding trees;
6. To continue the display in trees to Town Centre and Corn St and Welch Way;
7. To continue the use of Icicle lights to buildings;
8. To improve the Church Green lighting display by using uplighters; current display is very limited, possible move from light harnesses to lights in trees;
9. That penalty charges be included in the contract;
10. That all companies submitting tenders be asked to provide solar/environmental options for all lighting.

X75 **UPDATE ON ADVENT FAYRE**

This item was moved up the agenda as Cllr Smith had to leave the meeting. The Committee received the report of the Cemeteries and Project Officer. She explained that she had little support for councillors in what was supposed to be a councillor led event. She had relied on the cadets but could never be 100% sure that they would always be able to attend.

Members understood this and were very keen to retain this event as something that was free for the younger members of the community.

It was agreed to put this on the Council agenda and to ask for firm volunteers for this year.

Members commended the Cemeteries and Project Officer on an excellent event.

RECOMMENDED: that the report be noted and that this item be put on the next Full Council Agenda to highlight the date of the event and to get Councillors to sign up in advance to man stalls.

Cllr Smith left the meeting at this point (16.49) and therefore the meeting was no longer quorate.

X76 **UPDATE ON SWITCH ON EVENT FROM ROTARY**

Mr Ian King from Witney Rotary Club was in attendance to report on last year's event which had gone well. However, Rotary felt that the event and amount of money raised had been diluted by Witney Wonderland opening immediately after the switch on. They had put stilt walkers amongst the crowds enticing people to their event and away from the switch on attractions. Rotary wanted to request that Witney Wonderland started their event at 7.30pm.

Rotary had also spent half an hour marshalling the public across the Langdale Gate Crossing which was something that they were not insured to do and would not do again.

The Operations and Estates Officer commented that it should be made clear that it was the responsibility of Witney Wonderland from now on.

Members asked that a meeting be arranged after the next Full Council meeting on 9 April with the representatives from Witney Wonderland, the Rotary Club and the Town Council to discuss the issues raised by Rotary, in particular the road crossing on Langdale Gate.

This was not a formal recommendation as the meeting was inquorate.

The meeting closed at: 5.00 pm

Chair