

HALLS, CEMETERIES & ALLOTMENTS COMMITTEE

Date: Monday, 4 July 2022

Title: Illumination of the Corn Exchange & Flag Flying

Contact Officer: Deputy Town Clerk – Adam Clapton

Purpose of the Report

To review the current illumination of the Corn Exchange & Flag Flying Policies.

Background

The policy for illumination of the Corn Exchange for Community Occasions was established and adopted by the Council in September/October 2020,

‘Witney Town Council welcomes engagement within the Community and will consider all reasonable requests to illuminate the interior of the Corn Exchange (Lobby & Gallery Room windows) to help mark local or national commemorations/campaigns.’

Current Situation

The date set for review of the policy was 2022.

In addition, the Union flag flying criteria on UK buildings, set by the Government has recently been changed on the Gov.uk website. With immediate effect, the Union Flag should only be flown from buildings to mark the royal birthdays of HRH Queen Elizabeth II and HRH Prince Charles (see Appendix A).

The illumination of the Corn Exchange has been successful with local groups and residents requesting it be lit to mark events including MS Awareness week, remembrance day, transgender day of remembrance, Lib Fest etc.

There is one criterion which needs addressing in relation to point d) of the eligible requests. This would hopefully deter blanket emails from organisations asking for lighting, which have no link to the town,

d) Charitable, community or other non-profit making organisations based in or with a significant connection to Witney and which are celebrating a significant anniversary or occasion.

Members may like to consider amending the policy to:

Charitable, community or other non-profit making organisations based in, with a significant connection to, or requested by someone in Witney.

Environmental impact

Having declared a Climate Change Emergency at its Council meeting on 26 June 2019 – with this in mind Councillors should have due regard to the environmental impact of any decisions they make with regard to its facilities and services it operates.

Risk

In decision making Councillors should give consideration to any risks to the Council and any action it can take to limit or negate its liability.

Financial implications

➤ There are no financial implications.

Recommendations

Members are invited to note the report and:

1. Consider changes to the Illumination of the Corn Exchange policy, as outlined and,
2. Note the changes to the national flag flying policy in relation to Royal birthdays.