

KENDAL TOWN COUNCIL

Christmas Lights Committee : 15th January 2009

PRESENT Councillors P. Graham (Chairman) and R. Boden.

APOLOGIES Apologies were received from Councillors E. Farrell, C. Feeney-Johnson, G. Murfin and M. Radice.

OFFICERS Liz Richardson (Town Clerk), John Hutchinson (Town Treasurer), Mike Mason (Handyman) and Margaret Graham (Secretary).

463/08/09 MINUTES OF 13th OCTOBER 2008

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 13h October 2008 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

464/08/09 TERMS OF REFERENCE

Draft Terms of Reference for the Christmas Lights Committee were considered. It was

RESOLVED that Council be recommended to endorse the adoption by the Committee of the Terms of Reference.

465/08/09 DISPLAY 2008

The Committee considered the achievements of the 2008 display, taking into account comments (by e-mail) from the contractor.

- The “coloured” light strings were better than the former blue and white lights and had been well received by the public, based on positive comments to the contractor during the installation and dismantling procedures.
- The Town Treasurer had been asked by a trader if the lights could be switched on earlier in the day (so that they were on as it became progressively darker during the latter part of November and into December). The lights were on a time clock, so there were two ways of tackling this; either
 - (1) “switch on” earlier (say 3.30 p.m.) and then the lights would come on at that time each day; or
 - (2) “switch on” at 4.00 p.m. (or agreed time) and ask the contractor to come back and re-set the clock to an earlier time on a follow-up visit.
- The colour-changing LED display on Branthwaite Brow had not had the expected impact (due to the LED lights not being as bright; it was felt this needed discussion with the contractor
- The Christmas Tree was OK, but could have been better. It was agreed to consider replacing the real tree with a cone-shaped display (environmentally friendly and cost-effective in the longer term as it could be re-used). Again, this needed discussion with the contractor.

- The contractor advised that the six year old "snowfall" wall mounted motifs should be refurbished or, preferably, replaced – to give the opportunity to provide a new, improved design and component make-up
- The Sandes Avenue/Stricklandgate infrastructure had not been achieved because of the problems of fixing to listed buildings and minimum height requirements.

It was suggested that the monies set aside for this should be re-allocated to provide an improved display (both strings and features) within the main part of town. In addition, the County Council electricity supply at the top of Finkle Street and in the Market Place was no longer to be made available to the Town Council, necessitating that an alternative supply be found (with associated costs)

The Town Treasurer had been advised by the contractor that special offers on equipment would be available from February 2009, and a new brochure for 2009 is due out in April.

It was agreed that Council should be asked to consider re-allocating the money set aside for the Stricklandgate infrastructure, to allow flexibility to cover the costs of a new electricity supply at the top of Finkle Street, refurbishment of existing displays, and the purchase of new/additional equipment (including the possibility of a Christmas Tree Cone) to provide an improved display from 2009.

RESOLVED that Council be recommended to approve the re-allocation of funds (£5,000) not taken up for the 2008 display.

466/08/09 CHRISTMAS LIGHTS SWITCH-ON ARRANGEMENTS 2009

The Town Treasurer stressed that the use of professionals ensured that the event takes place/acts turn up. The link-up to Lakeland Radio and Bay Radio had played an important part in publicising the 2008 event, the turnout on the day, and the success of the event. The horse and carriage and Peter Rabbit were popular with the public.

It had been suggested that switch-on on a Sunday would allow use of the Market Place. However, it was felt that a large-scale Sunday event was outside the Town Council's ability and budget, and the cost of having such an event organised professionally would probably be prohibitive.

It was, therefore, agreed to recommend to Council that the 2009 switch-on event be held on Saturday, 21st November 2009 (at a time to be agreed).

The contractor had indicated that he would be pleased to discuss future plans, and would be contacting the Council to arrange an appointment. The Chairman offered to come into the office to join in the discussions with the contractor.

RESOLVED that Council be recommended to approve that the switch-on event for 2009 be held on Saturday, 21st November (at a time to be arranged).

The meeting ended at 8.10 p.m.