

NEWENT TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of the Christmas Lights Committee held on Wednesday 22nd June 2016, at the Market House, Newent, at 7.30 pm.

Present: Cllrs Mrs K Draper (Chair), Mrs J Davies, E Heathfield, Miss M Shere.

Also present: 1 member of the public and a representative from the Business Club

1.0 Apologies for Absence – None.

1.1 Reflection on last year's event

Cllr Mrs Draper reported that the parade went very well, and it was hoped it could happen again this year. The entertainment was very good, but new ideas would be sought for this year.

The committee went over budget last year as extra lights were purchased due to the fact that they were being discontinued. These should now last hopefully for another 2/3 years.

1.2. Proposed date for this year's event

The proposed date is Saturday 26th November 2016, however, Cllr Mrs Draper would liaise with the Church to ensure it coincided with the Tree Festival.

1.3. Theme ideas for this year's event

Suggested themes put forward were 'Super Heroes' and 'The Twelve Days of Christmas' for the Window Competition.

1.4. Expenditure – Event/Lights display

Budget available this year is £3000. It was suggested that the members of the Town Council donate items to make up a hamper as a prize.

The Committee agreed to purchase the Christmas Tree for the Market Square. Other known expenditure – snow machine, cherry picker hire. Last year the stilts performers were popular. Scaffolding last year was donated. Stairs needed. All lights would need to be checked.

Edwina Gladwin from 'Sweet Memories' had raised £1000 for the purchase of lights – this money is totally separate from the budget. It is hoped the entertainment this year will be cheaper.

A suggestion that maybe the local schools could hold a competition to find a King and Queen to switch on the lights.

Billy Danters' Fun Fair will be invited as always.

4 x 4 road closures did not receive a donation last year, so will not do it this year, so road closures to be organised by us. Unfortunately, our workforce is not helping this year.

Five groups have already expressed an interest in taking part in a procession and volunteers will be needed to organise. Walking procession will meet at the Town Council car park and the main procession from the Recreation Ground.

Three people will be needed around the town to turn on the lights, all at the same time. Two people needed on the scaffolding for safety.

The Business Club will be asked for help. It was noted that any helpers from the Chill Out/Newent Initiative Trust must be over 18. The Rotary Club help a lot and contribute a lot. Hopefully a local choir will take part.

Stalls (maximum of 10) will consist of local produce. Stall holders will be asked to bring their own marquees and electricity.

Edwina Gladwin is organising a Bingo on 15th July to raise further funds, venue to be confirmed.

1.5 Date of next meeting

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 3rd August, 2016 at **6.30 pm**, in the Market House.

More people are needed on the committee. An item will be placed on the agenda for the next meeting, where interested parties may be co-opted onto the committee.

This concluded the business of the meeting and it was declared closed at 8.35 pm.