

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE CHRISTMAS LIGHTS COMMITTEE HELD ON WEDNESDAY 15TH MARCH 2017 AT THE MARKET HOUSE, NEWENT, AT 7.00 pm

Present: Cllrs Mrs Draper (Chair), Mrs Davies, Mrs Shere. Cllr Mrs Moseley and Cllr Heathfield arrived at 7.30 pm.

In attendance: Edwina Gladwin, Kerri Greenwold, Emma Haines. Tracy Heathfield arrived at 7.30 pm.

1. Apologies – there were no apologies for absence.

2. Declarations of Interest – there were none.

3. Minutes of the last meeting

There were no minutes available from the last meeting which finalised everything which had been arranged.

4. Reflection on last year's event

Cllr Draper reported that the event had been very successful, with a lot of support. Many had said how fantastic it had been. The following points were raised which would help to improve the event even further:

- No time to be given for the switch-on, merely to say that the procession would start at a given time, followed by the switch-on. This would prevent young children standing around in the cold for too long.
- A later time to be given for the walkers to meet.
- Providing an incentive to do a float was suggested.
- As there would be a limit to the number of floats, it was suggested places would be on a first come, first served basis, with a refundable deposit of, say, £5 to reserve a place. Any floats which did not turn up would not have the deposit refunded.
- A letter to be sent to all organisations/schools detailing the event, replies to be returned by 1st July, to give people plenty of time to organise a float.
- No burger van this year and only local food, although some local traders are not interested.
- Stallholders – only one of each kind.
- The Disco wants to come again under the Market House.
- Edwina offered to do fundraising for entertainment down her end of town. She is already raffling an Easter Bunny. She was thanked very much for offering to do this. She has in mind a Punch and Judy and possibly a magician, which were thought to be great ideas. She is also organising the reindeer again this year.
- Emma agreed to contact a brass band/Salvation Army to lead the procession, which it felt was lacking last year.

- Feedback concerning the new decoration which had been won by Cllr Heathfield, was that it ought to be in a more prominent position.
- The Superheroes competition had not worked – no response at all.
- Ideas on a theme were discussed. Emma suggested a Victorian theme.

RESOLVED: Cllr Davies proposed and Cllr Draper seconded that the theme for 2017 should be 'A Victorian Christmas'. All Councillors agreed. This would be the theme throughout the entire event, including the Window Competition.

5. Final Accounts for 2016 Event

Thanks to Edwina's fundraising and Cllr Heathfield's competition, there is £2061.95 left in the account, earmarked for this year. This will be added to the Council budget, already set for this year's event. As we cannot put any more lights onto our link, some of the money will be used to put in new plugs and electrics.

6. Proposed date for this year's event

Saturday 25th November, to coincide with St Mary's Church Christmas Tree Festival.

7. Date of next meeting

Wednesday 17th May 2017 at 7.00 pm in the Market House, when the new Committee could be officially formed.

With no further business the meeting closed at 7.55 pm.