

**WIMBORNE MINSTER TOWN COUNCIL**

**MINUTES** of an **EXTRAORDINARY MEETING** of the **TOWN COUNCIL** via video link held on **FRIDAY, 4 SEPTEMBER 2020** at **11.30 am**

**MEMBERS PRESENT VIA VIDEO LINK**

**Cllr S K Bartlett – Town Mayor & Chairman of the Council**  
**Cllr K F Webb – Deputy Town Mayor & Vice-Chairman of the Council**

**Cllr D Burt**  
**Cllr C L Butter**  
**Cllr C A Chedgy**  
**Cllr L C Hinks**  
**Cllr M J Hopkins**  
**Cllr D J March**  
**Cllr W J Richmond**  
**Cllr A E Roberts (joined meeting at 11.36)**  
**Cllr F Shirley**  
**Cllr M R Tidd**

**MEMBER NOT PRESENT**

**Cllr S Wheeler**

**OFFICERS PRESENT VIA VIDEO LINK**

**Town Clerk**  
**Administration Officer**

**288**

**CHRISTMAS LIGHTS**

The Town Clerk submitted a report and the quotation for Christmas lights, a copy of which had been circulated to each Member and a copy of which appears as **Appendix A** to these Minutes in the Minute Book.

The report and quotation set out a reduced Christmas lighting scheme for 2020, 2021 and 2022, supplied by the contractor Slick Events Ltd. It also included provision of a 30ft Christmas Tree for the Square.

The financing of the lights assumed no funding being available from the BID for 2020. Members supported Cllr Chedgy discussing with the BID Board its involvement in the Christmas lighting scheme in 2021 and beyond if its re-election was successful including an undertaking in the pre-election business plan to make a 50% contribution to the cost.

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**RESOLVED**

- a) **that the lighting scheme and quotation supplied by Slick Events Limited be accepted and the Town Clerk be authorised to enter into a 3 year hire contract with the Company in the sum of £23,556 per annum, funded as set out in the report;**
  
- b) **that the offer by Slick Events Limited to supply and erect a 30ft Christmas tree in The Square for the sum of £1,200 be accepted and the cost be met from the Christmas budget.**

**289 REQUEST TO CHANGE COMMITTEE APPOINTMENT**

The Town Clerk reported that he had received a request from Cllr Butter to move her Committee membership from Recreation & Leisure Committee to Planning and Environment Committee where there was a vacancy.

**RESOLVED that the change be approved with immediate effect.**

The meeting closed at 12.03 pm.

Signed .....Date.....  
Town Mayor and Chairman of the Council

## EXTRAORDINARY TOWN COUNCIL

**Date:** 4 September 2020

**Reference:** Item 2: Christmas Lights

**Author:** Town Clerk

**Christmas Lights**

In accordance with the agreement reached at the informal Council meeting on 17 July 2020, a quotation has been obtained from the preferred contractor for a reduced scheme based on Members' requirements (to be circulated separately). However, at the informal Personnel, Policy & Strategy Committee held on 21 August 2020, the Chairmen asked for additional lighting in the High Street and this has brought the total up to £17,670.

In addition it has not been possible to source a 30ft Christmas tree from any of the local estates but luckily the contractor is able to source one but the cost is higher than usual and includes transportation and installation.

The cost of a three-year contract would be as follows:

Lights	£17,670
Infrastructure (cost spread over 3 years)	£ 2,166
Additional trees to be decorated	£ 3,720
Real tree in Square	£ 1,200
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£24,756</b>

Members will see from the quotation other additional options amounting to a total of £14,337 (assuming four lamp columns wrapped) but the Chairmen agreed that this cannot be afforded this year without the BID contribution. However, please note that having spoken to the Operations Manager, the BID is proposing to pay for the usual small Christmas trees which are sited above the retail establishments in the Town Centre.

The budget available for Christmas and New Year's Eve celebrations is £16,000, but as it is most unlikely that any money will be spent to celebrate New Year's Eve e.g. road closures, the whole of this sum can be spent on Christmas lights.

As bunting is not going to be erected this year there is £4,500 in the budget which could be added to the money available. Additionally, there is £4,200 in the Civic Fund, and the Chairman of the Council is of the view that this will not be used given the current Covid-19 restrictions and the remainder of the cost of the Christmas lights can be met from this fund.

Furthermore, having spoken to the Operations Manager, the BID is proposing to pay an additional £3,400 this month to offset the amount owed from last year. She is confident that the full debt will be repaid during the current financial year.

To recap, these are the funds available in my view:

£16,000 Christmas budget

£4,500 – erection of bunting

£4,200 – from the Civic Fund

Total: £24,700

Plus, if Members wish, the £3,400 to be repaid by the BID.

The Council is asked to approve the Christmas Lights scheme and enter into a contract with the contractor over a three-year period. The lighting scheme can be added to for 2021 if money is available.

We have asked the contractor to provide images of what the lighting scheme will look like and these are shown below. More images are expected before the meeting and these will be forwarded in due course.



