



**Minutes of the meeting of Whitland Town Council Christmas Committee held on 15<sup>th</sup> July 2019.**

**Present:** Cllrs Barry Chapman (Chair), Mathew McDowall, Ffion Scourfield, Gabriela Poore, and County Cllr Sue Allen.

**Accept apologies for absence:** None were received.

**Disclose personal or prejudicial interests in the items below.** None were declared.

**Review quotations Christmas lighting.** The initial quotations had been considered by full Council in their last meeting, and the Clerk requested then to provide supplementary quotations and clarification on certain aspects. These were provided and discussed at length. It was agreed to go with the quote that provided best value and was within the allocated budget, providing lights along the main street and also using the Council's own lights to decorate three trees: adjacent to Penderi Pine, adjacent to MPH and outside the Grosvenor – this last tree to be separately purchased by the Council. It was agreed to opt for a three year contract. The Clerk was requested to contact the successful and other contractors accordingly.

**Discussion on initial plans for Council provided Christmas activities and events.**

The Christmas event would be on Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> November, starting approximately 4.00pm and last roughly three hours.

It was discussed and agreed to have a reduced area for the outdoor stalls this year, and to use the alleyway between the Taf and the Cake and Baguette shop, plus only a section of the car park behind. There would be a smaller area that had restricted parking than last year – which had been a complaint raised last year. Two options for Santa's grotto were discussed – the Clerk would contact the first potential location and feed back to the committee.

The Clerk would contact a local supplier regarding the tree and co-ordinate it to be delivered and erected prior to the lights being installed.

Cllr Chapman would confirm if Santa would be willing to assist at the Council's event.

The Clerk would contact the organiser of last year's tractor run to discuss and plan arrangements for this year. Various parking options for the tractors were considered. She would also contact the round Table to see what they might be able to offer in the way of a Santa float.

Signed by Chair

Date

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Cllr Poore would contact the Choir regarding potentially performing at the event again this year.

Cllr Scourfield would organise the bilingual advertising, and the Clerk would advertise using social media, the website and the local press.

The Clerk would contact Menter Gorllewin Sir Gar to see if they would provide storytelling sessions as last year, and investigate whether the library could be open for the event again.

It was agreed to hold the best dressed business competition again, and the best dressed house.

It was agreed to discuss elves and other helpers in the September meeting. It was also agreed that the old smaller artificial trees could be used somehow – to be decided.

**Items for information/next meeting.**

Cllr Poore reported that as requested she had contacted individuals who had expressed interest in grazing their sheep on the Abbey ruins site. This would tidy it up in preparation for the Town of Culture event at the end of August. Cllr Chapman reported probable giant hogweed at the entrance to the path to the site – this would be checked again by him and the handyman.

The Clerk reported that five Cllrs had expressed a wish for another meeting regarding the streetlights project, and so she would be calling that in the near future, and obtaining more information to inform the Council's decision in the meantime.

Cllr Allen stated that there was an invitation to a Carmarthenshire Tourism Association event – this would be publicised to all.

Signed by Chair

Date

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