



Minutes of the meeting of Whitland Town Council Christmas Committee held on 26th November 2019.

Present: Cllrs Barry Chapman (Chair); Cllr Sue Allen; Cllr Gabriela Poore; Cllr Ffion Scourfield; Cllr Mathew McDowall; Cllr Richard Davies.

Cllr Chapman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Apologies for absence: There were apologies from Miss Ceris Thomas.

Disclose personal and prejudicial interests in the items to be discussed. None were disclosed.

Review and agree the minutes of the last meeting. These had been previously circulated. The minutes were accepted as correct, and therefore duly signed by the Chairman.

Review progress on the planned Christmas activities.

The Chairman stated that the lights contractor had been installing the lights the evening before, with work finishing after midnight. It was stated that the contractor's own lights had been used on the two trees, rather than the Council's as specified, plus warm white were used on the tree adjacent to MPH, unlike those elsewhere in the town. The Clerk would clarify these points with the contractor.

It was stated that there was a defective streetlight in the car park behind the Town Hall/adjacent houses that would be used by visitors on Saturday. This would be reported for repair.

It was confirmed that the flyers had gone out to schools and around the town. Advertising was happening on Facebook, letters had gone to nearby residents about parking restrictions. Large banners would be put up over the alleyway on Friday, and lighting along it then or on Saturday morning.

For staffing reasons MenterGSG were unable to bring 'Yr Egin' to the event, or do storytime. This would now take place in the Library

It was stated that not all of the businesses wish to be included in the 'best-dressed window' competition. It was not possible legally to prevent photographs being taken because St John St was a public place, but Whitland Town Council would endeavour not to take images of single specific business windows this year. It was agreed that it was logistically impossible to know which businesses did not wish to take part unless

Signed by Chair

Date

they notified the Council beforehand. Therefore should the winner by the free public vote on the night subsequently inform the Council that they had not taken part, then they would not be awarded the shield – it would be passed to the next most popular business. That business would then be advertised on Facebook and in the press as the competition winner.

Approximately 18 stalls were planned with a wide variety of produce and gifts to be available. It was confirmed that there were no restrictions on food and drink being sold for profit or charity as part of the event so long as it was not as part of an ongoing business model, and the food and drink were fit for consumption – so the Council was very pleased to invite a stall raising money for Alzheimer's as part of Elf Day. The stalls and their lighting would be set up on late Saturday morning after the Grotto was in place. MenterGSG would manage the Grotto including all decoration. The stalls and gazebos would be loaned free of charge, for which the Council was very grateful.

Two gazebos would be used to shelter the Choir. All stalls and gazebos would have appropriate lighting and electrical access. It was agreed that there was no requirement for a PA system this year, with the Choir singing from 5.30pm until the light switch on, and then afterwards.

A discussion on the event would take place in the December meeting and initial ideas for any changes next year potentially put forward.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 7.05pm.

Signed by Chair

Date
