

HYPHE AND DIBDEN PARISH COUNCIL

Christmas Light Working Group meeting notes – 12 April 2016

In attendance

Maureen McLean

James Binns

Dan Poole

Martin Bovey

Mike Short

Helen Owers

Marcus Kendall

Sean Spencer

1. Apologies for absence

There were no apologies for absence.

2. To agree the notes of the meeting held on 8 February 2016

The notes of the meeting held on 8 February 2016 were agreed. The Chairman informed the group that the Council had agreed the following recommendations arising from that meeting.

1. To purchase solar lighting units to provide lighting for 31 lamp columns at a cost of £5580
2. To purchase a Christmas tree at a cost of £1000.00 to be located in the Marsh.
3. To host the Mistletoe Fayre.

3. Chairman and other Members of the working party to provide an update on the "Action Plan" work undertaken since the last meeting.

Members updated the group about work they undertaken since the last meeting (see action plan).

A meeting has been held with some traders to outline the Council's Christmas Light Strategy and to discuss opportunities for traders to have a greater involvement in providing Christmas lights in their shops and the Village Centre. The meeting was fairly positive and another meeting is planned for May when traders from Dibden Purlieu will also be invited.

Members and an officer have undertaken a walkabout in the Village Centre and in Dibden Purlieu to identify lamp columns which are suitable for the hosting of the solar powered lighting units. During the walkabout it was identified that there was a

shortage of available columns in the Village Centre and there are concerns that the visual impact of the decorations could be limited.

4. To agree further actions which will be presented to Council

At the next traders meeting, Members will suggest that a formal group of traders is formed by the traders, the group could raise funding in order to provide new features and decorations for the traders premises. It is felt that this could address the shortfall in lighting provision being provided by the Council in this location. In order to encourage the traders to form a group and provide additional lighting/decorations it is recommended that up to £1000.00 from the Christmas Lighting budget is offered as match funding to the formal traders group. The provisos could be that the lighting/decorations provided by any match funding will be used by traders to enhance the appearance of the parish and that ownership of decorative items remains with the trader's organisation.

It was agreed to investigate the cost of two trophies which when purchased will be presented annually to the winner of the Christmas light competition in the Village Centre and the winner of the Dibden Purlieu competition. James will provide £50.00 from his New Forest District Council grant allowance for the Dibden Purlieu winner. Dan will provide the same to the winner of the Village Centre competition. The monies will then be donated to a charity of each winner's choice.

5. Any other business

No other business was raised.

6. Date of next meeting

Sean will liaise with Members in due course so that a meeting of the Christmas Light Working Group can be held in June.