

TENBY TOWN COUNCIL  
MINUTES OF THE CHRISTMAS LIGHTING MEETING HELD 18<sup>th</sup> February 2014

**PRESENT**

Councillor Mrs Lane                      Mayor  
Councillor Mrs Brown  
Councillor Mrs Durham  
Councillor P Rapi  
Councillor L Blackhall  
Councillor Dr P Easy  
Councillor W Rossiter  
Councillor T Hallett  
Councillor H Johns  
Councillor Mrs Thomas

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Mr A. Davies                      Clerk to the Council/Financial Officer  
Mrs L Hensman                                      Assistant Clerk

**1.     APOLOGIES**

Apologies received from Councillor Mrs Rossiter and Councillor Mrs Putwain.

**2.     DISCLOSURE OF PERSONAL INTERESTS**

None disclosed.

**3.     CHRISTMAS LIGHTING**

The Mayor reported the Christmas Lighting Committee meeting did not take place as it was not quorate; therefore she appreciated Councillors staying for this meeting so progress can be commenced with planning for Christmas 2014.

She continued explaining that again this year many people have complained about the Christmas tree being too small and not in the right place. Following the last comment she discussed the problems with Mr P Percival, the Electrician responsible at present for TTC Christmas lighting contract. He felt Tenby deserves better than the tree we have had for several years and offered to be of any assistance in improving the negative comments each year.

In light of all the comments the Mayor felt perhaps Tenby should be looking at an alternative supplier or the feasibility of an artificial tree. She felt Tenby needs to be giving something to attract people to Tenby during the Christmas period and in addition marking the turning on of the Christmas lights with a ceremony, similar to one in years gone by when Father Christmas was brought into town by the Lifeboat Crew.

Councillor Mrs Durham said that Sue Roberts from Lollies and Jenny from Aerobeach worked hard last year to arrange a market with activities in the square;

however due to the bad weather this was cancelled. Perhaps they could be involved in the Christmas arrangements so everyone works together for the benefit of Tenby.

The Mayor felt collective involvement would be good at the next stage but firstly TTC needs to discuss the financial implications and initial planning before the events are organised.

The Clerk reported that following discussion with the Christmas Lightings Contractors he was now aware that due to the degree of bad weather experienced during the period the lights were in situ many bulbs were replaced, festoon to hold the bulbs perished and three crossroad displays failed and require repair. The cost for the replacement bulbs, festoon and crossroads repairs will take all the allocated Christmas Lighting Budget for 2014/15. In light of this information he felt Councillors needed to be mindful that if any addition expenditure was required it would need to be discussed to be allocated from the reserve account.

Councillor Mrs Brown felt Tenby Christmas decorations are a little old fashioned now and some businesses at the top of Tenby High Street used modern lights on their frontages like other local towns that look very impressive. Perhaps other local business specifically in Tudor Square may like to think about putting lights on their premises. The Mayor added Mr Percival had put all Saundersfoot light up and would provide costings per meter of lighting as a guide for people if required.

Councillor Mrs Thomas left the Chamber.

Councillor W Rossiter felt TTC spends a modest amount for a modest Christmas Lighting display and we should keep it that way.

The Clerk is aware of a place in Carmarthen where he can access a real Christmas tree if required. He was aware that Saundersfoot do get their tree from Hean Castle; however unfortunately when we phoned they have no trees ready yet that are big enough. He reminded Councillors that in Saundersfoot the Christmas Lighting is provided by the Chamber of Trade and Tourism.

Councillor Mrs Brown said although Saundersfoot Chamber organise the Christmas lighting she was aware they receive grants from Saundersfoot Community Council, the Sports and Social Club and have also received grants from Footlights Drama Group in the past.

Councillor Blackhall felt improving Tenby Christmas lighting would bring local people together to access funding would enhance the Christmas Facilities.

The Mayor felt tackling Tenby Christmas tree would be the starting point and it could develop the festivities further. If the Christmas tree had a hollow centre it

could be the focus of an activity every week for the five weeks before Christmas following the switching on of the lights.

Following discussion of other possible activities and festivities that could take place Councillors discussed a plan of action. It was

**Resolved that TTC research and obtain costings of an artificial tree locally as well as via larger internet companies.**

**Resolved that TTC arrange a meeting to work with local groups/organisations at a later date to plan a Christmas Lighting switch on ceremony.**