

Minutes of a Special Meeting of Denbigh Town Council, held on Monday 9th November 2015 at 6.30 pm at the Town Hall, Denbigh.

Present: Councillors Raymond Bartley, Margaret Bowe, Rob Parkes, Gaynor Morgan Rees, Medwyn Williams, Colin Hughes, Colin L Hughes, Brian Davies, Roy Tickle, Mark Young, Gaynor Wood, Catherine Jones & Medwyn Jones (Town Clerk).

Apologies: None.

Observing: County Councillor Gwyneth Kensler.

The chairman welcomed all to the special meeting. The chairman also welcomed Craig Wilson from DCC Street Lighting and Alun Ashworth from the Denbigh Business Group.

115. Declaration of Personal Interest. No declarations were received.

116. Christmas Lighting. The chairman referred to the various items of correspondence received and asked the town clerk to elaborate. The town clerk referred to the report received from Blachere following the recent testing of eyebolts on to which the catenary wires holding the Christmas lighting are fixed. All but one of the fixing points had failed the test and condemned. The town clerk also referred to the quotation received for fixing the problem and the emails received from Phil Ebbrell DCC's conservation architect. Most of the buildings effected were listed buildings which created additional problems. The time scales and other discussions required would not allow for the work to be done in time for the lighting to be erected. Many of the existing locations had been up for thirty to forty years. New features were to be erected on Vale Street. Both the Town Hall and the Library would retain its Christmas lighting displays and also lights would be erected in Lenten Pool. The areas not having lighting would be the High Street, Hall Square, Crown Square and Bridge Street.

Craig Wilson at the invitation of the chairman commented that probably the testing was done to a British Standard. In the light of the report it would be unwise to erect any lighting on catenary wires for safety and insurance purposes. The festoons used were not particularly heavy but the weather added to the load on the wires. Craig Wilson was asked to look at the possibility of adding additional Christmas Lighting to the Town Hall to compensate for not having the light curtain in Crown Square.

The matter was discussed at length and comments made: (1) any way the festoons could be used in Crown Square in place of the light curtain, (2) the issues had to resolved, (3) a press release was required, (4) why could larger eyebolts not be used, (5) the situation was unfortunate, (6) could something be done, (7) who fitted the existing bolts (8) there was a lack of detail in the report and need to ask further questions, (9) the report needs to be accepted – it would only be for one year that there would be a reduction in the lighting – best we can do is add additional lighting on to the town hall - the council needed to swallow a bitter pill, (10) could light not be strung up between street lights, (11) in the light of the report it would be stupid to go forward – there was a need for the town council to release a press statement, (12) it was only for one year and there was a need to look after our listed buildings.

Cllr Catherine Jones stated that DCC had agreed for a tree to be erected in Crown Square outside the Crown Hotel and financed privately.

Alun Ashworth, at the request of the chairman, stated that he appreciated being invited to the meeting and there was a need to do the best possible with what was available. At the conclusion of the discussion it was **Resolved** (unanimously) **not to erect Christmas lighting in the town centre for this year and to contact Blachere and the Heritage Officer to find a way forward and also to issue a press release.**

Whilst discussing Christmas lighting the town clerk referred to a quotation received for Christmas trees on the two roundabouts – it was agreed unanimously to accept the quotation in the sum of £1,121 & VAT

- 117. **Council Vacancy.** The town clerk reported that Councillor Geraint Lloyd Williams had resigned with effect from the 30th October 2015. The appropriate notices advertising the vacancy would be published on Tuesday 10th November with a closing date of the 30th November 2015. It was agreed that a letter be sent to Cllr Geraint Williams.
- 118. **Lenten Pool.** The town clerk referred to the e-mail received from DCC re the mini roundabout in Lenten Pool. The matter was discussed. The general consensus was that the problems caused by the mini roundabout needed to be resolved. Issues regarding safe crossing areas for pedestrians in addition to the smooth flow of traffic needed to be looked at. The third Denbigh Market Cross had been on site in Lenten Pool since the 1920s following its removal from Crown Square to make way for the War Memorial. It was agreed that the removal of the cross from Lenten Pool was the only possible solution. The plan showing possible locations was looked at. It was **Resolved** (by 11 votes to 1) **that the Market Cross be relocated to the pedestrian area near the Pantri Café on High Street.**
- 119. **Rural Community Skills Initiative.** The town clerk whilst reminding the meeting that a presentation on this agenda item was being arranged for the New Year reported that a request had been received asking for a letter of support to allow a submission of expression of interest to be submitted to the National Lottery. It was agreed that a letter of support be sent.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 7.20pm.

Signed: (Chairman)

Date: