

Present

*Cllr A C Carter – Chairman

*Cllr P F Allen

*Cllr R W I Cooke (Deputy Mayor)

#Cllr D M Gent

*Cllr R M Lyon (Town Mayor)

Cllr S Smith

*Denotes attendance

#Denotes apology for absence

Observers: Cllr D J Cawley

As only 4 members of the committee were present the meeting was inquorate and items were for noting only.

1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were none.

2. CHRISTMAS LIGHTS – PLANS FOR CHRISTMAS 2015.

The Mayor explained that the plans for Christmas 2015 were to extend to those areas of the town which were not covered in 2014, i.e. Anzac Street, Victoria Road from the Windjammer to Lloyds Pharmacy, Higher Street, Bayards Cove and possibly Hawley Road. It had also been hoped that the replacement of the street lights on the embankment (over 3 years) which would allow the connection of strings of lights between, would start at the Lower Ferry end. However, Cllr Hawkins had investigated this and the work programme from Devon County Council could not be changed; the first phase of the work would start at the Higher Ferry.

Through the Clerk, Cllr Chilcott had advised that the Christmas lights group were aware that costs were a prime concern and were determined to make a

fundraising effort throughout the whole year that would make the project as close to cost neutral as possible. A number of ideas had been suggested e.g. a Car Boot Sale at the Park and Ride site, out of season, which Cllr Chilcott had already contacted Cathy Aubertin at South Hams District Council about, and regular additional events, such as rock/ disco evenings etc. throughout the year, all in addition to Nigel Way's Snowflake Ball in November.

The Mayor advised that money may also be available from the BID.

Cllr Allen stressed the need to nominate a representative from the Town Council to the Christmas lights group and the Mayor confirmed that Cllr Chilcott was willing to continue in this role.

Cllr Cawley suggested that if the budget allowed the Town Council should look at "pea netting" lights on the Butterwalk.

3. COACH DRIVERS INFORMATION PACK – ADVERTISING FOR THE MARKET.

Members discussed the advertising of Council properties in a leaflet to be added to the Coach Drivers Information Pack; the cost being £474.50 for a year. The cost of leaflet production would be additional to this and members suggested that the Business Forum should be approached for the production of leaflets for the Town's businesses.

4. PARK AND RIDE BUS TENDER POSITION – MAYOR TO REPORT.

The Mayor had attended a meeting that day to discuss the Park and Ride Service; tenders had gone out to various bus companies. South Hams District Council had now agreed that those interested could attend the opening of the tenders on 28th January 2015. A decision would be made on 20th February 2015. The Clerk would write to all the Dartmouth District Councillors to ask them to lobby for the Park and Ride service to continue to be run as at present.

5. LOCAL COUNCIL AWARD SCHEME – REPLACEMENT OF THE QUALITY COUNCIL SCHEME.

Details of the new Local Council Award Scheme, to replace the Quality Council Scheme had been circulated to members. The Clerk had been in correspondence with the National Association of Local Councils on this matter

and it had been agreed that the Council would receive free accreditation on the new scheme to June 2016; the date when the Town Council's current Quality Status would end. Members were mindful that there would be no additional powers or finance coming from the new award and did not wish to take part in the Local Council Award scheme after this date.

6. REVIEW OF THE TOWN COUNCIL'S EMERGENCY PLAN PROCEDURES.

The Chairman had spoken to Andy Pound from the Coastguard Cliff Rescue Service who had assisted both Strete and Torcross with emergency plans and Mr Pound had agreed to give a presentation to Full Council. Members agreed that Mr Pound would be invited to the March Full Council meeting.