

Minutes of meeting of the Lights Committee at Bakers and Larners at 8.30 on Friday 11th February.

Present:

- Esme Bagnall-Oakley
- Father Howard
- Alexa King
- Sue Landers
- Tom
- Nina Baker
- Jen Barker

1. Sue and Alexa were introduced to the group as new members of the committee.
2. Esme mentioned that she had asked Kieran Williams to paint a picture that could then be sold for the lights funds and he could also turn on the lights but that this was unlikely to happen.
3. Esme summarized the discussion at the meeting on January 14th, as there were no formal minutes taken. She outlined that we had talked about the idea of having a more low key event. Esme had also said that Alan Godfrey was a great loss. The financial report had been good as the committee was in profit.
4. Nina gave the group her Treasurer's report – she said that a member of the public had handed in a donation of £25 to Di at the Community Centre. At the present time the balance is £4,632 although we are expecting a repayment from the North Norfolk District Council.
5. Esme had been to a meeting of the Chamber of Trade and reported that the suggestion of a lower key event had not been popular. However, the Chamber agreed to offer more help – it will take over the job of fund raising, although it was felt that we might need to help out as back up for this. It was also agreed that there would be assistance with the road closure and that the Air Cadets from Norwich would also be on hand. The CoT also agreed to one night for late night shopping. Father Howard suggested that he could possibly arrange for the church choir to sing some carols to provide a Christmassy atmosphere and Tom suggested it could be a Victorian Evening. However, Esme stressed that we could only ask the traders to get involved in this way by persuasion.
6. The date for the switch on was set for Wednesday 23rd November. Father Howard expressed a wish that St Andrew's day was avoided and although traditionally the switch on

has happened on the last Wednesday in November, it was felt that that we could move this to the fourth Wednesday.

7. Esme explained that there were jobs that needed to be allocated:

Alexa and Sue agreed to do the Charity Boxes and they also volunteered to organize a raffle – saying that they already had some mountain bikes for prizes – they are keen to get prize contributions from other traders.

8. Although Tom is already doing the publicity, he agreed to do the stalls in the town and we discussed ways of keeping the hawkers out. It was felt that we should only allow local traders and charities to have stalls. The cost of the stalls would be £25.
9. Esme thought that Di would still be happy to organise events in the Community Centre.
10. Jen will organize the entertainments and these will be discussed at a future meeting. The trailer will still be required but it was agreed that the role of North Norfolk Radio needs to be pared down slightly – without offending them. There was a particular issue with the sound that needs to be addressed. Jen will have a meeting with Duncan so that she can get all the contact details from last year.
11. The selection of the charity was discussed and it was suggested that we could raise money for two local charities. Esme pointed out that labels have to be designed for all the boxes – so there are time and financial constraints. Tom put The Benjamin Foundation forward as a recipient of funds.
12. As mentioned in the report from the Chamber of Trade – they have agreed to divide up the town and raise funds - £20,000 is the target.
13. Some details were discussed to outline this year's event. Father Howard agreed to do his 'bit' at 6.00. It was felt there should be more focus on the lantern procession. Father Howard also mentioned that Church Street was in darkness and it was agreed that it would be good to do something about this. He also offered the Church car park for some kind of activity. Tom suggested the Waltzers but Esme said this was a non-starter. Although it was thought that the trailer would be better placed in front of the bus station this was dismissed, as it would leave the war memorial exposed for people to climb on. It was also observed that there were some gaps in the lighting last year and Esme also reiterated that we need to find a volunteer to do the lights and trees.

The next meeting will be on **Friday 11th March at 8.30 at Bakers and Larners.**