19, New Buildings
Broadclyst
Exeter
EX5 3EX
www.broadclyst.org

Members Present: Finance Chairman Cllr K Straw
Committee Members: Cllr Massey, Pepper, Rhodes, Waldron

Members of Public: 1

In attendance: Clerk, Deputy Clerk

BROADCLYST PARISH COUNCIL

EMERGENCY FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING

Members of the Press and Public were welcome to attend this meeting in in accordance with the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 (1) (2)
NB: This meeting was called to determine a community grant application for Christmas lights in order to meet order/delivery deadlines set by the supplier.

There was an emergency Finance Committee meeting of Broadclyst Parish Council on Thursday 19th November 2020, held virtually via Microsoft Teams at 15:00hrs via Join Microsoft Teams Meeting for the purpose of transacting the following business:

MINUTES (Draft)

F20/048 RECORD OF VIRTUAL ATTENDANCE

Present and method of attendance: Cllrs Massey, Pepper, K Straw (Chair), and Waldron via Teams, with Cllr Rhodes attending via telephone.

Apologies: None

F20/049 DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTEREST

None to update

Standing orders were suspended

F20/050 PUBLIC QUESTIONS

Concerns were raised as to whether the Council should be spending money on additional Christmas lights in a time of austerity, where there are huge monetary pressures on charities such as the Trussell Trust and FareShare. It was also raised that the project is Broadclyst-centric and could exclude other parts of the parish.

The meeting reconvened under Standing orders

F20/051 DISCRETIONARY COMMUNITY GRANTS

The Committee considered an application from Broadclyst VIP's for £1,935.10 for an additional set of Christmas lights for Broadclyst village; the application included the cost of installing the lights.

Members raised the following points:

- It was a lot of money for a project that had previously been heavily subsidised by fundraising, with the Parish Council contributing £500 towards the project. Whilst it was appreciated that 2020 had been a difficult year to raise money, other community groups had run successful online fundraising events and campaigns during lockdown and Covid-restrictions on traditional community events.
- The lights had been popular in their first year (2019); it would be nice to see the lights up again in 2020 to boost morale and 'normalise' Christmas;
- Broadclyst is a village in a much larger parish; the committee welcomes grant applications for community projects that benefit a wider audience;
- This is a time of austerity with the council funding the Broadclyst food bank and additional support systems; all monies must be spent wisely to ensure sufficient funds elsewhere in the budget to support these new demands;
- Grant applicants are advised to not incur or commit to expenditure before funding is agreed;
- There will need to be a plan in place for the installation and removal of the lights each year;
- The initial set of lights are ready to be put back up again.

In summing up points raised during the discussion, Cllr K Straw **proposed** that the Council funds the installation of the existing lights at the net cost of £350, but at this time it was not morally responsible for the council to purchase any additional lights. While recognising that this may be disappointing for some, 2021 could see more festive displays in Westclyst and Tithebarn and that the Council would welcome interest from these new communities to put a plan in place for next year.
The proposal was seconded by Cllr Waldron.
Vote: 4 in favour; 1 against. Majority vote to support the proposal.
RESOLUTION: motion carried for the Council to fund the installation at £350 but regretfully could not award any additional funds at this time.

F20/051 CLOSE OF MEETING

The meeting closed at 15:20hrs

Signed: Print: Date:

ALL DOCUMENTS AVAILABLE IN LARGE PRINT