

WCA CHRISTMAS TREE MEETING MINUTES

Location: Maypole Inn

Date: 23rd July 2024

Time: 18.30

Present: June Illingworth; Nigel Razzell; Christine Crowther; Anita Kershaw; Kath Godfrey; Chris Godfrey; Chrissy Ratcliffe; Glynn Kershaw; Amanda Parsons-Hulse; Ashley Evans

Items

I. Apologies received from Sophie Gyles; John White; Jenny Stott. Attendees introduced themselves to Cllr Parsons-Hulse (Amanda).

II. Amanda described the budgetary decisions that have led to the council removing all funding for Christmas decorations. She was hoping they might get it overturned at the council meeting on Tuesday, but this did not happen. She was able to provide some more detail on the breakdown of costs from a more recent update from the council department. Of interest is that most of the 'decoration of tree' item appears to be the result of 'switch-on event' costs. The meeting determined that having a late switch on each year was actually more annoying to many villagers than having an event, especially if it costs more than £500. Additionally, it was confirmed that communities may provide their own tree, height maximum 6m (20') but it must be delivered on a pre-agreed date with the council installers. Also, for this year, the council contractors must do the installation as there is no time for the officers to look at insurance etc for groups to do their own thing.

Since the meeting it has become clear that the figures given originally are a bit of a guesstimate and we don't know if VAT needs to be added. For now, we will assume that someone will be able to provide a tree at a minimal or zero cost and that we won't have a switch-on event. For now, fundraising for £1500 would seem to be a sensible aim.

III. Fundraising options include:

- a. Warley Trust (June to progress- action 1). This is usually matched funding.
- b. The school has offered to run a fundraising event in the autumn.
- c. Grapevine magazines have offered to donate £250.
- d. Derek Ratcliffe looked in on the meeting and suggested his contacts in the pub would be able to provide a donation.
- e. Sophie Gyles has contacted on Facebook Messenger to say she thinks she may be able to provide a tree. For this one, it will need to be ratified by mid-August as that is the latest date for the council to be able to provide it. I will contact Sophie (action 2) – if there is any doubt here, other offers may be available via the pub community.

- IV. Making this sustainable for future years was briefly discussed. Mount Tabor have a permanent tree so their costs are just a couple of hundred pounds but it is not clear whether we would have the facility to store, or even display, a living tree. Once we get more definite costs we can look at this properly but, for this year, we need to proceed as usual.
- V. Next WCA meeting will be 27th August. If necessary, we can hold another one specifically about this matter beforehand.
- VI. Updates will be posted on Facebook and 'warleyca.org.uk' website.

Action Items	Owner(s)	Deadline	Status
1	June I	31/07	G
2	Nigel R	31/07	