

Agenda Item 9

Christmas Decorations 2019-20:

Overview of last year: Last year the lights at the shops at the Fountains were not lit and after investigation it was discovered that the power supply had been disconnected by a new tenant of the former Spar.

The Clerk contacted the Agent working for the owners but no useful solution was found and the lights were never lit. The cost of electricity for lighting these lights (approx. 26kw over the Christmas period even at 50p per Kw would only have been £13) pales into insignificance when compared with the Councils costs of providing these trees/lights. (Approximately £580)

The Council must bear in mind that the Parish Council receives no funding from the Business Rate and the cost of the festive lighting is met from the precept levied on houses within the village.

Recommendations: The Clerk suggests that the Fountains are not included in the 2019-20 festive decorations unless proof of a live connection is received before the trees are ordered in late September.

Several shops/businesses have shown an interest in partaking in the scheme and have been told to install an outside socket and if this is done trees/lights will be provided, this year, a letter has been delivered to interested shops reminding them that electrical sockets will need to be installed before the end of September when the trees are ordered. After discussions with Mr Bannister earlier in the year it is hoped that the former Bannisters Bakery will be re connected to electric power and trees installed.

Fountains Square: Following the award of £3000 from the Barrowford & Western Parishes area Committee towards the scheme; the Clerk has ordered the redressing of the tree at Fountain Square. The tree will be dressed with cherry bulbs which are larger than the pea bulbs used at Holmefield House. The tree will be dressed to a higher height than Holmefield House and the work will include 450 cherry lights new transformers and installation the cost will be approx. £5580 plus vat and will be installed at LITES convenience.