

## **SHEPTON MALLET TOWN COUNCIL**

Meeting	Place Making and Protection Committee Item 01.14
Date	13 <sup>th</sup> July 2020
Author	Paula Robertson, Assistant Town Clerk (Planning & Amenities) and Charlotte Starkie, Town Clerk
Subject	Matters Affecting the Town Report

### **1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1 To consider the arrangements for Festive Lights 2020
- 1.2 Electrical work on power box to the Christmas Tree
- 1.3 To receive an update regarding allotments
- 1.4 To note some tree damage
- 1.5 To consider proposal from Snowdrop Festival for bulb planting

### **2.0 FESTIVE LIGHTING 2020**

- 2.1 This year's lighting scheme will be installed on 4<sup>th</sup> November 2020.
- 2.2 Efforts were made to obtain a locally grown tree with no success. A tree has been purchased from a company recommended by IDV at a cost of £700 and will be delivered towards the end of November.
- 2.3 There will be no lighting up event this year, however the lights and tree can be turned on, on Friday 27<sup>th</sup> November 2020.

### **3.0 CHRISTMAS TREE POWER BOX**

- 3.1 The electrical box that the Christmas tree sits in is letting in water and needs to be replaced. A quote has been received for £552 to replace the box but may not be able to be installed until works begin to the resurfacing of the market place.
- 3.2 If it is necessary to wait, then all necessary remedial works to the box to ensure safe installation of the 3.1 tree for this winter will be undertaken.

### **4.0 ALLOTMENT UPDATE**

- 4.1 The annual allotment judging took place in August and the winners will be announced at the full town council meeting on 17<sup>th</sup> November.
- 4.2 It was hoped that it would be possible to have a presentation evening but, due to Covid restrictions, this will have to be postponed until next year.
- 4.3 There are currently 13 new applicants on the waiting list and three current allotment holders who wish to have an additional plot.
- 4.4 The annual invoicing has taken place. Some plot holders have not renewed and these plots have been re-allocated.

## **5.0 SNOWDROP PLANTING**

- 5.1 Owing to the cancellation of next year's Snowdrop Festival, the organisers have offered to return the £4,000 grant to the council and requested that they receive that in a future year, once events can resume. The Snowdrop Festival have requested if the Town Council would assist with the cost of the contractor cost for the planting of snowdrop bulbs in planters across town, to enhance the appearance of the town centre, in keeping with the objectives of this committee.
- 5.2 It is proposed that that the Town Clerk be delegated authority to liaise with the contractor to try and establish that this is done as a good will gesture, or that a reasonable sum of money is provided to fund this from the Town Improvements budget.

## **6.0 RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 6.1 For Councillors to note the report.