



WINTER PREPARATIONS

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

14 NOVEMBER 2011

The purpose of this Report is to provide Members with information related to three matters that have been raised in preparation for winter and its celebrations: Grit Bins, Christmas tree and Christmas Lights.

No. DETAIL

1) GRIT BINS

- a) The absence of available de-icing salts was clearly a problem for Ventnor residents last winter and, given the current long range forecast, is likely to be this year. However both the costs of providing them and the logistics of managing them need careful consideration.
 - b) Charges for Bins with a capacity of 200 litres vary depending on supplier, quantity and delivery charges. Equip4work, for example, have quoted £106 per bin for 6 bins with a delivery charge of £99, a total of £735. The Northern Ireland firm of Heyn Waste Solutions are currently offering a discounted price for the same capacity Bins at £87.99 each with free GB delivery on orders over £250. Six from them would cost £528.
 - c) A 200-litre capacity bin requires 8 x 25kilo bags of de-icing salt. These also vary in cost depending on supplier and quantity: Heyn's price list varies from £4.25 a bag for an order of 40 or more to £14 for between 1 and 3 bags.
 - d) The Isle of Wight Council have no objection to the provision of Bins provided we have the prior permission of their Traffic Manager for the specific location of each of them.
 - e) Our Insurers recommend that Bins are bolted down at the corners to prevent movement. Provided they are informed of their location, they will be covered by our existing Public Liability Insurance with a small additional charge for insuring the Bins themselves. There are no health and safety implications for the Town Council provided it is not assisting with or involved in the service itself other than filling and refilling the Bins and a risk assessment has been completed.
 - f) Additional logistical considerations include those of storage of the bags of de-icing salt and the filling and refilling of the Bins.
 - g) Members need to be aware that the provision for Bins in this year's budget is £250.
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2) CHRISTMAS TREE

- a) Thompsons Garden Centre have quoted £140 for a 16-foot tree with a delivery charge of £20. Springbank Nurseries have quoted £50 for the tree with no delivery service available.
 - b) Southern Electric have quoted £365 for the installation and removal of the tree lights with a further £31 charge for the electricity supplied between 1 December 2011 and 6 January 2012.
 - c) We are still awaiting quotations for the collection, erection and removal of the tree.
 - d) It is unlikely that the total cost will be less than £600.
 - e) There is no provision for this in this year's budget.
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3) CHRISTMAS LIGHTS

- a) The Assistant Clerk has already had discussions with Southern Electric about restoring power to the motif lights from 1 December.
 - b) It will not be clear how much repair work to them is necessary until the power is restored; but some will be required.
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