

REPORT FROM THE CLERK TO LYDIARD MILLICENT PARISH COUNCIL

Purpose of Report

To aid discussion on possible fireworks display for the parish as The Sun Inn will probably not be in a position to facilitate this year.

Background

Historically a firework display has been organised by the landlord of The Sun Inn. A new landlord is now in residence and had indicated to Councillors that it may not be possible to run an event this year.

Current Position

Councillors attended the opening event held at The Sun Inn. The firework display usually arranged by the landlord of The Sun Inn, was brought up in conversation. Councillors present considered that this event could be organised and funded by the Parish Council this year; to encourage Community Spirit. The first stage was that Councillors requested an item on the Agenda to discuss further.

Financial Implications

Fireworks will cost in excess of £10,000. Marshalling at the event and employing someone to oversee the project could cost anything up to £3,000. The Councils insurance premium will be increased; it is not known by exactly how much but at least £500 should be allowed.

So, overall this event will cost in the region of £13,500. This equates to £17.56 per Band D property. This project has not been planned for in the Councils budgets for this financial year and so costs will need to be taken from General Reserves.

Other Implications

This type of event must be regulated properly in order that the Insurance company will cover the Councils liability; it can not be monitored by Councillors alone.

An Events Licence is needed, which is obtainable from Wiltshire Council. Gaining a licence takes about six weeks if all the information is accurate at the time the forms are submitted; very often extra information is requested as the approval moves forward.

Ordinarily in situations like this, the Parish Clerk is able to oversee the necessary regulations; in this case the Council is already aware that its staff establishment is not able to absorb any further project work at this time. It will be necessary to employ a competent person with immediate effect to oversee this project if it goes ahead.

The Council will need to be confident, if this project is progressed further, that the event is “for the Community as a whole” and not for the benefit of any business within the parish. There is legislation allowing local councils to put on events to bring the community together; but the same legislation prohibits local councils from favouring individual businesses, irrespective of their community spirit.

Recommendations

1. Although a noble suggestion, this is not possible during 2019. The planning for an event of this type has been left far too late. If Councillors wish to hold an event like this in 2020 planning should start at Christmas.
2. The Council must continue to assess the workload of its employee, and to draw up a three-year plan to show a way forward.
3. Perhaps most importantly, it must be decided what type of Council residents wish for the parish of Lydiard Millicent. Councillors are increasingly expecting larger and more complicated work to be undertaken but have failed to insist on the appropriate infrastructures being put in place.

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