

Willoughby Street Lighting Group – Initial Meeting

7th November 2022

Present

Hilly Honess
Bert Ogle
Malcolm Lewis

Apologies

Tony Gasser
Steve Palmer

The Group of 5 Volunteers was diminished by unavailability, covid and the fact that Elizabeth feels (Rightly in my opinion, although we are sorry to lose her talents from the Group) that she ended up in the wrong group. She came to apologise that this was the case and we agreed that it made no sense for her to attend.

General discussions and points raised

We discussed the 'Objectives' in the prepared agenda previously circulated. These will be formalised at the next meeting.

Malcolm provided a list of the current 24 village lights

Malcolm advised that a Chair would be elected at the next meeting and that it would not be Bert as he had already been co-opted for the Flood Group.

Malcolm will endeavour to organise a meeting on Thursday 7th or Friday 8th Dec – If not early in the new year. Volunteers are only available Thursdays or Fridays at present.

We agreed Meetings should be minimised and short.

Malcolm to provide the last 12 months electricity usage by Month and confirm our Utility Supplier. Also to share relative information on previous WPC work done in this area.

Based on previous quotes, the estimated cost of upgrading our existing Street Lights to LEDs is going to be in the order of £15K - £20K, it is obvious that funding alternatives will need to include some, or all of the following, Reserve Building, Cost Savings, Smart Procurement, Grants and Loans (which may need a precept increase!)

Benefits will include Village Safety, a better Carbon Footprint, improved Home Security, medium term electricity and maintenance savings and a better environment that will bring most of Willoughby into the 21st Century.

There is a danger that the Existing Sodium Lamps are becoming outdated and to delay the upgrade of our streetlights is likely to create a more expensive outcome in the future.