

Amenities Committee 23 September 26

Town Christmas Tree

Historically, the Town Council has supported the provision of the town Christmas tree by awarding a grant of £600 to the Community Benefit Society towards the cost of a contractor dressing the tree with lights. The tree itself has usually been purchased and paid for by the Community Benefit Society, with the Grounds Manager sourcing and arranging delivery. Rose Engineering also kindly supports the arrangement by carrying out the installation and the Town Council are most grateful for this.

In 2025, the usual supplier was no longer available. The Grounds Manager therefore had to source and collect the tree, as delivery was not possible. This resulted in the Town Council paying the supplier for the tree directly and then recharging the Community Benefit Society.

To reduce unnecessary administration, invoicing and the movement of funds between the Town Council and the Community Benefit Society, it would be more straightforward for the Town Council to provide the town Christmas tree directly as its contribution to the festive period. This would formalise what was required in practice in 2025 and provide a simpler arrangement for future years.

The Council would continue to meet the electricity charge for the Christmas tree lights, as it has done previously.

Recommendation: That the Committee agrees that, from 2026 onwards, the Town Council will provide the town Christmas tree directly as its contribution to the festive period, with the Council continuing to cover the electricity charge for the lights.