

to add that the Council had been affronted by the derogative remarks in the national press regarding the advent tree. It was hoped that Miranda had not been too upset by it.

Cllr G Wilson advised that the invoice for Heatflo Ltd could be authorised for payment but should be held until two outstanding items had been completed.

Cllr G Wilson proposed and Cllr Parr seconded that all of the above invoices should be authorised for payment, subject to the above. Motion carried by a show of 11 hands. Cllr Goddard did not vote.

The Clerk was also given permission to settle any necessary invoices during early January due to the Full Council meeting being a week later than normal.

b. Revision to NALC salary scales

Cllr Lyon advised that a national pay award of approximately 2.2% had been agreed for all clerks employed under the terms of the NALC model contract with effect from 1st January 2015. The Clerk will also be entitled to two non-consolidated (one off) payments, which have been awarded to employees on SC Points 5 – 49 and in post on 1st December 2014. The first payment of £81.08 will be paid in her December salary and the second payment of £21.08 will be paid in her April salary. This was noted and accepted by the Council.

c. Expenditure for hedge cutting

Cllr P Wilson proposed and Cllr Parr seconded that authorisation should be given for hedge cutting to be carried out by K Fergusons Ltd at a cost of £980 to facilitate the installation of a woodland footpath leading up to Wayman's Pits. Motion carried by a show of 11 hands. Cllr Smith was against. This work is subject to other factors being put in place will only be carried out once these are all resolved.

(Local Government Act 1894 s8(1)(i))

8. CORRESPONDENCE

The District Council had prepared an Adoption Statement on the 16th October 2014 regarding the Renewable Energy (Commercial Scale) Supplementary Planning Document. Copies are available for public inspection, free of charge at www.eastcambs.gov.uk or at the District Council Offices.

A representative from Balfour Beatty will attend the January meeting to discuss the plans for their street lighting project in the parish.

An email had been received from Mr David Mead thanking the Council for the Christmas trees supplied in the High Street and he also wished to say that he loves the Advent tree on The Green.

9. INFORMATION FROM DISTRICT & COUNTY COUNCILLORS

Cllr P Wilson reported that a planning meeting had been held to discuss the new plan from Gladman Developments for 128 houses in Witchford, which was refused. She also advised that the application for 42 Lode Way had been refused but the applicant had been advised to put in a full application instead of an outline plan. She reported that Cllr G Wilson and herself had spoken to John Hill to discuss what could be done to help Ely Soham Dial-a-Ride and this is ongoing although she understands that there are two people sorting out the closure which is due to happen on 31st March 2015. The Scheme Manager at Camping Close had contacted Cllr Wilson regarding her concerns about parking on the pavement and the Clerk will report this to PCSO Annie.

Cllr Gareth Wilson reported that a planning application for 16 affordable houses in Littleport had been approved. He advised that the appeal for the first Gladman plan at Witchford would be coming up in the New Year.

10. REPORTS OF COMMITTEES, WORKING PARTIES & COMMUNITY GROUP REPRESENTATIVES

A. Christmas Lights: The lights had been put up at the end of November and were looking good.

B. Street Lighting: The new bracket light in Froize End has been held up because there is no power supply on the new pole and the Clerk is chasing this up with UK Power Networks. An inventory of all the Parish lights had been reviewed with a few anomalies highlighted, which are being sorted out.