

Minute

St Magnus Cathedral Sub-committee

Monday, 13 March 2023, 14:00.

Council Chamber, Council Offices, School Place, Kirkwall.



Present

Councillors Gwenda M Shearer, Jean E Stevenson, Graham A Bevan, Alexander G Cowie, Steven B Heddle, John A R Scott and Ivan A Taylor.

Reverend Fraser Macnaughton.

Clerk

- Sandra Craigie, Committees Officer.

In Attendance

- Frances Troup, Head of Community Learning, Leisure and Housing.
- Ian Rushbrook, Service Manager (Capital Programme and Property).
- Peter Trodden, Solicitor.
- Nick Hewitt, Team Leader (Culture).

In Attendance via remote link (Microsoft Teams)

- Pat Robinson, Service Manager (Accounting).

Apology

- Lord Lieutenant Elaine Grieve.

Declarations of Interest

- No declarations of interest were intimated.

Chair

- Councillor Gwenda M Shearer.

1. Review of Policy on Lighting Up St Magnus Cathedral for Special Events and Charitable Campaigns

After consideration of a report by the Corporate Director for Education, Leisure and Housing, together with an Equality Impact Assessment, copies of which had been circulated, and after hearing a report from the Team Leader (Culture), the Sub-committee:

Noted:

1.1. That, since 2014, a number of requests had been received to light up the outside of St Magnus Cathedral in particular colours for special events or to raise awareness of charitable organisations and campaigns.

1.2. That, on 4 November 2016, when considering the introduction of a policy for lighting up the outside of St Magnus Cathedral for special events and charitable campaigns, the St Magnus Cathedral Sub-committee recommended that consideration of adopting policy guidelines in respect of lighting up St Magnus Cathedral be deferred, to enable wider consultation with groups associated with the Church Session of St Magnus Cathedral.

1.3. That, on 3 April 2019, when reconsidering the introduction of a policy for lighting up the outside of St Magnus Cathedral for special events and charitable campaigns, the St Magnus Cathedral Sub-committee recommended that powers be delegated to the Executive Director of Education, Leisure and Housing, in consultation with the Chair and Vice Chair of the Sub-committee, to determine requests from organisations wishing to light up St Magnus Cathedral, where the following conditions were met:

- Lighting up was part of a national charitable campaign, where the charity or its aims were relevant to Orkney.
- Lighting up was for a local charity as part of a wider local awareness raising or specific local targeted campaign.
- No political element to the activity.
- No commercial element to the activity.
- Lighting up was for a maximum of 24 hours.
- The charitable organisation provided and installed the coloured gels required, in liaison with the Traditional Stonemason or the Visitor Services Officer.
- No cost implication to the Council.
- No inappropriate clash with another activity, event or service taking place in St Magnus Cathedral.
- No physical impact or damage to the building.

1.4. That, as requests were becoming more frequent and varied, the policy guidelines in respect of illuminating St Magnus Cathedral had been reviewed.

1.5. The proposal that the following criteria be included in the policy guidelines in respect of illuminating St Magnus Cathedral:

- Lighting up was to mark a national event, so designated by the UK or national governments.
- Lighting up was in support of national campaigns to promote the equality, dignity and increased visibility of minority groups.

The Sub-committee resolved to **recommend to the Council:**

1.6. That the following policy guidelines in respect of illuminating St Magnus Cathedral be approved:

- Lighting up was:
 - part of a national charitable campaign, where the charity or its aims were relevant to Orkney; or
 - for a local charity as part of wider local awareness raising or specific local targeted campaign; or
 - to mark a national event, so designated by the UK or national governments; or
 - in support of national campaigns to promote the equality, dignity and increased visibility of minority groups.
- No political element to the activity.
- No commercial element to the activity.

1.7. That powers be delegated to the Corporate Director for Education, Leisure and Housing, in consultation with the Convener and the Chair and Vice Chair of the St Magnus Cathedral Sub-committee, to determine applications for illuminating St Magnus Cathedral, which met the policy guidelines outlined above, and subject to the following conditions:

- Lighting up was for a maximum of 24 hours.
- The charitable organisation provided and installed the coloured gels required in liaison with the Cathedral Conservations Team or the Visitor Services Officer.
- No cost implication to the Council.
- No inappropriate clash with another activity, event or service taking place in St Magnus Cathedral or its environ.
- No physical impact or damage to the building.

Councillor Steven B Heddle joined the meeting during discussion of this item.

2. Conclusion of Meeting

At 14:12 the Chair declared the meeting concluded.

Signed: Gwenda M Shearer.