

Committee: FULL COUNCIL

Date: 17 October 2023

Title: Christmas Lights Storage

Purpose of Report

For members to note the increase rent charges

Recommendation:

Members to note the increase in rent for the Christmas Lights

Report:

1. The Town Council has over the years paid for the storage of the Christmas Lights in Ilminster. This facility is not just a storage facility but is also the venue where the lights are tested and maintained before being put up.
2. The lights are purchased and owned by the Town Council with the Christmas Lights Committee giving their considered opinion on what lights are required each year.
3. The last time that there was a rent increase was in 2017 when it increased from £150 to £225.
4. The lights committee have been notified that there has been an increase from 1 January 2024 to £300 per annum. Whilst this is a large increase in rent it represents an average increase of 4.7% per annum over the 7 years. The budget will be adjusted to cover the increase from General Reserves and the 2024-25 budget will take into account the increase.
5. Currently there are no alternative locations that fulfil the requirements for storage, maintenance and testing of the lights throughout the year. There is a need to keep the lights in as central location as possible.
6. Members to note the increase in rent for the Christmas lights.

**Mark Tredwin
Town clerk
October 2023**