

PRIVATE SESSION

	Full Council
Date	9 March 2026
Agenda Item	7f

To consider a 3-year agreement for the Christmas lights 2026 – 2028

The Christmas lights switch-on and 6- week display in Halstead has been a tradition for many years. This has generally been run in the format of a local electrician working with the HTC groundsmen. Around 10 years ago, there was a period when the lights were managed by an outside company not based in Halstead, and unable to provide support if something went wrong, and the lights went out. Every 3 years a new tendering process has taken place, but although outside companies have been approached, they are generally interested only in selling new lights, or a whole new programme of lights for the town. We have the lights and just need someone to operate them. Such programmes are beyond the budget of Halstead Town Council, and over the past 10 years, HTC has always reverted to the pattern of a local electrician and the assistance of HTC groundsmen.

A quote has been received on this basis:

Quote 1: £16,560 per year, for 2026, 2027 and 2028 (No VAT)

Quote 2 : £10,833.33(2026) £11,10417 (2027) £11,381.78 (2028) (all + VAT)

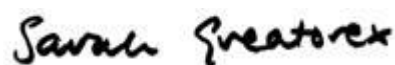
The budget for Christmas lights in 2026 is £17000

Our current contractor has a plan to train a younger local electrician, with a view to his taking over the work in subsequent years. The new electrician has for several years carried out large and small projects for HTC and is trusted and qualified.

One further quote has been obtained, through detailed explanation of what is required. A further quote has been promised but has not materialised.

In addition, it is worth noting that HTC is very likely to receive a donation of £30k towards new lights in The Centre and in the Butler Road area from BDC. These would probably need to be managed through a new contract.

Recommendation: that HTC accepts quote1.



Sarah Greateorex Town Clerk