



MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE CITY OF ELY COUNCIL HELD IN THE VERNON CROSS ROOM, ELY MUSEUM, MARKET STREET, ELY AT 7.00 PM ON MONDAY 10TH FEBRUARY 2014

PRESENT:

The Mayor, Cllr E Griffin-Singh	Deputy Mayor, Cllr E Every	Cllr C Phillips
Cllr A Arnold	Cllr J Yates	Cllr B Ashton
Cllr M Rouse	Cllr N Clarke	Cllr G Barber
Cllr R Hobbs	Cllr J Outen	Cllr J Pearson
<i>Mrs V Holden (parishioner)</i>	<i>Mr P Holden (parishioner) (arrived at 8.00 pm)</i>	
<i>Ms S Blake (ECDC)</i>	<i>Ms S Bonnett (ECDC)</i>	

1. APOLOGIES

No apologies were received.

2. COUNCILLOR REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATIONS AND DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

There were no requests for dispensations. Cllrs Hobbs, Rouse, Griffin-Singh and Every made a declaration of interest regarding item 14, as they are all East Cambridgeshire District Councillors, and ECDC are also considering the funding for this organisation. They completed sheets 89, 90, 91 and 92 respectively in the Register of Members Interest Book.

3. REQUEST INTENTION OF THOSE IN ATTENDANCE WHO WISH TO SPEAK ON AN AGENDA ITEM – as per standing order 83 b

No declarations to speak were made.

4. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING HELD ON THE 13TH JANUARY AND MINUTES OF THE EXTRAORDINARY MEETING HELD ON THE 27TH JANUARY AND MATTERS ARISING

The minutes of the last meeting held on the 13th January were agreed and signed as a true record. Pages 1310, 1311, 1312, 1313, 1314 and 1315 refer.

Matters arising:- Page 1312, item 14 – Cllr Rouse informed members that their comments on the Ely Traffic and Environment Study Options Report had been very helpful and informative. The ECDC Committee had followed most of this Council's recommendations.

The minutes of the Extraordinary meeting held on the 27th January were agreed and signed as a true record. Pages 1316 and 1317 refer.

Matters arising:- Page 1314, item 4 – the Clerk informed members she had asked Mr Pavlin how to proceed with a feasibility study, but had not received a response from him regarding this enquiry. Members did ask that if a feasibility study was undertaken what would be the timescale, cost and would the results be worth it. Members agreed to request an update from Mr Herbert on the current situation with regard to progress on obtaining a new retailer to provide the post office service. Further fortnightly updates would also be requested, which will be given at the next Full Council meeting. Members also agreed the Mayor would write a letter to the press, to ensure the general public were made aware the Council was working with Post Office Ltd to resolve the situation.

5. PRESENTATION BY MS SHIRLEY BLAKE, PRINCIPLE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT OFFICER, ECDC ON THE DRAFT ELY STATION GATEWAY SUPPLEMENTARY PLANNING DOCUMENT

Ms Blake gave a presentation on the draft Ely Station Gateway Supplementary Planning Document. This sets out proposals to transform the station area into a vibrant mixed use urban quarter, which provides for employment expansion, enhanced transport interchange facilities, as well as creating an attractive gateway into the City. The Supplementary Planning Document is a statutory planning document. Its purpose is to provide the planning policy guidance and framework for the redevelopment of the Ely railway precinct and the surrounding area. The draft SPD sets out proposals for a high quality mixed use development comprising:- a minimum of 800 jobs; a new public transport interchange at the railway station; small retail units, linked to the redevelopment of the railway interchange; approximately 400 residential units; public open space, including public art and car parking for occupiers/users of the site and for the railway station.

Members agreed to discuss this item at the next Full Council meeting to give formal comments from the Council to the public consultation.

The Mayor thanked Ms Blake and Ms Bonnett for giving a very informative presentation.

Ms Blake and Ms Bonnett left the meeting at 7.25 pm.

6. QUESTION TIME

The Mayor informed those present that item 18 would be discussed in Committee at the end of the meeting. Due to the confidential nature of this item, members of the public would be excluded from the meeting.

Cllr Rouse, in his capacity as a County Councillor reported that he had attended a meeting, which had discussed secondary schools. Numbers had been cut for Soham College, as Littleport will be having a new secondary school. Bidding for providing this service will start next week. He also informed members of a report considered by ECDC regarding housing demand/growth. The new ECDC Housing Team had prevented 117 families in the District from becoming homeless in the last quarter. There was no one in bed and breakfast accommodation. There are currently 863 households on the housing register requiring 1 and 2 bed houses and sheltered accommodation. Only 72 properties became available in the last quarter. Unfortunately, affordable housing is not available to most of these families.

He also reported that he had met with the consultant for the next phase of the Country Park.

7. MAYOR'S ENGAGEMENTS & REPORT

The Mayor had attended the Cycle Club; the Stained Glass Museum; the Voluntary Centre seminar; Ely Neighbourhood Panel meeting; City Centre Forum Seminar; High Sheriff's Awards; Evensong and the Anne Frank Private Viewing and the Downham Market Mayor At Home.

The Deputy Mayor had attended the City Centre Forum seminar.

8. PLANNING

Reports of a Planning Committee meeting held on the 16th December 2013 and immediately prior to this meeting were received.

9. INFORMATION ONLY ITEMS

The following items for information only, were received:

Notification of street naming and numbering:- 8 The Vineyards, Ely

Notification of tree work:- 6 St Mary's Street, Ely; 3 Barton Square, Ely; 39 Broad Street, Ely; Woolpack Yard, Newnham Street, Ely

Notification of carriageway resurfacing works – Queen Adelaide (B1382)

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10. COMMITTEE REPORTS

(i) **FINANCE AND PERSONNEL** – The Mayor presented a report of a meeting held on the 27th January, which was approved. The Council's precept for 2014/2015 will increase by 2.7% to £306,420. Members approved the recommendation to accept the quote of £6301.50 from Simply Gardening of Ely for the summer and winter planting for 2014-2016. A Working Party would be formed to review all the Council's committees. Members unanimously approved the annual increase to the rent and administration charges for the Council's Shared Equity Scheme by the RPI at the end of January 2014, as set out in the Shared Equity Scheme leases. Members also unanimously agreed to adopt the standard Terms and Conditions of Contract for the Council. These may be tweaked for an individual contract, if felt necessary. The Mayor, Deputy Mayor and Clerk will undertake the annual review of the Council's adopted Policies and Procedures.

(ii) **STREET FURNITURE** – No report as Committee had not met. The next meeting will be held on the 24th February at 7.00 pm.

(iii) **RECREATION AND CEMETERY** – Cllr Clarke presented a report of a meeting held on the 4th February, which was approved. It was noted that the 1st Ely Scout Group wished to erect a pole and gas store, and bicycle racks adjacent to the Scout Hut at St John's Road. This was agreed in principle, subject to planning permission being granted.

Members had unanimously agreed to appoint 2 seasonal staff for the period 1.4-31.10.14. Members also unanimously agreed to appoint Mr C Weston (one of last year's seasonal workers) to one of these positions. The cemetery fees will be increased by 2.7% with effect from the 1st April 2014. Members agreed to apply for funding of £100,000 from Sport England and £20,000 from Section 106 to fund fitness equipment that could be placed on the outer areas of the City. Cllr Hobbs will set up a meeting between Sport England, ECDC and the City of Ely Council to move this project forward. A new zip wire will be installed at St John's play area, to upgrade the balancing equipment. Section 106 funding will be sought to fund this. The wooden fencing at the High Barns play area will also be upgraded and application for Section 106 funding being made. Members discussed the request from Ely City Football Club for support for a Section 106 funding application for new floodlights. It was unanimously agreed that until everything was absolutely clear about the exact locations of the floodlights and other possible sources of funding a decision would be deferred. Cllr Hobbs explained that when the new leisure centre is built, ECDC will need to tap into the sewage and drainage of the sports clubs in this area. If the clubs were agreeable, this could therefore result in the floodlights and possibly pitches changing position. Cllr Clarke informed members of the situation regarding the parking of allotment holders on the High Barns recreation field. It had been agreed the restriction should be lifted to allow allotment holders to park on this area, but with certain controls. A meeting would be held on the 11th March with representatives of the Allotment Association to move this forward. Authority was given to the Chairman to resolve the situation amicably.

(iv) **CHRISTMAS LIGHTS** – No report as Committee had not met.

(v) **ELY IN BLOOM** – No report as Committee had not met.

(vi) **ASSETS & ACQUISITIONS** – No report as Committee had not met.

(vi) **ELY/RIBE** – No report as not met.

(vii) **YOUTH FORUM** – No report as not met.

11. WORKING PARTIES/STEERING GROUPS REPORTS

City of Ely Allotment Association – Cllr Clarke informed members that there were issues at Bridge Fen with regard to blocked ditches. Anglian Water was still consulting with regard to the new sewage pipe line they wish to install across a section of this allotment site.

12. REPORTS FROM EXTERNAL MEETINGS

City of Ely Perspective Marketing and Design Group Meeting – members noted minutes of meetings held on the 19th November 2013 and the 21st January 2014.

13. TO MAKE COMMENTS ON THE PROPOSED HEDGEROW REMOVAL AT LOCATION ON BYWAY 76/40, LEADING SOUTH FROM ANGEL DROVE, ELY AND EAST OF GREENACRES FARM, CAMBRIDGE ROAD, ELY

Members had no concerns regarding this proposed removal, subject to this hedgerow not being of any significant importance.

Mrs V Holden and Mr P Holden left the meeting at 8.15 pm

This item was moved to the end of the meeting and discussed after item 18, as Cllrs Rouse, Griffin-Singh and Every had declared an interest in this item as they were all ECDC councillors. They left the meeting at 9.15 pm and took no part in this discussion. Cllr Hobbs had also declared the same interest, but had already left the meeting at 9.00 pm.

14. TO CONSIDER LETTER FROM ELY SOHAM DIAL A RIDE REGARDING PROPOSED CUTS TO SUBSIDISED TRANSPORT AND CONCESSIONARY FARES BY CAMBRIDGESHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Cllr Yates took the chair for this item. Members unanimously agreed that the Council could not respond to this letter, but councillors as individuals, could support this, if they so wished.

15. TO REVIEW THE PROCEDURES FOR CO-OPTION OF NEW COUNCILLORS

Members discussed the current procedures for co-option of new councillors. They felt that these procedures should be changed and Cllr Hobbs proposed that for future co-options applications should not be blind. This was seconded by Cllr Ashton. Members voted on this proposal with 10 for, 1 against and 1 abstention. Cllr Pearson further proposed that candidates for co-option should be invited to the Full Council meeting to give a 1-2 minute talk about themselves before the vote is taken on the co-option. This was seconded by Cllr Every. Members voted on this proposal with 11 for and 1 against.

16. ELY POST OFFICE

This item was discussed in full under item 4.

17. TO APPROVE THE SIGNING AND SEALING OF THE CCTV TRANSFER AGREEMENT

Members unanimously agreed to the Mayor signing and sealing the CCTV Transfer Agreement. The Mayor signed the agreement and the Clerk then sealed the agreement.

18. COUNCIL SERVICES AND PRESENTATION BY POSSIBLE SERVICE PROVIDER

The Mayor proposed that in view of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted the following matter be considered in private and that the power of exclusion of the public under Section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 be exercised. This was seconded by Cllr Yates and unanimously agreed. *Due to the confidential nature of this item, this was discussed in Committee at the end of the meeting.*

19. FINANCE

Members approved the following for payment:

Talk Talk	15.31	paid by direct debit
Internet Marketing Company	24.00	paid by direct debit
Barclays	27.18	paid by direct debit
FuelGenie	168.22	paid by direct debit
Barclaycard	105.81	paid by direct debit
ESPO	105.96	paid by direct debit
ESPO	67.71	paid by direct debit
Southern Electric	63.38	paid by direct debit
Zurich Municipal	457.43	109383
Wider Plan Ltd	112.54	109384
E Griffin-Singh	18.12	109386
N Clarke	57.20	109387
Jewson Ltd	76.42	109388
Stoke Ferry Timber Ltd	255.84	109390
Countryside Services	804.00	109391
Allen's Skip Hire Ltd	84.00	109389

G & J Peck Ltd 331.45 109393

Finance continued

Ely Museum	20.00	109392
CCTV Volunteer	24.00	109394
CCTV Volunteer	13.16	109395
CCTV Volunteer	6.40	109396
CCTV Volunteer	25.60	109397
CCTV Volunteer	42.79	109398
CCTV Volunteer	51.20	109399
Southern Electric	22.66	paid by direct debit
CCTV Volunteer	19.20	109403
Thurlow Nunn Standen Ltd	8.40	109400
Neil Cutforth & Associates	1000.00	109404
MiJan Ltd	35.00	109405
Quadrant Security Group	318.00	109406
ESPO	26.35	109407
Cooleraid Ltd	14.40	109408
G & J Peck Ltd	35.61	109409
Allen's Skip Hire Ltd	334.00	109410
Mr Steven Thomson	120.00	109411
Clearview Communications Ltd	2568.00	109401
Allen's Skip Hire Ltd	84.00	109402

Payments relating to staff since meeting on the 13th January 2014

Salaries and wages	£8259.24
Inland Revenue (tax & NI)	£2174.15
Pension fund payments	£3124.38

Members noted and approved the bank reconciliation against the accounts for the period ending 31st January 2014