



CITY OF ELY COUNCIL
72 MARKET STREET
ELY
CAMBS CB7 4LS

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL COUNCIL MEETING & MAYOR MAKING
HELD AT 7.30 PM ON MONDAY, 12TH MAY 2014
IN THE LADY CHAPEL, ELY CATHEDRAL, ELY

PRESENT:

The Mayor, Cllr E Griffin-Singh	Cllr E Every	Cllr R Hobbs
Cllr B Ashton	Cllr A Arnold	Cllr J Yates
Cllr C Phillips	Cllr J Pearson	Cllr M Rouse
Cllr G Barber	Cllr N Clarke	Cllr I Lindsay
Cllr A Whelan		

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from the Mayor of Cambridge; Mr & Mrs R Bamford; the Bishop of Huntingdon; Mr Willson; Sir John & Lady Baird; Mayor of Godmanchester; Sq Leader Neild, RAF Lakenheath; Chairman of Huntingdon District Council; Mr & Mrs Freestone; Mayor of Peterborough; Mrs J Goodwin; Mr & Mrs V Meachen; Bishop of Ely; Mrs A Broadhurst; Chief Constable Parr; Mayor of March; Mayor of Thetford; Mayor of St Neots; J Paice MP; Mrs S Sands; Mr J Hill; The High Sheriff of Cambridgeshire; Mr K Davies; Mr W Burton; Mrs Hampton; R Wylie; Mr & Mrs Lord; S Lough; Mayor of King's Lynn; Mrs J Crawley; Mr J Marshall; Mrs C Jenkinson-Dix; Wisbech Town Mayor and consort; Mr W Bebbington; Mayor of Huntingdon; Mr J Ison; Mrs P Hobbs and Mrs L Titmarsh.

2. Out Going Mayor's Report for 2013/2014

The Mayor, Cllr Elaine Griffin-Singh welcomed everyone to the Annual Council Meeting and Mayor Making for the City of Ely Council. This had been an extremely busy year for the Council. She had been extremely privileged to have been the head of the Council during this last year, especially when she had signed the deeds for the purchase of the Magistrates Court. She had also been involved in the negotiations, which will see the Council take on a 99 year lease for a peppercorn rent for the Maltings, and had signed an Agreement to Lease for this building. She thanked District Councillor J Palmer for embracing localism and the City of Ely Council in helping move these negotiations forward. Many of the ceremonial occasions she had attended as Mayor had resulted in some surreal moments. Council business has become much more active, due to its aspirations under the localism agenda.

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Out Going Mayor's Report for 2013/2014 continued

One of the roles of the Mayor is the Mayor's Charity. She had been very pleased to have been involved in organising numerous events in the year, some better than others. Some had been her own ideas and some suggested by others, grasping their aspirations on behalf of the Mayor's Charity. One of these had been the legacy of the Scouts Post at Christmas and also the legacy of Star Radio, allowing her to broadcast a weekly show. She still had some unfinished business, with regards to a youth facility at Centre E and would still be working to achieve this. She could not have undertaken all of this without help. She thanked her consorts, her daughter Nisha and niece Rachel; Cllr Rouse, Cllr Alison Arnold and her husband Arnie; the Deputy Mayor for supporting some crazy schemes, steering her when she need steering and stepping up to help out when she recognised it was needed. She said that Ely would have a great Mayor next year. She also thanked her fellow councillors for supporting her through her Mayoral year.

3. Vote of Thanks to the Retiring Mayor

Cllr Rouse said that Elaine was an Ely person, with both their families growing up a short distance from each other in Ely. He remembered her grandparents and knew her parents really well. They were and are very down to earth and kind. Words which he would also apply to Elaine. He also felt she had courage, especially when she campaigned against the introduction of car parking charges in Ely. For some years the aim of the Council has been to take more control back from the District Council for services, and who better than Elaine to drive the Council forward. As a Council, we have had to become more business-like, with the workload increasing, but the Council now has more involvement in the running of the City.

Elaine is very much a people person and she has visited so many organisations and informed the Council of their work. Her weekly programme on Star Radio has helped to tell everyone about how much happens in the community. Her charity events have been amazing; the unforgettable Party in the Park, Saturday evenings on the Market Place, the Children's Sports Day, the Bollywood event, fashion shows and the Mayor's Ball. She has been a driving force, backed by her daughter and niece, both acting as her consort. She also had a core of incredibly local supporters and workers.

To serve is to care and Elaine cares about Ely. Supported by the Deputy Mayor and fellow councillors, she has forged better links with local businesses to develop the City's economy and fought for better facilities for the youth of Ely. He said that she had done so much for the City and had been such an outstanding ambassador all over the City, the County and beyond. She does get frustrated at times, as she cannot get things done more quickly, but that is the nature of Local Government in this country. But no one could have tried harder to push projects forward and as a member of the Council, of course, her involvement will continue in supporting her successor.

It had been a pleasure and privilege to serve with this Mayor and on behalf of the Council, the City of Ely and the parish. He formally thanked the Right Worshipful the Mayor of the City of Ely, Councillor Elaine Griffin-Singh on a quite remarkable and unforgettable year.

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4. Election of the Chairman who shall thereupon, in accordance with the Local Government Act of 1972, become the Right Worshipful the Mayor of the City of Ely

Cllr Hobbs said it was five years ago that he had stood before them, with a plan to move the City Council forward, to have more influence over City life and each Mayor since has contributed to that aspiration, and no more so than Cllr Griffin-Singh. There is much further to go as the City grows into the 21st Century. With all the changes ahead it gave him great pleasure to nominate Cllr Elisabeth Every as the Mayor of the City of Ely for 2014/2015. He had known Lis for many years. He like many councillors could not help but be very impressed with the impact she had made in such a short time as a City Councillor. He felt Lis brought to the Council a wealth of experience, running a family business with her husband, Colin. She had raised her two sons and had a career as a teacher at the City of Ely College, where she was head of Business Studies and then she moved to Peterborough to be a Deputy Head. Throughout her career she had forged links with businesses and is now a member of the Cambridgeshire Chamber of Commerce. Using this experience she has strengthened the Council's links with the City Centre businesses, reviewed tourism within the City and overseen the changes with the CCTV. Lis is a hard working, highly motivated councillor, who brings a wealth of professional knowledge of education and business administration. Cllr Ashton said it gave him great pleasure to second Cllr Hobb's nomination.

By unanimous agreement Cllr Every was elected as Chairman and Mayor.

Cllr Every, the retiring Mayor and the Clerk left the Lady Chapel and entered the robing room. Cllr Every was invested with the robes and the Chain of Office. The Town Crier then announced the new Mayor and Cllr Every re-entered the Lady Chapel.

5. Reading and Signing of the Declaration of Office and Swearing the Oath of Allegiance by the Right Worshipful the Mayor of the City of Ely

Cllr Every read and signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office. She then swore the Oath of Allegiance.

6. Statement of Acceptance of Office by the Newly Elected the Right Worshipful Mayor of the City of Ely

Cllr Every thanked the Dean for allowing her to hold the Mayor Making in the Cathedral. She felt the relationship between the Cathedral and the City of Ely Council was very strong and undoubtedly reflected this. She thanked her fellow councillors for their kind words and for charging her with the task of becoming the Mayor of Ely. She was extremely honoured to represent the City of Ely Council and the people of Ely and to accept the responsibilities that their trust had given her. When she arrived in the City 42 years ago, she was told she may be accepted over time, and felt perhaps she could now actually believe that she had been. It had certainly been worth all the effort required to become part of this fantastic place. She said it had been a privilege to work and live in this area and she had much appreciated the opportunity to serve as a councillor on the City of Ely Council over the past years and now as Mayor. She thanked Cllr Rouse and the previous Mayor, Cllr Griffin-Singh, who had worked tirelessly for the people of Ely and had accomplished so much. She was going to be a hard act to follow. She said councillors had worked together as a team to achieve agreed aims, sometimes in quite challenging situations. She also thanked the dedicated administration team and other members of staff, led ably by the Clerk, who keeps everyone on the straight and narrow, whilst supporting the councillors' efforts to move the Council forward. She gave thanks to her family and friends, but particularly to her husband Colin, and sons, Neil and Simon, who have always been incredibly supportive, especially when she had taken on yet something else.

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Statement of Acceptance of Office by the Newly Elected the Right Worshipful Mayor of the City of Ely

She said her main objectives for her Mayoral year would be based on Pride, Partnership and People. She wanted to develop pride, both individual, community and corporate, in the City's environment. She wanted to expand the existing partnership working and collaboration, which had been so important in the Council moving forward. She wished to develop new partnerships required to meet her aims and would support residents, local communities and businesses through improved communication.

With regards to Pride, she said we live in a wonderful City and show visitors what we have and do here. However, there is always room for improvement and she will be looking at strategies to encourage responsibility for pride in our area, as individuals, local authorities, communities and businesses.

It is the Council's long term objective to create and maintain a vibrant local business community and City Centre, with specific focus on businesses servicing our local residents, outskirt visitors and tourists. The Council's City Centre Forum has created a partnership approach this year to make things happen with representatives from many stakeholders. A similar strategy is now planned for collaborative working with stakeholders on developing opportunities for young people in the City. It will support the expansion of the leisure provision for young people; widen the business and education link,s based on developing the employability skills required by our local businesses, through a systematic programme including experiences of work, business mentoring and improved information and guidance, using our business partners. It is anticipated that this will encourage and facilitate young people to stay in or return to Ely to work. There will be co-ordinated and sustainable support for both businesses and students in their search for apprenticeships. The City Council, working with ECDC, already have an interest from schools and our established local business organisations, the Cathedral Business Group, Chamber of Commerce and Rotary Clubs to put this in place. They were also hopeful to work with other initiatives that have been set up in the area and will be seeking interested partners.

She said that from a business and educational perspective, she knew the value that volunteers bring to the community; whether it is manning charity shops, working with young people or saving social care hours doing tasks. These volunteers make our community a better place to live. She was keen to ensure that volunteers are appreciated and recognised for what they do and how they benefit the community. She intended to visit and work with all the City's community groups over the year. The Council, itself, also relies heavily on volunteers, whether it is to sit on the Council itself, or our CCTV volunteers, improving the environment through Ely in Bloom, or the enjoyment of residents with the Christmas Lights and Switch on events. She wanted residents to become actively involved and one of her aims was to improve communications with the parishioners.

She was delighted that the Dean had agreed to be her Chaplin for the year. Her main charity that she had chosen to support was the East Anglia's Children's Hospices (EACH), which gives care and support to life-threatened children, young people and families. This has a local hospice in Milton. She would however, also be creating a fund which will be used to support local community groups. She was particularly interested in young stroke victims and prostate cancer groups.

She looked forward to serving as the Mayor and looked forward to working with her colleagues, on the policies and plans to support the future of this City.

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The Consort, Mr Colin Every was then invested with the Chain of Office by the retiring Consort.

7. Election of the Vice-Chairman who shall become the Deputy Mayor of the City of Ely

Cllr Every was pleased to propose Cllr John Yates as the Vice-Chairman and Deputy Mayor of Ely. She had had the privilege of working with Cllr Yates for several years. He had been her mentor when she had first joined the Council. Without his guidance and support it might have been more difficult for her to have become an active member. He is always approachable, is extremely professional and his background undoubtedly benefits the working of the Council and its forward plans. John had a long career in the NHS and Department of Health, spanning 44 years, retiring in 2006. This had been mostly in planning and procurement of new hospitals and facilities, and the disposal of redundant land and buildings. John is also Chairman of the Trustees and Church warden of St Peter's Church, Ely. He has been the Chairman of Cambridgeshire Acre since November 2006 and for the last 18 months, President of the Mepal Outdoor Centre. He has been married for 44 years to Helen. They have three children and two grandchildren. He is also a keen golfer and Rotary member. Cllr Hobbs said that he was very happy to second Cllr Every's proposal.

By unanimous agreement, Cllr Yates was duly elected as Vice-Chairman and Deputy Mayor. He read and signed the Declaration of Office and was invested with the Chain of Office.

Cllr Yates said it was a great honour to serve as the Deputy Mayor for the City of Ely. He pledged his support to the Mayor, Cllr Every in her coming year as he felt they shared a vision.

The Deputy Consort was then invested with the Beckett Brooch.

8. Committees, representatives to other organisations, school governors and trustees to Ely Museum

Appointments as detailed separately, were proposed by Cllr Rouse and seconded by Cllr Ashton and were unanimously approved.

9. Authorisation of Signatories

Signatories as detailed below, were proposed by Cllr Hobbs and seconded by Cllr Rouse and were unanimously approved.

Barclays Bank account – any two of the Mayor, Deputy Mayor and Cllr Griffin-Singh.

Cambridge Building Society accounts – any two of the Mayor, Deputy Mayor, Cllr Griffin-Singh and Cllr Arnold.

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