



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 13TH JANUARY 2014

PRESENT:

The Mayor, Cllr E Griffin-Singh
Cllr A Arnold
Cllr M Rouse
Cllr R Hobbs
Cllr C Phillips

Deputy Mayor, Cllr E Every
Cllr J Yates
Cllr N Clarke
Cllr J Outen

Cllr S Overall
Cllr J Chaplin
Cllr B Ashton
Cllr G Barber

District Cllr J Friend-Smith

Mrs V Holden (parishioner)

Mrs M Haynes (parishioner)

Ms A Poyser (Stuntney Village Council)

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Cllrs Pearson and Tyrrell.

2. COUNCILLOR REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATIONS AND DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

There were no requests for dispensations or declarations of interest.

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

District Cllr J Friend-Smith and Mrs Holden declared their intention to speak under item 5. Ms Poyser declared her intention to speak under item 12.

4. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING HELD ON THE 16TH DECEMBER AND MATTERS ARISING

The minutes of the last meeting held on the 16th December were agreed and signed as a true record. Pages 1304, 1305, 1306, 1307, 1308 and 1309 refer.

Matters arising:- Page 1304, item 4 – The Clerk confirmed that the licence with ECDC for the external works has now been agreed and the work will commence this week.

Page 1305, item 5 – The Mayor reported that Croylands will now be auctioned by Cambs County Council, as the planning application for retirement homes has now been refused.

Page 1306, item 12 – Members noted the information supplied, as requested, from the Ely Waits regarding the events they have played at.

5. QUESTION TIME

The Mayor informed those present that item 16 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.

District Cllr J Friend-Smith informed members he has raised his concerns at the last Neighbourhood Panel meeting regarding the junction of Chief Street/West Fen Road. Cars were parking on the corner of this junction as there are no yellow lines, which made it very dangerous. The County Council had responded to him that there would be no objection from the local Highway Authority, in principle to the introduction of such parking restrictions, but the funding would need to come from a third party. They suggested it may be something that the City of Ely Council could consider as a future Local Highway Initiative bid. Cllr Hobbs felt that the Police needed to be brought on board. It was agreed that this location should be added to the City Council's on-street parking list. He also raised his concerns regarding the Post Office in Ely.

Question Time continued

Mrs Holden thanked the Council for making the venue of the Council meeting somewhere which is accessible for her. She asked if the Council had a set procedure for dealing with correspondence that was received by the Council. The Clerk explained the Council’s Document Handling Procedures.

Cllr Rouse, in his capacity as a County Councillor reported that he had attended a meeting with the school provider and parents for the new school in the North of Ely. This will be starting at St Mary’s Junior School whilst the school is being built. An Executive Head has been appointed, who will be getting the school up and running. The planning application should be submitted very shortly. It was unanimously agreed that the school will need to have good access.

Cllr Hobbs in his capacity as a District Councillor informed members that the recent article in the local paper referring to an out of town retail development at Downham Road, Ely, was not happening. ECDC own this land and are still committed to providing a leisure centre on this site.

District Cllr J Friend-Smith left the meeting at 7.30 pm.

6. MAYOR’S ENGAGEMENTS & REPORT

The Mayor had attended the Mayor’s Gala Night: Jack and the Beanstalk pantomime and had attended as a lunchtime guest at St Mary’s Junior School.

The Deputy Mayor had attended the CCTV Volunteers Christmas dinner and a fund-raising concert which was benefiting the Mayor’s Charity.

7. PLANNING

Reports of a Planning Committee meeting held on the 18th November 2013 and immediately prior to this meeting were received.

8. INFORMATION ONLY ITEMS

The following items for information only, were received:

Notification of tree work:- 77 Deacons Lane, Ely; 10 Barton Square, Ely; King’s Acremont Nursery and Pre Prep, Egremont House, 28 Egremont Street, Ely; 35 St Mary’s Street, Ely; 32 Chapel Street, Ely

Letter from Norfolk Green

Letter from EASS – Cllr Every informed members she had responded to this letter, both verbally initially and then in writing.

9. COMMITTEE REPORTS

(i) FINANCE AND PERSONNEL – No report as Committee had not met.

(ii) STREET FURNITURE – No report as Committee had not met.

(iii) RECREATION AND CEMETERY – No report as Committee had not met. Cllr Clarke informed members that the skate ramps had now been installed, but a site meeting was being arranged due to some issues with the quality of the finish.

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

(v) ELY IN BLOOM – No report as Committee had not met. Cllr Overall informed members the Sub-Group would be meeting to look at the quotations received for the new three year planting and watering contract for the hanging baskets and planters.

(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.

10. WORKING PARTIES/STEERING GROUPS REPORTS

CCTV Partnership Working Group – Cllr Every updated members on a meeting with Clearview Communications Ltd. There would be an additional charge of £16,000 for the upgrading of the equipment on the Cathedral, which had been negotiated for payment over a period of three years as part of the maintenance contract. This would mean a spares package would not be purchased. A split of £10000 for Ely and £6000 for Soham Town Council had been agreed. The Clerk had applied for the planning permission for the erection of an antenna on the roof of Soham Church. The new wireless system will be operational from the 1st April 2014. ECDC will withdraw from the CCTV Partnership from the 21st January 2014. A new partnership agreement will have to be drawn up with Soham Town Council. Members unanimously approved the quotation from Clearview Communications Ltd for the temporary maintenance contract for the existing CCTV equipment from the 21st January to the 31st March at a cost of £2140.

Cllr Yates requested that thanks be recorded for all the work undertaken by Cllr Every, Cllr Clarke and the Clerk on this procurement process.

11. REPORTS FROM EXTERNAL MEETINGS

There were no reports from external meetings.

12. TO CONSIDER REQUEST FROM STUNTNEY VILLAGE COUNCIL TO TAKE RESPONSIBILITY FOR AN OAK TREE THEY WISH TO PLANT ON THE PUBLIC HIGHWAY IN STUNTNEY

Cllr Every tabled a paper on this item, giving the background on this matter, further investigation that has been undertaken and the issues. Members discussed this matter and Ms Poyser also gave Stuntney Village Council’s reasons for this request. The Clerk did inform members that if this is agreed and Stuntney Village Council agree to bear all the costs for the maintenance of the tree in perpetuity and if they were then to cease to exist, the City of Ely Council would be responsible for any possible future costs. Members noted these concerns, but Cllr Every proposed that the City of Ely Council agree to the planting of the proposed tree in Stuntney, following a written undertaking by the Stuntney Village Council to bear all costs of planting and maintenance for the tree in perpetuity. This was seconded by Cllr Yates and members unanimously agreed.

13. NOMINATIONS FOR MAYOR AND DEPUTY MAYOR 2014/2015

The nominations of Cllr Elisabeth Every for Mayor, proposed by Cllr R Hobbs and seconded by Cllr B Ashton and Cllr John Yates for Deputy Mayor, proposed by Cllr E Every and seconded by Cllr R Hobbs were unanimously approved.

14. TO NOTE MINUTES OF THE ELY TRAFFIC AND ENVIRONMENT STUDY OFFICER WORKING GROUP MEETING HELD ON THE 11TH DECEMBER AND TO MAKE COMMENTS ON THE ELY TRAFFIC AND ENVIRONMENT STUDY OPTIONS REPORT

Members noted the minutes of the Ely Traffic and Environment Study Officer Working Group meeting held on the 11th December. They also discussed the Recommendations Summary within the Ely Traffic and Environment Study Options report and agreed to respond to ECDC as follows:-

4.2.1 – Broad Street Pedestrian Crossing

Members unanimously agreed to this recommendation for the provision of an additional pedestrian crossing for Broad Street, immediately adjacent to the Forehill car park access. However, they did feel there was a need to investigate the possibility of a further pedestrian crossing at the other end of Broad Street near St Peter’s Church.

4.2.2 – Lisle Lane to Ely Railway Station Cycle Route

Members unanimously agreed to support the provision of this cycle route from Lisle Lane to Ely Railway Station. However, concerns were raised that Victoria Street should have been considered to become a one way street.

4.2.3 – Forehill/Broad Street Priority Junction

Members supported the need for changes at this junction, but felt that a mini roundabout may not be the right solution. Members suggested a change of priority at this junction would work much better.

4.2.4 – Lisle Lane Speed Management

Members supported the need for speed management along Lisle Lane.

4.2.5 – Broad Street/Back Hill Priority Junction

Members supported the change of priority to the junction layout at the Broad Street/Back Hill junction. However, members felt the current kerb realignment needs to be removed.

4.2.6 – Extension of 20 mph zone in Ely

Members did not support the extension of the 20 mph zone in Ely.

Members acknowledged that these comments would be reported verbally at ECDC's Development & Transport Committee meeting the following day.

Cllr Rouse informed members of the content of the report going to this Development & Transport Committee meeting.

15. TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE ON STEEPLE ROW FROM CLLR YATES

Cllr Yates informed members that the bin store site and size had now been agreed. This will be constructed of wood. ECDC had requested that the City of Ely Council make a contribution to the maintenance of this bin store. Members unanimously agreed to an annual contribution of £150. Cllr Yates had discovered that this area could possibly come under the public realm, which may make the project eligible for Section 106 funding.

16. TO DISCUSS THE SITUATION REGARDING ELY POST OFFICE

Members were very disappointed they had not been informed of the situation regarding the unsuccessful proposed franchise operator. They had own heard about this from the local press. Members agreed to invite a senior officer of the Post Office Ltd to attend an Extraordinary meeting to explain the current position and how the Council can work with them to move this forward.

17. NORTH ELY DELIVERY BOARD

Members unanimously agreed the person to represent this Council on the North Ely Delivery Board should be Cllr Nigel Clarke.

Cllr Hobbs and Ms Poyser left the meeting at 9.10 pm.

18. COUNCIL SERVICES AND PRESENTATION BY POSSIBLE SERVICE PROVIDER

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:

East Cambs District Council	370.00	paid by direct debit
East Cambs District Council	520.00	paid by direct debit
Talk Talk	15.31	paid by direct debit
Internet Marketing Company	24.00	paid by direct debit
Barclays	27.55	paid by direct debit
FuelGenie	143.56	paid by direct debit
Francotyp Postalia Ltd	72.00	paid by direct debit
Barclaycard	172.15	paid by direct debit
Francotyp Postalia Ltd	100.00	paid by direct debit
Wider Plan Ltd	112.54	109355
Manea Silver Band	150.00	109361
ECDC	143.77	109360
ESPO	13.50	109359
Fenland Leisure Products Ltd	1178.40	109358
Highline Extreme (OZ-UK) Ltd	12000.00	109385
Stoke Ferry Timber Ltd	136.80	109362
CCTV Volunteer	9.87	109363
CCTV Volunteer	12.00	109364

Finance continued

CCTV Volunteer	25.60	109365
CCTV Volunteer	12.80	109366
Anglian Water	51.81	109354
Argos Business Solutions Ltd	11.75	109367
Thurlow Nunn Standen	55.62	109368
Anglian Water	23.04	109356
CCTV Volunteer	13.92	109369
CCTV Volunteer	19.60	109370
CCTV Volunteer	9.60	109371
CCTV Volunteer	38.40	109372
CCTV Volunteer	9.60	109373
CCTV Volunteer	12.80	109373
Warren Access	698.34	109374
Mr M Chinery-Colyer	49.27	109375
British Telecommunications	151.89	paid by direct debit
ECDC	97.50	109357
Cambridgeshire Turf Nurseries	18.00	109376
Cooleraid Ltd	9.60	109377
British Telecommunications	274.04	paid by direct debit
British Telecommunications	69.08	paid by direct debit
Ely Soham Dial-a-Ride	565.50	109378
Quadrant Security Group	79.50	109379
S Jay	13.26	109380
G & J Peck Ltd	65.61	109381
D T Newman	60.00	109382

Payments relating to staff since meeting on the 16th December 2013

Salaries and wages	£8323.17
Inland Revenue (tax & NI)	£2214.54
Pension fund payments	£3124.38

Members noted and approved the bank reconciliation against the accounts for the period ending 31st December 2013