



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, 13TH MAY 2013
IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, EAST CAMBRIDGEHSIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL,
THE GRANGE, NUTHOLT LANE, ELY

PRESENT:

The Mayor, Cllr W Burton
Cllr P Eden
Cllr J Yates
Cllr J Mackay
Cllr E Every

Cllr S Overall
Cllr A Arnold
Cllr E Griffin-Singh
Cllr J Tyrrell
Cllr C Jones

Cllr R Hobbs
Cllr J Chaplin
Cllr M Rouse
Cllr B Ashton
Cllr E Every

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Mr & Mrs Lee; Mrs Grant; Mr R Bamford; Mr & Mrs J Willson; Mr J Hickish; Mrs S Sands; Mr M Read; Bishop Stephen, Bishop of Ely; Mr J Paice MP; Colonel K Robinson; District Cllr J Friend-Smith; Mr T Clarke; Mr N Jones; Mr J Wakefield and Inspector P Ormerod.

2. Out Going Mayor's Report for 2012/2013

The Mayor, Cllr William Burton welcomed everyone to the 39th Mayor Making for the City of Ely Council. This had been an extremely busy year for everyone, with the Diamond Jubilee Celebrations, the Olympics and Paralympics, this Council's car parking partnership proposals, together with some 80 engagements that he had attended with the Mayoress.

We have seen the realisation of projects started by the previous Mayor, Cllr John Yates in the building of the cemetery workshops (completed on time and in budget by the project manager Cllr Nigel Clark) and the signing of the lease for the Maltings Cottage. Further development of established projects such as CCTV, design work for the Maltings Cottage, a review of play areas, on-street parking and the Riverside development, continue. The latest of the Council's projects is the proposed purchase, for the community, of the Ely Magistrates Court. The final signing of the contracts for the Court House is imminent, which will allow the Council to transfer their offices to these premises, create a community hub and enhance Ely's heritage trail with the help of Ely Museum. The consultation work on the Northern Development, the Southern By-Pass, the Leisure Village and the Cinema are on-going. These undertakings have all amounted to a considerable workload this year for our staff and councillors and have resulted in a significant rising of this Council's profile which demonstrates our

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Out Going Mayor's Report for 2012/2013 continued

capability, professionalism and readiness for further responsibility against the backdrop of the Localism Act.

He was of the opinion that the Council's relationship with ECDC is stronger than ever and hoped that this will go from strength to strength. However, he stressed that like a good marriage, it must be nurtured by both parties, working to understand and appreciate each other's point of view, until satisfactory outcomes are achieved. The future is bright. It has to be. Optimism is our greatest tool. Truth and transparency are our best armour against the slings and arrows of criticism and with prudence to the fore in our fiscal management,

the aims, objectives and vision for Ely will be achieved. He was sure the new Chairman and Mayor will ensure that the momentum and direction of travel for the Council will be maintained, to the successful achievement of projects already under way. He wished her every success.

He thanked all the City Councillors, old and new (3), for their support and hard work; to the community members of the various committees whose help is invaluable; to the Council's cemetery staff, whose dedication ensures the cemetery is, in my opinion, second to none. He gave a special thank you to the Town Crier and Bellman, Avril and Graham Hayter-Smith, whose support for both the Council and the city as a whole is very much appreciated. He thanked the members and the officers of ECDC for their help throughout the year, with a particular acknowledgement to the Chief Executive, John Hill. Finally, he gave thanks to the Council's Clerks, Tracey, Sarah and Marianne; the backbone of the Council, who had helped him immensely throughout the year and kept all the members on the straight and narrow.

3. Vote of Thanks to the Retiring Mayor

Cllr Yates said that he had been pleased to propose Cllr Burton last year. Since the start of his Mayoral year he has had a few distractions such as getting married, obtaining his motorcycle licence, purchasing various cars and problems with his wrist. Despite all these he has managed to carry out the duties and responsibilities of Mayor with diligence and commitment, attending over 80 events and occasions. He had enhanced the standing and relationship of the Council with all of its partners, taking responsibility where needed. In this age of Localism the Council has moved further in the direction of travel towards greater responsibility for Ely services. Although this had often been a slow and frustrating process. However, in his year he had signed a long lease for the Maltings Cottage and the Council had agreed to purchase the Magistrates Court, subject to due diligence. As explained the role of Mayor is increasing year on year and I along with the Mayor's fellow councillors, would like to thank Cllr Burton for all he has achieved and the help he has given. He wished Cllr Burton and Mrs Burton all the best for the future.

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 Burton said he was very pleased to nominate Cllr Elaine Griffin-Singh as the Mayor of the City of Ely for 2013/2014. Cllr Yates said he was most pleased to second Cllr Griffin-Singh's nomination. By unanimous agreement Cllr Griffin-Singh was elected as Chairman and Mayor.

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Cllr Griffin-Singh, the retiring Mayor and the Clerk left the Council Chamber and entered the robing room. Cllr Griffin-Singh was invested with the robes and the Chain of Office. The Town Crier then announced the new Mayor and Cllr Griffin-Singh re-entered the Council Chamber

5. Reading and Signing of the Declaration of Office and Swearing the Oath of Allegiance by the Mayor

Cllr Griffin-Singh 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 Mayor

Cllr Griffin-Singh thanked everyone for attending. She briefly explained the responsibilities of the Council and its future and her role for the upcoming year. It was mainly due to Cllr Ashton that the Council stepped up to the mark and raised their game, taking on more responsibility. This started with taking the lead with the CCTV monitoring in the City and in Soham. A CCTV Co-ordinator had been appointed, who runs a team of CCTV volunteers. At the same time, the Council saw the need for improving the Riverside area. A lease for the Maltings Cottage had been signed and the Council was now deciding on what the best use for this would be for the community. The Council unanimously agreed to take on the Magistrates Court and it was hoped the sale would complete very shortly. As Mayor she would be holding a concert in the Park for the Mayor's Charity, which she has had to obtain sponsorship for and was confident this would make a profit. She would also be holding Summer Saturdays on the Market Place. These would commence on the 25th May and run until the 7th September. She hoped this would create Covent Garden on the Market Place. This would benefit the City's economy, especially the City Centre businesses, strengthen community ties and raise the profile of the City Council. She thanked everyone again for coming and sharing this special occasion with her.

The Consort, Miss Nisha Griffin-Singh 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 Yates was pleased to propose Cllr Elisabeth Every as the Vice-Chairman and Deputy Mayor of Ely. She had impressed the Council with taking on major issues and with her forward thinking. Cllr Burton seconded Cllr Yates's proposal.

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

Cllr Every thanked her fellow councillors for the honour that had given her to serve as Deputy Mayor for the City of Ely. She said it would be a real privilege, which she would not underestimate. She looked forward to her year of service, supporting the Mayor, Cllr Griffin-Singh in her year of service to the people of Ely.

The Deputy Consort was then invested with the Beckett Brooch.

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

Appointments as detailed separately, proposed by Cllr Chaplin and seconded by Cllr Overall were unanimously approved.

9. Authorisation of Signatories

Signatories as detailed below, proposed by Cllr Eden and seconded by Cllr Arnold were unanimously approved.

Barclays Bank account – any two of the Mayor, Deputy Mayor and Cllr Yates.

Cambridge Building Society accounts – any two of the Mayor, Deputy Mayor, Cllr Burton and Cllr Overall.

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