



**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE CITY OF ELY COUNCIL HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER
AT 7.15 PM ON MONDAY 16TH DECEMBER 2013**

PRESENT:

The Mayor, Cllr E Griffin-Singh
Cllr A Arnold
Cllr M Rouse
Cllr R Hobbs
Cllr G Barber
1 member of public

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

Cllr S Overall
Cllr J Chaplin
Cllr B Ashton
Cllr J Pearson
Cllr J Tyrrell

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Cllr Pearson.

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**

There were no intentions declared to speak under item 5.

4. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING HELD ON THE 18TH NOVEMBER AND MATTERS ARISING

The minutes of the last meeting held on the 18th November were agreed and signed as a true record. Pages 1298, 1299, 1300, 1301, 1302 and 1303 refer.

Matters arising:- Page 1298, item 5 – The Mayor confirmed that Cllr Overall did not wish to be the liaison between the Access Group and the City of Ely Council on this matter.

Page 1299, item 9 – The Mayor reported she had received one response from her letters to the CCC in relation to their Highways trees Policy. This had not answered the concerns she had raised. She will await further responses before taking any further action.

The Mayor informed members that a letter had been sent, as requested regarding the Post Office. A telephone call had been received in response to this, but the Mayor had not been available to discuss this issue. She confirmed that she would endeavour to call them back this week.

Page 1300, item 10 – The Clerk reported to members that a draft licence had been received from ECDC to enable the Council to undertake the external works to the Maltings Cottage. This had been checked and amendments requested. A revised copy had now been received, which was felt to be acceptable. Members unanimously agreed the Mayor should now sign this licence and the Council's seal will be added.

Page 1300, Item 14 – The Mayor informed members the agreed bid for Archery Crescent regarding the Local Highways Improvement Initiative could not be submitted due to tree roots in this open space. Therefore, the Clerk had circulated by email an alternative bid for Morley Drive/Meadow Way to link the two footpaths. Members had responded positively to this suggestion and a bid was submitted for this scheme.

5. QUESTION TIME

The Mayor informed those present that item 17 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 as the planning application for Croylands had been refused, the County Council would now be putting the site back on the open market in the New Year.

He also reported that the County Council would be moving towards a committee system, which will mean the coalition of all the political groups. The committees are currently being worked out for next May. There is a threat to some of the capital projects, which includes the Southern Bypass. There are still issues with speeding and parking on the highway in Prickwillow Road, but it is hoped these will be improved as part of the North of Ely development.

ECDC will be considering proposals for Lisle Lane and Broad Street at the Development and Transport Committee meeting on the 14th January. The Clerk informed members that the City of Ely Council would be considering these proposals on the 13th January, and comments will be verbally reported at ECDC's meeting.

6. MAYOR'S ENGAGEMENTS & REPORT

The Mayor had attended the coffee morning at Energie ladies gym for the Mayor's Charity; the King's School Foundation award event; the first voyage of the Saturday Ely Shopper Bus; opened the Soham Village College Christmas Fair; Ely Soham Dial-a-Ride ten year anniversary event; the annual Viva Awards; the Ely Festive 5k Fun Run; Book launch at Witchford RAF Museum; the Mayor's Charity & Le Spice goes East evening; the Speak Out Leaders Day at the Larkfield Centre; the Christmas Lights Switch On event; special guest at the Branching Out Ball; Highfields School Xmas Fayre; Highfield School Christmas Nativity; the Witchford College Qualification Awards as a guest speaker; the Christingle Service at Ely Cathedral; the CAT performance of Cinderella and the Barns Voice community Christmas party.

The Deputy Mayor had attended various activities at Ely St John's Primary School, as she was now one of their Governors. She had also attended a meeting at Prickwillow regarding transport issues; the Highfield School Christmas Nativity and meetings with the Vicar of Soham Church and Soham Town Council regarding CCTV. Cllr Rouse, along with a few other councillors had attended the City of Ely Military Band's Christmas Service, which had been very good. Members agreed the Mayor should write to the Band thanking them for their kind invitation to the Council members and for such a wonderful performance.

7. PLANNING

Reports of a Planning Committee meeting held on the 2nd December 2013 and immediately prior to this meeting were received.

8. INFORMATION ONLY ITEMS

The following items for information only, were received:

Letter from High Sheriff of Cambridgeshire regarding the Probation Service

Responses regarding letter sent from Mayor regarding support for the A142 Southern Bypass

Notification of tree work:- 11A Barton Road, Ely; 1 Ship Lane, Ely; 58 Bentham Way, Ely; 4 Ely Road,

Prickwillow, Ely; Alameda, 29B Cambridge Road, Ely; 70 Morton Close, Ely; 25 Williams Close, Ely; Land off

Cardinals Terrace and Cardinals Way, Ely; 27 Cardinals Way, Ely

Notification of street naming and numbering:- Sheriffs Gardens, Ely

Letter from St Edmundsbury Borough Council regarding Strategic Environment Assessment Addendum – Summary appraisal of Alternative Options

Situation Report 2011-2013 from the City of Ely Perspective – Members noted this report but were still awaiting the Perspective's Accounts for the last two years. These were expected early in the New Year.

Community Safety Survey with Parish Councils 2013 – deadline 23rd December – Members felt issues in relation to the Community Safety Partnership were dealt with at the Ely Neighbourhood Panel. Members agreed the Communications Working Party would respond to this survey on behalf of the Council and request a presentation on what the Partnership involves.

9. COMMITTEE REPORTS

(i) FINANCE AND PERSONNEL – The Mayor presented a report of a meeting held on the 9th December, which was approved. Cllr Ashton proposed an increase in the Band ‘D’ charge of 2.7% nominally in line with the percentage increase in the state pension. The total precept would be increased in line with the number of Band ‘D’ equivalent homes in the City of Ely, at the time of calculation by ECDC for their budget projection, together with the above percentage increase indicated. This was seconded by Cllr Yates and unanimously approved. The budget’s individual headings will be discussed at the next Finance and Personnel Committee meeting. A two year plan of the Council’s finances will also be produced. Due to the issues regarding mortgages for the Council’s Shared Equity Scheme, a resident had requested permission to rent out their property. Members unanimously agreed to this request, for a period of six months.

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

(iii) RECREATION AND CEMETERY – No report as Committee had not met.

(iv) CHRISTMAS LIGHTS – No report as Committee had not met. Cllr Chaplin reported the Christmas Lights switch on event on the 29th November had been very successful. She thanked all the volunteers who had created such a great display and all the hard work they had undertaken. The Mayor also gave her thanks to the volunteers. The next meeting will be on the 25th January 2014.

(v) ELY IN BLOOM – Cllr Overall presented a report of a meeting held on the 26th November, which was approved. The update regarding the winter planting for 2013 was noted. The specifications and the terms and conditions for the three year summer and winter planting scheme had been approved.

(vi) ELY/RIBE – No report as not met.

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

10. WORKING PARTIES/STEERING GROUPS REPORTS

City Centre Forum – notes of a meeting held on the 20th November were noted. Cllr Every reminded members of the seminar on the 3rd February. Cllr Hobbs requested clarification regarding ‘a voluntary code of conduct’ regarding litter in the City. Cllr Every confirmed the Forum had agreed that caring for the outside of businesses within the City Centre should be voluntary and not be a blanket approach. Cllr Every agreed to respond to ECDC with the Forum's response regarding this matter.

On-Street Parking Working Group – notes of a meeting held on the 28th November were noted. Members agreed to the recommendations within the notes. The Street Furniture Committee will take over the monitoring of any new, old or completed works within Phase 1 and the City Centre Forum will take over Phase 2. The On-Street Parking Working Group would also be wound up.

CCTV Partnership Working Group – Cllr Every updated members on the progress of the procurement for the wireless CCTV system. At the last Full Council meeting members had agreed to accept the preferred bidder, which she confirmed as Clearview Communications. Permission had been given verbally for the erection of antennas on the Cathedral and Soham Church. Soham Town Council had also informally agreed their contribution towards the costings for the scheme, which will be considered at their next Full Council meeting. Now need to work very closely with all parties to ensure the deadline for installation is met. Cllr Every wished to record thanks to the Clerk and Cllr Clarke for all their hard work in this process.

11. REPORTS FROM EXTERNAL MEETINGS

Section 106 – notes of a meeting held on the 28th November were noted.

Networking meeting regarding Parish Paths Patch – notes of a meeting held on the 21st November were noted.

Prickwillow Village Council Transport meeting – tabled minutes of a meeting held on the 2nd December were noted.

12. TO CONSIDER LETTER FROM THE CITY OF ELY WAITS

Members considered the letter from the City of Ely Waits and agreed that the Council supported the Waits as an organisation, but would not necessarily support them financially. They could apply for a grant through the Council's annual grant scheme. Members would be interested in receiving a list of events and occasions that the band had played at, if possible.

13. TO CONSIDER LETTER FROM CLLR J PALMER, LEADER OF THE COUNCIL, ECDC REGARDING COMMUNITY RIGHT TO BID FOR ASSETS OF COMMUNITY VALUE

Members noted the contents of this letter.

14. TO MAKE COMMENTS ON THE PROPOSED EXPANSION OF THE REAL TIME PASSENGER INFORMATION (RTPI) SYSTEM WITHIN ELY

Members unanimously agreed they would welcome the expansion of the RTPI systems within Ely. They would support the system being installed at the 2 stops on Broad Street and the 1 on Prickwillow Road, which have the most services stopping at them, plus as many others as the County Council can financially undertake.

15. CORRESPONDENCE

The following correspondence was noted:-
LCR

16. COUNCIL MEETINGS

Cllr Every had prepared a discussion paper setting out the background of this issue regarding accessibility and possible solutions. Members discussed this at great length. Cllr Hobbs proposed that the next five Full Council meetings, the Annual Parish Meeting and the Annual Council Meeting should be held at an alternative venue that is fully accessible to all. This was seconded by Cllr Barber, with 13 voting for and 1 abstention. Members felt that this was a 'reasonable' step to address the issue raised.

The member of the public left the meeting at 8.50 pm.

17. 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.

18. 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	320.39	paid by direct debit
Francotyp Postalia Ltd	72.00	paid by direct debit
Barclaycard	198.39	paid by direct debit
Southern Electric	154.32	paid by direct debit
Francotyp Postalia Ltd	100.00	paid by direct debit
ESPO	71.61	paid by direct debit
ESPO	53.03	paid by direct debit
ESPO	7.14	paid by direct debit
British Telecommunications	62.70	paid by direct debit
AA Media Ltd	456.00	109312
Konica Minolta	257.90	109314
Mr M Chinery-Colyer	28.00	109313
Holgate & French (Shelford) Ltd	161.87	109315
CCTV Volunteer	9.87	109316
CCTV Volunteer	67.20	109317
CCTV Volunteer	24.00	109318
CCTV Volunteer	12.80	109319
CCTV Volunteer	19.20	109320
CCTV Volunteer	9.60	109321
CCTV Volunteer	19.20	109322
CTN Turf	90.00	109323
Konica Minolta	18.91	109324
ECDC	6300.00	109325
Ely College	375.00	109326

Finance continued

Cambridge Computer Wizards Ltd	240.00	109327
K Ellis	1033.00	109328
Quadrant Security Group Ltd	2794.76	109329
City Cycle Centre	11.70	109330
Thurlow Nunn Standen	37.42	109331
G & J Peck Ltd	98.85	109332
D Newman	168.50	109333
Warren Access	750.19	109334
N Clarke	108.80	109335
E B Sindall & Son	49.95	109336
Mr M Chinery- Colyer	30.91	109337
Sun Traffic Ltd	1374.00	109338
Solitech	1920.00	109339
ESPO	80.10	109340
AmeyCespa (East) Ltd	6.60	109341
Cooleraid Ltd	4.80	109342
Highline Extreme (Oz-UK) Ltd	15000.00	109343
Argos Business Solutions Ltd	4.89	109344
Cambridge Computer Wizards Ltd	45.00	109345
CCTV Volunteer	16.00	109346
Allen's Skip Hire Ltd	250.00	109347
ESPO	63.27	paid by direct debit
ESPO	98.08	paid by direct debit
K Ellis	6.06	109348
ESPO	68.04	109349
Salmons Bros	10,800.00	109353
Konica Minolta	118.15	109350
Nigel Pindar Transport	120.00	109351
Ely Soham Dial-a-Ride	401.50	109352

Payments relating to staff since meeting on the 18th November 2013

Salaries and wages	£8386.33
Inland Revenue (tax & NI)	£2320.55
Pension fund payments	£3124.38

Members noted and approved the bank reconciliation against the accounts for the period ending 30th November 2013