



**CITY OF ELY COUNCIL
ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE**

**MINUTES OF A MEETING HELD AT 7.00PM
ON MONDAY 18TH AUGUST 2014**

PRESENT:

Cllr A Arnold Cllr N Clarke Cllr E Every Cllr G Barber Cllr I Lindsay Cllr J Yates Cllr C Phillips

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cllr Pittock.

2. DECLARATION OF INTEREST – *to receive Declaration of Disclosable Pecuniary & other interests, from Councillors, as set out in standing order 83b.*

There were no declarations received.

3. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING OF THE ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE (27TH MAY 2014) & MATTERS ARISING

The minutes of the last meeting of the Environment Committee, held on the 27th May 2014 were agreed and signed as a true record – pages ENV 1 & 2 refer.

Matters arising Page 2 – Item 14, A.O.B. – Cllr Arnold has written to Inspector Ormerod to bring to his attention, the Committee's concerns over what appears to be illegal parking on the High Street. Inspector Ormerod's response was that it is not illegal to park in a space diagonally, but agreed that the area would be monitored.

4. BUDGET UPDATE

Members noted the budget dated 12th August 2014. There were no significant variances.

5. RIVERSIDE SIGNAGE UPDATE

Cllr Arnold and Cllr Clarke met with the Local Projects Engineer from Cambs County Council to discuss the erection of a "welcome to Ely" sign on the riverside. Permission was given for a sign to be erected on the road bridge, but we are still waiting for formal approval from Network Rail to be able to erect a sign on the Railway Bridge.

6. COUNCIL FLAG

A quote has been received for a replacement Council flag for the Market Place. However, it was unanimously agreed that the new flag should show the crest on a blue background and not white. A revised price for this will be sourced.

7. REQUEST FOR DOG WASTE BINS

Cllr Arnold has received a request for two dog waste bins to be installed on Lark Bank in Prickwillow and a further request has been made from ECDC to repair or replace the dog waste bin at the entrance to the Country Park on Springhead Lane. It was agreed that Cllr Arnold would look into the request for Lark Bank and check if there are any litter bins that could become dual-purpose bins. If the bin at the Country Park could not be repaired, then a new one will be purchased.

8. FLY A FLAG FOR THE COMMONWEALTH 2015

An invitation has been received from the Royal Pageantmaster inviting us to 'Fly a flag for the Commonwealth'. Town Councils are being encouraged to participate in a flag flying ceremony on 9th March 2015, and the invitation will be extended to Parish Councils for participation in 2016. Cllr Lindsay felt that it was not appropriate for this Council to be involved. Cllr Phillips added that Human Rights issues are flouted everyday by certain members of the Commonwealth and felt that he would not be able to support this. It was agreed that this would be not taken further at this time.

9. HISTORIC PLAQUE REQUEST

Ely Perspective has asked if the Council would like to sponsor an historic plaque for the Courthouse. Several plaques have been placed on buildings of interest, creating an historic plaque trail. It is hoped that the Courthouse will be included in the trail. Members agreed to this in principle but would need to know what exactly is included, in the estimated cost of £275.

10. ELY IN BLOOM

The Ely in Bloom presentation evening was held on Tuesday 12th August 2014. Cllr Yates thought that the evening had gone very well and thanked Cllr Arnold for organising the event. The Ely in Bloom Working Party met on the 29th July 2014 to discuss planting for summer 2015. Please see Ely in Bloom Working Party notes for more information. Cllr Arnold informed the meeting that the Working Group would like to introduce a "curtain" style planting scheme along the railings of the Courthouse. It was suggested by Cllr Every that the Ely in Bloom Working Group could come up with ideas for planting schemes, for all Council owned property.

11. ON-STREET PARKING PRIORITY LIST – UPDATE

The document was not available for this meeting and will be forwarded to members.

12. A.O.B.

The Traffic Flow Working Group met on the 9th June 2014, notes of which are attached to these minutes. It was agreed that Cllr Clarke would distribute the document to all Councillors and invite them to add any further points of concern. Once the list has been agreed, it will be sent to the County Council with a supporting letter.

Cllr Yates reported that the footpath on Lisle Lane, between the traffic lights and the entrance to Bell Holt is becoming dangerous to walk on. Cars are driving on the pavement and where the path has broken, a groove is beginning to form. The appropriate officer at the County Council would be informed.

Cllr Every informed the meeting that she had made some progress with the maintenance issue of the proposed solar lights for the Riverside. ECDC has agreed to maintain them in terms of sweeping and cleaning if the City of Ely Council would agree to be responsible for the replacement of batteries when required. All members agreed that this was a good compromise and would be happy to go ahead with the project and order the lights.

13. DATE & TIME OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting has been arranged for Monday 6th October 2014.