



**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE CITY OF ELY COUNCIL HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER
AT 7.00 PM ON MONDAY 19TH DECEMBER 2011**

PRESENT:

Mayor, Cllr J Yates

Cllr S Overall

Cllr J Chaplin

Cllr A Brear

Cllr W Burton

District Cllr S Friend-Smith

Mrs A Conder, ECDC

Cllr A Arnold

Cllr P Eden

Cllr B Ashton

Cllr N Clarke

Cllr E Griffin-Singh

District Cllr J Friend-Smith

Mrs J Cornwell, ECDC Mrs S Willat, CCC

Cllr R Wood

Cllr M Rouse

Cllr R Hobbs

Cllr E Every

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Cllr A Winchester.

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

There were no intentions to speak.

3. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING HELD ON THE 21ST NOVEMBER & MATTERS ARISING

The minutes of the last meeting held on the 21st November were agreed and signed as a true record. Pages 1162, 1163, 1164, 1165 and 1166 refer.

Matters arising:- Page 1165, Item 12 – Cllr Eden informed members the tender process for the local bus service around Ely had closed today. There is a planned 2 hourly loop around the North and South of the City and a half hour loop to Sainsbury's.

**4. PRESENTATION BY ALLISON CONDER AND JULIE CORNWALL, ECDC AND SANDY WILLAT,
CCC, REGARDING 'SHAPE YOUR PLACE' ONLINE SITE FOR LOCAL RESIDENTS**

The Mayor welcomed the officers to the meeting. Allison Conder explained that 'Shape your Place' was an on-line facility where individuals could raise issues directly with the service providers. This will support the Neighbourhood Panel process, and will be a complimentary tool to it. Cambs County Council had developed this scheme and had been piloting it with Fenland District Council, which had been a great success. They have now been given the approval to set up the scheme in this District. East Cambs District Council's committees have been very supportive and have recognised the potential for the site and the feel this will give forums for locals to express their views. The local police have already confirmed their wish to be a partner in the scheme.

Sandy Willat explained that this was an on-line community engagement tool and no one has a site like this.

Community reporters generate a lot of articles for the site. Everything is pro-actively moderated and post is referred back if not deemed to be suitable. Partners are notified if an issue comes up within their patch so they can respond to it. She explained that Cambs County Council wished to roll out the concept in East Cambs and they were pleased that ECDC are going to be their next partner. The scheme will be funded by the County Council.

Julie Cornwall informed members a project plan is currently being drawn up and it is hoped to get it up and running in East Cambs by the 1st April 2012. This will ensure that services are provided that reflect the needs of the local people. Sanctuary Hereward are interested in becoming a partner and are currently considering this. She explained that there is a ten day response time to issues raised. As ECDC will be the key agency they will provide the site content; eg: photos, community website addresses and links etc. She is currently collecting the content for the site and hopes to have a test site ready for February 2012. ECDC will be holding a member seminar in January to

Presentation continued

explain this project. They are presently identifying the potential key partners. They will be using the consultation database and attending Neighbourhood Panel meetings to give information about the scheme. All feedback will be collated and changes/tweaks to the draft site will be made. The site is planned to go live at the start of April. Any issues raised on the site can be fed back to the Neighbourhood Panels and issues coming out of the Neighbourhood Panels could become the focus of a blog post or poll.

Julie Cornwall asked if the Council wanted to be a key agent. If so they would need to nominate a person to help develop the content of the site, as the test site will be Ely.

Members unanimous agreed the Council should become a key agent. A representative will be nominated in the New Year. Cllrs Every and Eden will attend the member seminar on the 18th January, on behalf of the Council. The Mayor thanked the officers for attending the meeting.

Mrs Cornwell, Mrs Conder and Mrs Willat left the meeting at 7.50 pm.

5. QUESTION TIME

District Cllr Sheila Friend-Smith thanked the Mayor for progressing the installation of the lights in the park. She asked if there had been any progress with regard to the future of the court house, as nothing had been heard since June. The Mayor confirmed that ECDC had still not received a firm report on the state of the building, or what it could be used for. They were still awaiting this response from the Ministry of Justice.

District Cllr Jeremy Friend-Smith reported that there was no sign of any work being undertaken with regard to the buffer zone in Ely West. Kier Holdings are stalling and progress is very slow. The Chief Executive of ECDC will be writing to them, requesting they start work as soon as possible. Cllr Rouse agreed to talk to the Leader of ECDC about this, as a Working Party had been formed to move this forward.

Cllr Eden asked when Thistle Corner would be open, as the new bus service should be using this. Cllr Griffin-Singh confirmed that her understanding from the CCC was that Barratts have agreed tenders for the roundabouts but are still out to tender regarding the roads.

Cllr Eden felt this road needed to be opened before the new Sainsbury's store opens. He suggested that someone from Barratts and the CCC be asked to attend a Full Council meeting to explain why this roundabout had not been opened up. It was agreed that this situation should not be allowed to arise again and the process needs to be tightened up.

It was highlighted that the on-site reception and telephone system for the Princess of Wales hospital will be closing and will be handled elsewhere. It was believed this was due to efficiency measures.

Cllr J Friend-Smith left the meeting at 8.00 pm.

6. MAYOR'S ENGAGEMENTS & REPORT

The Mayor had attended the Thanksgiving Service at USAF Mildenhall; the Cambridge Foundation Business Awards in the Lady Chapel; the Ely Christmas Lights Switch-on; the Admission of Scholars to the Foundation of Ely Cathedral; the Arthur Rank Hospice Fun Run; Pantomime by the Garage Youth Theatre; the Mayor's Extravaganza; the High Sheriff Awards in Peterborough; Highfield School Fayre; the Countess of Chester Ely Church Service; Council Christmas Meal; Prickwillow Village Council Christmas Dinner; the Christingle Service at Ely Cathedral for Highfield School and the Children's Society; Christingle Service for the Children's Society with the High Sheriff and the City of Ely Military Band Christmas Concert.

The Deputy Mayor had attended the naming of a special train "Ely Cathedral" by National Express and March's Carol Service.

7. PLANNING

Reports of a planning committee meeting held on the 7th November 2011 and immediately prior to this meeting were received.

8. INFORMATION ONLY ITEMS

The following items for information only, were received:

Notification of tree work:- 60 Quayside, Ely; 1A Lynton Drive, Ely; 31 Williams Close, Ely; 12 Station Road, Ely; 76 St Mary's Street, Ely; 16 Cambridge Road, Ely; 62 Morton Close, Ely; The Countess of Huntingdon Connection Church, Chapel Street, Ely; 23 Yorke Way, Ely; 9 Buckingham Drive, Ely
Grant thank you letter from Parkinson's UK

9. COMMITTEE REPORTS

(i) ADMINISTRATION – The Mayor presented a report of a meeting held on the 6th December, which was approved. Members unanimously approved the increase of the precept for 2012/2013 to £310986. This will be an increase of 2.5% on a council tax band D property. An application will be submitted by the Council to the Local Minor Highway Improvement Scheme on behalf of the Spring Meadow Road Safety Group in their quest for a zebra crossing at High Barns.

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

(iii) RECREATION & CEMETERY – Cllr Hobbs presented a report of a meeting held on the 5th December, which was approved. Cllr Clarke will help the Recreation and Cemetery Supervisor to prepare a detailed replacement/schedule of work plan. Section 106 funding will be applied for the High Barns multi-use games area. Members also agreed that Section 106 funding will be applied for, with regard to the replacement of the fun box at St John's Road skate park. Quotations ranging from £12,000 to £22,000 had been obtained for the new fun box. Cllr Hobbs reported that the revised plans drawn up for the new cemetery workshop were still causing concerns from the Planning Officers. The costs were estimated to be £250,000 plus. Due to these reasons an alternative plans to adapt the existing chapels to improve working facilities, have been prepared. The building costs for this option was approximately £80,000. Members unanimously agreed that this option would be the preferred option to proceed with and formal quotations will be obtained to move this forward.

Members considered a report on the lease for land at High Barns, Ely and it was unanimously agreed that members were content with this report and when the official lease is received, the Mayor was given authority to sign this. Cllr Overall informed members, trustees of the Trinity Dole Charity had concerns regarding the height of the trees at the Willow Walk play area. She had attended a meeting with the Tree Officer and representatives of Trinity Dole, it was agreed that the Ash trees branches need to be trimmed where they hang over the fence. The Alder tree, which stands next to the house, some of its branches are quite close to the chimney, but the Tree Officer felt that this may be ok for another 18-24 months before it needs to be trimmed. Members agreed this should be trimmed when it becomes necessary.

(iv) CHRISTMAS LIGHTS – No report as Committee had not met. Cllr Chaplin reported that the switch-on had been a great success with the best lights ever. She thanked everyone who had contributed to this success. The Mayor also thanked everyone that had been involved. Cllr Eden echoed these comments on behalf of the Switch-On Group. They had made a small profit this year, due to increased sponsorship.

(iii) ELY IN BLOOM – Cllr Overall presented a report of a meeting held on the 29th November, which was approved. Members noted the winter planting had now been undertaken and the summer colour scheme for 2012 had also been agreed. This would be red, white and blue due to the Diamond Jubilee celebrations.

(vi) ELY/RIBE – No report as group had not met.

(vii) YOUTH COUNCIL – Youth Council had not met.

(viii) CCTV – Cllr Burton presented a report of a meeting held on the 29th November, which was approved.

Members unanimously approved the adoption of the Expenses Policy for CCTV Volunteers. The Mayor signed and dated the adopted policy.

(ix) DIAMOND JUBILEE – No report as Committee had not met. Cllr Overall asked if members had considered the cost of new bunting and erecting this for the celebrations. It was agreed to discuss this at the next Diamond Jubilee meeting.

10. REPORTS FROM EXTERNAL MEETINGS

City of Ely Perspective Design Group meeting – minutes of a meeting held on the 15th November were noted.

Prickwillow Village Council – minutes of a meeting held on the 8th November were noted.

City of Ely Perspective Riverside Group – minutes of a meeting held on the 17th November were noted.

City of Ely Allotments Association – minutes of a meeting held on the 12th October were noted.

Section 106 meeting – minutes of a meeting held on the 28th November were noted. Cllr Rouse suggested a small group should be set up to look at the City Centre and make proposals for Section 106 money, which would bring people together. The Mayor agreed to speak to Giles Hughes at ECDC regarding the City Centre. He would also ascertain the current Section 106 monies available, so the Council can determine the priorities for this money. It would then be agreed how to move this forward.

City of Ely Perspective Design Group – minutes of a meeting held on the 15th November were noted.

Cllr Chaplin left the meeting at 8.40 pm.

11. TO MAKE FORMAL COMMENTS ON ECDC’S CAR PARKING PROPOSAL CONSULTATION

Members unanimously agreed the Mayor should draft formal comments on behalf of the Council. These will be circulated for comments and then debated again at the next Full Council meeting.

Cllr Rouse left the meeting at 8.45 pm.

12. LETTER FROM CAMBS COUNTY COUNCIL RE STREET LIGHTING PRI – CAMBRIDGESHIRE

Members considered this letter and agreed that when lights are due for replacement, which are within the Conservation Area, this Council should be consulted on the replacement columns. They must appreciate that with regards to Ely City Centre there is a prior agreement with Cambs County Council on the type of column that is within this area. These are black and of a more traditional style and it would not be appropriate to replace these with the standard columns as stated in the letter. If it was necessary to replace one of these columns, the Council would not be able to fund the difference between the same replacement column and the standard column as there are no funds to do so.

13. TO AUTHORISE SIGNING OF THE CCTV PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT BETWEEN ECDC AND THE CITY OF ELY COUNCIL

The Mayor informed members that he had just received a final version of the CCTV Partnership Agreement from ECDC. Members agreed the Mayor, Deputy Mayor and Cllr Ashton should look at this Agreement and if all three were happy with this, the Mayor would have authority to sign this.

14. TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE ON THE MALTINGS COTTAGE

Cllr Hobbs took no part in the discussion of this item.

Members noted the update on the Maltings Cottage.

15. TO DISCUSS POSSIBLE ITEMS FOR THE NEXT ELY NEIGHBOURHOOD PANEL MEETING AGENDA

Members suggested agenda items could include car parking in Ely; West boundary bund and Thistle Corner.

16. UPDATE OF THE INSTALLATION OF LIGHTING IN THE PARK

The Mayor informed members the lease would be ready for signing very soon. Once this had been signed the lights could be ordered and installed.

17. CORRESPONDENCE

The following correspondence was noted:

LCR

18. FINANCE

The following were approved for payment:

PAYEE	AMOUNT	CHQ NO
ECDC	487.00	paid by direct debit
ECDC	346.00	paid by direct debit
Talk Talk	15.31	paid by direct debit
Internet Marketing Company	24.00	paid by direct debit
British Telecommunications	56.16	paid by direct debit
Barclays Bank	27.55	paid by direct debit
FuelGenie	317.22	paid by direct debit
Southern Electric	122.29	paid by direct debit
Nice People Productions Ltd	420.00	108452
CCTV Volunteer	6.00	108453
Solitech	2190.00	108454
City of Ely Perspective Ltd	175.00	108455
City Cycle Centre	54.60	108456
Thurlow Nunn Standen	73.09	108457
G & J Peck Ltd	165.90	108458

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MAYOR
23rd January 2012

Finance continued

Soundstage One Event Services Ltd	1968.00	108459
Allen's Skip Hire Ltd	84.00	108460
1st Call (Hire & Sales) Ltd	12.00	108461
ECDC	6300.00	108462
Sun Traffic Signals Ltd	1284.00	108463
CCTV Volunteer	31.68	108464
CCTV Volunteer	135.32	108465
Arboricultural Association	372.00	108466
Mr N Clarke	155.00	108467
Gordon Harrison	51.60	108491
Bannold	129.55	108469
ECDC	384.00	108470
Digital Creations (Ely) Ltd	40.80	108471
Height for Hire Ltd	1424.40	108472
ESPO	127.68	108473
Elliotts	227.96	108474
CoolerAid Ltd	9.60	108475
CCTV Volunteer	47.76	108476
CCTV Volunteer	21.12	108477
SLCC	175.00	108478
Newmarket Plant Hire Ltd	81.00	108479
Cambridgeshire Turf Nurseries	126.00	108480
Konica Minolta Business Solutions	101.57	108481
Nigel Pindar Transport	120.00	108482
Simpson's Nurseries Ltd	45.45	108483
T Coulson by cash	85.00	108484
MiJan Ltd	36.00	108485
CCTV Volunteer	20.16	108486
The CCTV Training Academy	1695.00	108487
Anglian Water	61.54	108488
Konica Minolta Business Solutions	257.90	108489
ESPO	23.31	paid by direct debit
ESPO	76.85	paid by direct debit
Blackwells	17.99	paid by direct debit – pd by credit card
Toolstation	11.98	paid by direct debit – pd by credit card
Parcel2Go.com	11.70	paid by direct debit – pd by credit card
Waitrose	57.67	paid by direct debit – pd by credit card

Payments relating to staff since meeting on 21st November 2011

Salaries and wages	£7643.79
Inland Revenue (tax & NI)	£2290.68
Pension fund payments	£2049.14

Members noted and approved the bank reconciliation against the accounts for the period ending the 30th November 2011