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**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE CITY OF ELY COUNCIL HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER  
AT 7.00 PM ON MONDAY, 21ST NOVEMBER 2011**

**PRESENT:**

Mayor, Cllr J Yates  
Cllr S Overall  
Cllr J Chaplin  
Cllr A Brear  
Cllr W Burton  
*District Cllr S Austen*

Cllr A Arnold  
Cllr P Eden  
Cllr B Ashton  
Cllr N Clarke  
Cllr E Griffin-Singh  
*Mr Darren Dixon, ECDC*

Cllr A Winchester  
Cllr M Rouse  
Cllr R Hobbs  
Cllr E Every  
*Mrs J Wardle*

**1. APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received from Cllr R Wood.

**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 24TH OCTOBER & MATTERS ARISING**

The minutes of the last meeting held on the 24th October were agreed and signed as a true record. Pages 1157, 1158, 1159, 1160 and 1161 refer.

Matters arising:- Page 1157, Item 4 – The Mayor confirmed that a further presentation on the Ely Surface Water Management Plan was given at the Ely Neighbourhood Panel meeting on Wednesday, 26th October.

Page 1160, Item 14 – Cllr Eden informed members that most of the Council's comments had been taken into account with regard to the proposed timetable for the new bus service to and from the new Sainsbury's store.

County Council have gone out to tender for the operators to quote prices on how much this service will cost to run.

**4. PRESENTATION BY MR DARREN DIXON, HEAD OF COMMUNITY SERVICES, ECDC ON CAR  
PARKING PROPOSALS**

The Mayor welcomed Mr Dixon to the meeting. He commenced with an overview of where the District Council currently are with these proposals, which have been considered by the Development and Transport Committee. With regard to off-street parking, all car parks owned by the District Council, which does not include Brays Lane, have been recommended to introduce car parking charges. There would be a pre-permit scheme which would cost £20 per car and allow the holder to park in any car park in Ely. If the permit option was not purchased, then there would be a £1 charge per day, with the ticket being transferable in other car parks. Other options in the permit scheme would be a six month permit at a cost of £12. Each permit would be linked to a registration number. If the car is changed then the holder could apply for a replacement permit under the new registration at a cost of £5. The charge of the annual permit would be guaranteed for three years, until January 2015. When these recommendations were considered by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee two further options were added. These were a charge for £1 for short stay and £2 for long stay. These tickets would not be transferable from one car park to another. With regard to on-street parking, the District Council have rescinded the decriminalisation of on-street parking. This will ensure there will be free on-street parking. There will be no car parking spaces on the Market Place. The District Council will work with the local police and Cambs County Council to develop more on-street provision within the City Centre and enforcement of this parking. The County Council has money available to improve the on-street infrastructure, eg; markings of bays and signage. The Police have also confirmed they feel they have the staff to

**Presentation by Mr Darren Dixon continued .....**

improve the level of enforcement. Mr Dixon confirmed that all proposals were out for consultation until the 31st January 2012.

Several councillors made comments with regard to concerns about extra charges for long-stay car parks, which would penalise workers and encourage more short-stay use.

Mr Dixon confirmed that the Angel Drove car park would not be included within these proposals and that Sainsbury's would be operating a customer loyalty scheme, so if they do not shop they will be charged to park. Mr Dixon agreed to forward a copy of the report that went to the committee with a breakdown of the costs of these proposals. Other issues relating to these proposals were the problems with the taxis in the City Centre; parking on pavements and disabled drivers parking on double yellow lines. It was felt the traffic orders should be made clear so people are aware they cannot park on double yellow lines. It was also asked whether off-street wardens could be qualified by the police to monitor on-street parking as well. Residential areas, such as Potters Lane etc could have street orders to restrict parking from train commuters.

Mr Dixon took notes of these comments and it was agreed these proposals would be considered formerly at the Full Council meeting in December or January. This would enable a formal comment from the Council as a whole. The Mayor thanked Mr Dixon for his informative presentation.

*Mr Dixon left the meeting at 7.35 pm.*

**5. QUESTION TIME**

District Cllr Sue Austen informed members the pre-school at High Barns Community Rooms had been served notice to quit and where looking to see if the Larkfield Centre could be used as community space for this group, which was looking very positive.

Councillors supported the use of the Larkfield Centre, as they felt it was currently underused.

She also reported there was to be a meeting with the schools, cabinet member, officers, herself and Cllr Griffin-Singh to discuss the school crossings.

**6. MAYOR'S ENGAGEMENTS & REPORT**

The Mayor had attended the Voluntary and Community Action Group AGM; the Ely Standard Business Awards; Service of Thanksgiving for Children in Distress; Son et Luminaire at Ely Cathedral; South Cambs District Council's Chairman's Reception; packing bags at Waitrose for the Christmas Lights fund; attended the new church at High Barns; Prickwillow Village Council meeting; Stuntney Village Council meeting; Remembrance Service at Ely War Memorial; Sunday Remembrance Service and Parade at Ely Cathedral and War Memorial; Exhibition at Ely Museum; Friends of Jubilee Garden Annual Event and the Heartbeat Fayre at St Mary's Church.

**7. PLANNING**

Reports of a planning committee meeting held on the 10th October 2011 and immediately prior to this meeting were received.

**8. INFORMATION ONLY ITEMS**

The following items for information only, were received:

Notification by Cambs County Council Highways Department regarding the removal of metal storage unit to the wall in Butchers Row

Notification of Street Naming and Numbering:- Lavender Cottage, 1 Lark Bank, Prickwillow, Ely; 1, 2, 3 & \$ Merrifield Gardens, Ely

Notification of tree work:- building opposite 14A and 16 Back Hill, Ely; The King's School, The Gallery, Ely; The Canonry, The College, Ely; Playing Field, King's School, Barton Road, Ely; Priory House Masters Residence, King's School, Barton Road, Ely; 10 Barton Square, Ely; 13 Redman Close, Ely; 8 Redman Close, Ely; land adjacent to 55 Heaton Drive, Ely; Public open space off Williams Close, rear of 4 Thirlby Gardens, Ely; 88 Morton Close, Ely

Grant thank you letters from Ely Youth Club; Prickwillow Engine Trust; Ely Youth Initiative; City of Ely & District Horticultural Society and CYPS – Ely Youth Club

## 9. COMMITTEE REPORTS

(i) ADMINISTRATION – The Mayor presented a report of a meeting held on the 31st October, which was approved. Members unanimously approved the increase in the Clerk's contractual hours by 2.5 per week. An internal review of the administrative workload and expected workload will be undertaken as soon as possible by a small group of councillors. The Mayor proposed the existing Youth Council be incorporated into his Mayoral theme with a Youth Forum being created. He agreed to discuss this with Cllr Rouse and bring back proposals to the next Administration Committee meeting. The options for the proposed cemetery workshop were noted. A further option had been discussed and this will be looked into, as an alternative to the new workshop. The Mayor and Clerk had met with a new architect and revised drawings were being produced. It was agreed both options should be moved forward. The Clerk will prepare a Volunteer Expenses Policy for adoption. The formation of an Advisory Committee to discuss and take responsibility for how the Council should move forward with Localism was formally agreed. Members appointed to this Committee were the Mayor, Cllr Ashton, Cllr Every, Cllr Overall, Cllr Clarke, Cllr Arnold and Cllr Chaplin. There was originally only going to be five members, but this was increased to seven due to the number of councillors wishing to be on this Committee. A revised budget for 2012/2013 will be considered at the next Administration Committee meeting,

(ii) STREET FURNITURE – Cllr Griffin-Singh presented a report of a meeting held on the 14th November, which was approved. It was noted that interviews for the role of school crossing patrol at Spring Meadow have taken place. The safety group at Spring Meadow still have a long-term hope for a zebra crossing. The Council will undertake the refurbishment of the Stuntney village sign. Members requested that the Street Furniture Chairman write to ECDC regarding the refurbishment of the tree bench outside Oliver Cromwell House.

(iii) RECREATION & CEMETERY – No report as Committee had not met. However, the seven quotes obtained for the new MUGA for High Barns were considered by members. It was unanimously agreed that the Council accept the quote from Wicksteed at a cost of £42,573.00.

(iv) CHRISTMAS LIGHTS – No report as Committee had not met. Cllr Chaplin reported that all the lights have now been erected. The switch-on will be at 6.45 pm on the 25th November.

(v) ELY IN BLOOM – No report as Committee had not met. The next meeting will be on the 29th November.

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

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

(viii) CCTV – No report as Committee had not met.

(ix) DIAMOND JUBILEE – The Mayor presented a report of a meeting held on the 8th November, which was approved. The picnic will be held on the 3rd June 2012 in Jubilee Gardens, in conjunction with the National Big Lunch. ADeC had agreed to take responsibility for this. The City of Ely Military Band will also be booked for the picnic. The Council will organise the evening entertainment in the Park. Ideas for this were noted. It had been agreed the design of the Beacon would be that of a traditional one. This will be lit in the Park, but will then be relocated to a permanent site, which has yet to be identified. Cllr Rouse requested that the local schools be asked to consider planting a tree in their grounds to commemorate the Diamond Jubilee. Members agreed the Mayor would write to the schools to see if they would be interested in undertaking this, but they would have to raise the money to purchase the tree as there was no funding for this. Cllr Overall agreed to raise this at the next Trinity Dole meeting as they do have funds available for education, as this may be something they could consider funding.

## 10. REPORTS FROM EXTERNAL MEETINGS

City of Ely Perspective Design Group – minutes of meetings held on the 20th September and 25th October were noted. Members agreed the Mayor should invite a representative from the Perspective Group to make a presentation on the E-ly App. The Council may be able to offer help and support for this. It was noted the Perspective Group would not be funding the Park and Ride Service and this had now ceased.

Section 106 meeting – minutes of a meeting held on the 24th October were noted.

*Cllr Hobbs left the meeting at 8.05 pm.*

**11. TO CONSIDER PROPOSALS FOR THE USE OF THE MALTINGS COTTAGE**

The Mayor tabled a report, which gave the history of the process already undertaken by the Council with regard to the Maltings Cottage. It was proposed in the report that the Cottage be used by the City of Ely Council for office accommodation, together with some retail use. Some councillors raised concerns and made comments on the proposals. Cllr Ashton proposed that the Council make a request to ECDC to take over the ownership of the Cottage for offices and retail use. This was seconded by Cllr Brear and a vote was taken, with 12 for and 1 abstention. This was unanimously approved and the Mayor will write to ECDC with this request and will also submit a business case to support this.

**12. TO DISCUSS THE CONSULTATION ON REVIEW OF THE DECISION TO REMOVE ALL SUBSIDISED BUS SERVICE FUNDING**

Cllr Eden tabled comments on this review as follows:- the amount of money which is spent on these largely un-coordinated operations is phenomenal and has never been thoroughly reviewed by each of the procuring organisations, either individually or collectively. With modern vehicles, there is no longer a need for specially adapted minibuses and the like, to accommodate wheelchairs and the infirm, as low floor easy access level boarding buses are now a requirement of all bus operators. On-street infrastructure is often provided to facilitate this and can be easily extended. There will of course always be a minority need which will require special attention, but this really is for extreme cases.

Thus there is a golden opportunity not just to get better value for money, and save communities from being totally isolated, but to provide improved levels of service by introducing a requirement to pool all the funding allocated to these organisations and design a comprehensive network of routes, demand responsive where necessary, operated by modern low floor buses which serve key nodes such as schools, hospitals, rail stations, employment centres, town/city centres and shopping centres. This would alleviate duplication, wasted funds through overheads, and provide a coherent and easily understood network for all.

Ely is well placed for a test case approach with its tight boundaries, hospital, rail hub etc.

So, in conclusion, funding for contracted bus services should not be cut as such, but the above review will probably save considerably more.

Members unanimously agreed these should be submitted as the Council’s formal comments.

**13. CORRESPONDENCE**

The following correspondence was noted:

Clerks & Councils Direct

The Clerk Magazine

*Cllr Rouse left the meeting at 8.25 pm.*

**14. FINANCE**

The following were approved for payment:

<b>PAYEE</b>	<b>AMOUNT</b>	<b>CHQ NO</b>
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
Barclays Bank	27.55	paid by direct debit
Heatflo (UK) Ltd	242.70	108422
Mrs A Hayter-Smith	250.00	108423
Wickstead Leisure Ltd	1873.68	108424
CCTV Volunteer	233.87	108426
Mr N Clarke	33.34	108427
Miss J Chaplin	60.00	108428
Mr P Baxter	18.00	108429
CCTV Volunteer	28.16	108430
Cambridge Newspapers Ltd	90.00	108431
G & J Peck Ltd	610.33	108432
Southern Electric	44.02	paid by direct debit
ESPO	329.01	108433

**Finance continued .....**

CoolerAid Ltd	4.80	108434
Southern Electric	30.25	paid by direct debit
Witham Oil & Paint (Soham) Ltd	52.90	108442
AmeyCespa (East) Ltd	6.60	108435
ECDC	624.00	108436
CCTV Volunteer	23.36	108437
CCTV Volunteer	21.12	108438
CCTV Volunteer	21.12	108439
Gordon Harrison	460.03	108441
Thurlow Nunn Standen	331.95	108443
FuelGenie	260.45	paid by direct debit
www.signs.co.uk	25.61	paid by credit card by direct debit
Screwfix Direct	165.63	paid by credit card by direct debit
Zurich Municipal	100.77	108444
T Coulson by cash	85.00	108440
ESPO	49.72	paid by direct debit
Viking	43.16	108445
Jewson Ltd	57.12	108446
Mr M Rouse	10.00	108447
Manea Silver Band	150.00	108448
City of Ely Allotment Association	298.50	108451
Height for Hire Ltd	1051.20	108449
Simpsons Nurseries Ltd	41.44	108450
Screwfix Direct	51.25	paid by credit card by direct debit

**Payments relating to staff since meeting on 24th October 2011**

Salaries and wages	£7499.58
Inland Revenue (tax & NI)	£2085.77
Pension fund payments	£2049.14

**Members noted and approved the bank reconciliation against the accounts for the period ending the 31st October 2011**