



CITY OF ELY COUNCIL
ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF A MEETING HELD AT 7.00PM
ON MONDAY 14TH SEPTEMBER 2015

PRESENT;

Cllr A Arnold Cllr I Lindsay Cllr C Phillips Cllr C Whelan Cllr A Whelan Cllr P Moakes

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Cllr S Pittock.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST – *to receive Declarations 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 HELD ON THE 8TH JUNE 2015 & MATTERS ARISING

The minutes of the last meeting were agreed and signed as a true record. Pages ENV9 and 10 refer.

Matters arising: - Page 9, Item 4 – Matters Arising. There has been no progress made with the historic plaque partly due to disagreement of the wording that should appear on it. Cllr Lindsay proposed that it should read “Sessions House” and the date. This was accepted by the members and will be progressed by Cllr Arnold.

4. BUDGET UPDATE

Members noted the budget, dated 7th September 2015. Cllr Whelan re-iterated her issues with the budget reporting process and was reassured by Cllr Lindsay, that these would be addressed when the business plan has been completed and when the new accounting system has been implemented.

5. STREET LIGHTING ENERGY CHARGES & MAINTENANCE CONTRACT

Notice has been received from Cambs County Council that the electrical energy administration fee has been increased from 5% to 15% which will come into effect from 1st October 2015. Also, the Balfour Beatty maintenance contract has been agreed by Cllr Lindsay, for a further three years at a cost of £22.39 per lighting unit.

6. BUSINESS PLAN

The City of Ely Council has been discussing its future aims and the implementation of a business plan. This is likely to have an effect on the terms of reference of the Environment Committee. It is hoped that the draft recommendations will be discussed at Full Council in November.

7. ELY IN BLOOM*

Please see notes attached.

8. REMOVAL OF DOG WASTE BIN – QUEEN ADELAIDE

We have been informed that Veolia have had to remove the dog waste bin from Queen Adelaide as it was rotten. It was agreed that this should be replaced and members were happy for Cllr Lindsay to authorise the purchase of a replacement.

9. A.O.B.

Cllr Lindsay informed the members that two trees in Barton Square are diseased and will be removed by Highways but will not be replaced. County Cllr Anna Bailey is trying to get clarification on their policy. A

discussion took place concerning the impact of the City of Ely Council taking on the responsibility of more trees. It was agreed that we need to look after the aesthetics of the City, which includes trees, but would need more details of the cost of insurance and maintenance before any recommendations could be made.

It was agreed that the City of Ely Council should undertake a tree audit for the trees it is currently responsible for and to arrange a report on an annual basis. Costs for this would be sourced.

The two willow trees near to the entrance of the Maltings are going to be pollarded, as a result of a large branch falling and causing a hazardous obstruction. A tree surgeon has recommended that this is the best course of action.

Cllr Lindsay informed the meeting that a further meeting is planned with Balfour Beatty regarding the heritage lights in Ely. He also requested that members take note of any wall mounted lamps that have been removed as these types of lamps should have been left alone.

A general discussion took place about the consequences of the dimming and switching off of street lights in the parish. If the City of Ely Council were to take on the cost of keeping the lighting exactly as it is, this would cost £19,061 p a, just for Ely. The national research suggests that reducing lighting at night does not have any impact on crime levels. Cllr Lindsay felt that Ely was very well lit at night and that reducing the lighting was the right thing to do from an environmental perspective. The Committee agreed that the reduction in lighting should be trialled and the consequences monitored.

Cllr Arnold suggested that this Committee should be taking an interest in Rights of Way with particular interest to the new development in Ely. Cllr Moakes and Cllr Lindsay agreed that this was a valid point but felt that it was more appropriate for the Traffic Working Group to look at this.

10. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting has been arranged 26th October 2015.