

**CITY OF ELY COUNCIL
PERSONNEL, FINANCE AND GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF A MEETING HELD AT 7.00 PM ON
15TH DECEMBER 2014**

PRESENT:

The Mayor, Cllr E Every
Cllr I Lindsay
Cllr E Griffin-Singh
Cllr A Arnold

Cllr C Phillips
Cllr N Clarke
Cllr B Ashton

Cllr A Whelan
Cllr S Pittock
Cllr R Hobbs

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Cllrs Yates and Cllr Pearson.

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 declared.

3. MINUTES OF THE LAST PERSONNEL, FINANCE AND GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE MEETING (HELD ON THE 13TH OCTOBER 2014) & MATTERS ARISING

Minutes of the last Personnel, Finance and Governance Committee meeting held on the 13th October 2014, were agreed and signed as a true record. Pages PFG 6 and 7 refer.

Matters arising:- Page PFG 6, Item 4 – The Mayor informed members the £15,000 had been transferred to the City of Ely Council's Section 106 funding from ECDC. This will be used to fund the re-surfacing of the outside area of the Magistrates Court.

Page PFG 6, Item 5 – It had been confirmed the Ely Masterplan was not eligible to be the equivalent of a Neighbourhood Plan. The Working Party formed to explore the feasibility of developing a Neighbourhood Plan would meet in January.

Page PFG 7 – Item 6 – The Mayor reported the specification for the website had now been completed. The Clerks will ensure it meets all their requirements before the process of tendering commences.

Page PFG7 – Item 13 – The Clerk informed members the cleaners for the Maltings had agreed to be employed through an employment agency and were still undertaking the cleaning at the Maltings.

4. BUDGET UPDATE AND CONSIDERATION OF BUDGET FOR 2015/2016

Members noted the budget update, dated the 9th December 2014. There were no significant variances. Members discussed the proposed budget for 2015/2016 at great length. Cllr Griffin-Singh proposed the Council lease a new van for Recreation/Cemetery at a monthly cost of £193.81. This would be ordered within this financial year, as there was money available in the current budget. This was seconded by Cllr Hobbs and unanimously approved.

Cllr Hobbs proposed the budget for 2015/2016 be recommended to Full Council for approval as proposed at £312746. This was seconded by Cllr Ashton and unanimously approved. Members also noted and approved the Risk Assessment for the Cash Reserves for 2015/2016.

Members unanimously approved the setting up of a monthly direct debit to Armourstore Self Storage Ltd for £166.40 plus VAT for the storage of the Christmas lights.

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COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN

23rd February 2015

5. POSSIBLE SECTION 106 APPLICATIONS:-

Cllr Ashton proposed the following projects for Section 106 applications be approved.

Upgrade of fencing at Willow Walk play area

Upgrade driveway of Ely Cemetery

Upgrading of two pieces of play equipment at Stuntney recreation area

This was seconded by Cllr Every and unanimously approved. However, Cllr Griffin-Singh requested it be recorded that although she agreed with all these projects, she felt they should not be funded from Section 106.

6. TO CONSIDER FUTURE SECTION 106 MEETINGS

The Mayor felt the Section 106 meetings were no longer in an appropriate format. It was agreed that these should continue, but be revised to allow the meetings to be used as a forum to discuss forward planning for the City. It was felt appropriate that ECDC officers, Emma Grima and Alison Conder should be in attendance at these meetings, along with John Hill. All City Councillors will also be able to attend these meetings. It was agreed the Mayor and Deputy Mayor would discuss this further with John Hill.

7. TO CONSIDER INFORMATION FROM SEETEC REGARDING A COMMUNITY WORK PLACEMENT

The Clerk informed members the Council had previously had a work placement person at the cemetery and this had worked very well. They unanimously agreed to pursue the possibility of having a community work placement within the Cemetery/Recreation team.

8. TO CONSIDER QUOTATION FROM BRITISH TELECOMMUNICATIONS REGARDING NEW TELEPHONE SYSTEM AT MAGISTRATES COURT

Members considered the quote from British Telecommunications for a new telephone system at the Magistrates Court. Members felt they should proceed with this quotation, but Cllr Pittock suggested there was an alternative solution to this system and agreed to provide further information on this. It was finally agreed that the decision would be delegated to the Mayor and Clerk, when the two options could be compared.

9. TO DISCUSS COUNCILLOR VACANCY

The Mayor informed members Mr Tyrrell had ceased to be a member of the City of Ely Council, by reason of failure to attend a meeting of the Council throughout a period of six consecutive months. As there is an election in May 2015, which is less than six months away, the Council does not have to advertise and fill this vacancy. Cllr Ashton proposed this vacancy should not be filled. This was seconded by Cllr Phillips and unanimously approved.

10. SHARED EQUITY SCHEME ISSUES

There were no shared equity scheme issues to report.

11. COMMUNICATIONS/PR

There were no communications/PR issues to report.

12. HEALTH AND SAFETY ISSUES

There were no health and safety issues to report.

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COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN

23rd February 2015

13. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The Clerk informed members she had received a request from Climate Energy to use an area of the recycling site at the side of the Cemetery, to site a welfare unit. They would need this for their staff when they undertake the external wall insulation of the Sanctuary houses on New Barns Avenue. Members agreed to give approval for this subject to a monthly charge of £200; the area would need to be fenced off from the rest of the site and the applicant would be responsible for any approvals they may need to site this unit.

Mr Readhead, a local resident, had written to Council members with a proposed new City logo. It was agreed that at the present time there were no plans to create a new logo for the City. The City Centre Forum had already considered this and written stating the same. It was agreed the Mayor would write on behalf of Councillors, informing him of their decision.

14. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be on the 23rd February 2015.

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COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN
23rd February 2015