



MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE CITY OF ELY COUNCIL HELD IN THE VERNON CROSS ROOM, ELY MUSEUM, LYNN ROAD, ELY AT 7.00 PM ON TUESDAY 5TH MAY 2015

PRESENT:

The Mayor, Cllr E Every
Cllr A Arnold
Cllr A Whelan
Cllr S Pittock
3 parishioners
District Cllr S Friend-Smith

Deputy Mayor, Cllr J Yates
Cllr R Hobbs
Cllr I Lindsay
Cllr E Griffin-Singh
District Cllr J Friend-Smith

Cllr C Phillips
Cllr N Clarke
Cllr M Rouse
Cllr J Pearson
District Cllr S Austen

1. APOLOGIES

No apologies were received.

2. COUNCILLOR REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATIONS

There were no requests for dispensations.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

No declarations of disclosable pecuniary and other interests from Councillors as per Standing Order 83b were received.

4. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING HELD ON THE 7TH APRIL AND MATTERS ARISING

The minutes of the last meeting held on the 7th April were agreed and signed as a true record, subject to two spelling corrections. Pages 1413, 1414, 1415, 1416, 1417 and 1418 refer.

Matters arising: Page 1413, item 4 – Cllr Yates informed members he had spoken to Cambs County Council, who confirmed they were in the process of writing a consistent policy for ‘A’ boards on the pavement, throughout the County and will contact him again, once this has been completed.

Page 1413, item 4 – The Mayor read the response received from Barratt. It was agreed that the Council will continue to contact Barratt with regard to this matter, to ensure the work is undertaken. Cllr Whelan informed members that some works have been undertaken in this area, such as the resurfacing of Carey Close and the replacement of damaged kerbing. She hoped the new Council would continue to monitor the situation with Barratt.

Page 1415, item 10 – Cllr Yates informed members he had contacted the County Council regarding proposals for Broad Street. He was assured the Council’s comments regarding improvements to this road will be considered and should be receiving information from them in the summer.

5. CHAIRMAN’S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Mayor said it was good to have seen so many people at the Annual Parish Meeting at the Maltings. There were no formal announcements to be made.

6. QUESTION TIME

The Mayor informed those present, that item 20 would be discussed in Committee at the end of the meeting. Due to the confidential nature of this item, members of the public would be excluded from the meeting.

Cllr Rouse, in his capacity as a County Councillor reported he was still agitating regarding safe routes for children at the new Ely school. He had been assured things are in hand and the infrastructure will be in place. Eventually there will be a green route, which will also be a safe route. He will keep this progress under close observation.

The Mayor reported she had requested an update bulletin from East Cambs District Council, which will become a standard item on the Full Council agenda. This will ensure the Council is kept update with everything that is going on at ECDC.

District Cllr J Friend-Smith said he was delighted that Morley Drive had now been transferred to the ownership of ECDC. He also wished everyone the best for the future.

District Cllr S Friend-Smith asked what response had been received from Cambs County Council regarding the light columns on the Market Place. The Mayor read the response out. District Cllr S Friend-Smith asked if the Council would be consulted on the replacement columns for Ely. It was confirmed that the Council would be consulted.

Mrs Holden, a parishioner thanked the Mayor and the Council, on behalf of the Access Group under the Equalities Act, for listening and taking action with regard to access to Sessions House. She looked forward to working with the new team of councillors in achieving further improvements.

7. MAYOR'S ENGAGEMENTS & REPORT

The Mayor had attended a meeting of the Ely Chamber of Trade; held her Mayor's Ball; met with employers about apprenticeship; attended City Centre Forum Sub-Group meeting; business mentoring; Ely Youth Choir Festival; ECDC Civic Service; the Council's Annual Parish Meeting; Fenprobe AGM; Learning and Skills Sector meeting, Chamber of Commerce; meeting at Bell Holt; met and greeted Ribe visitors; Pos+Ability AGM; Eel Day Procession; Town Criers' Competition, the opening of Isleham's new community hall, Town Crier dinner; Ribe tree planting and CCF support for Food and Drink festival. She will also undertake the following events before the Annual Council Meeting on the 18th May:- King's School Sixth Form awards; Gala fundraising dinner for EACH; adult learning meeting; Royal Garden Party; Ely Chamber of Commerce meeting; Waitrose 'Give and Gain' morning; Spring Reception at Mildenhall Air Base and EACH Gala Day at Milton.

8. PLANNING

Reports of a Planning Committee meeting held on the 20th April 2015 and immediately prior to this meeting were received from Cllr Yates.

9. INFORMATION ONLY ITEMS

The following information only items were received:-

Notification of tree work:- 6 Houghton Gardens, Ely; The Black Hostelry, The College, Ely; 6 Cambridge Road, Ely; 67 Lumley Close, Ely

Changes to local bus services

Notification of road closure of Mile End Level Crossing on 27-28 June

Copy of response from Cambs County Council regarding lighting columns on the Market Square

10. COMMITTEE REPORTS

(i) PERSONNEL, FINANCE AND GOVERNANCE – The Mayor presented a report of a meeting held on the 13th April, which was approved. Members approved the funding of £466 to the Prickwillow Engine Museum for work required to the old Ely Fire Engine, which is on permanent loan to them from the Council. The Clerk gave an update on the AmeyCespa Community Fund 2015, which she agreed she would look at options for applications from this Fund. Unfortunately, the criteria did not allow the Council to submit any applications. Members agreed the Mayor would write to AmeyCespa regarding the criteria for this Fund and highlight the problems with the process. Cllr Yates, who had attended a seminar on Community Land Trusts, felt the Council should look at this scheme in respect of the Council’s existing shared equity housing scheme and whether this would be transferable to a CLT. He felt it may also be a scheme worth considering for the North of Ely, as it could offer the Council a potential opportunity for another housing scheme, through a CLT. Members discussed the need to ensure that regular health and safety audits of the Council’s buildings are undertaken. These will be undertaken by a member of staff and a councillor. The draft proposed agreement with ADeC was deferred until the new Events Manager was in post and could have an input into this. Members agreed to accept the quote from Millar Ltd for new bar shutters at the Maltings, at a cost of £1586 plus VAT. Members considered the quotation of £1585 for the purchase and first year’s costs of a new financial software package from RBS Ltd. The annual support and maintenance single user licence was £345 per annum. Cllr Hobbs proposed this be approved. This was seconded by Cllr Arnold and unanimously approved.

(ii) ENVIRONMENT – No report as Committee had not met. The Clerk informed members of a request to fly the newly registered Cambridgeshire flag from the Council’s flagpole on the Market Place from time to time, if they were to purchase this for the Council. The flag was chosen in a public competition and its registration with the Flag Institute took place earlier this year. Members considered this request, but did not feel it was appropriate to fly this flag, as the Council had its own flag. They requested the Clerk seek advice from the Lord Lieutenant if there is a flag that should be flown when he visits Ely.

(iii) RECREATION AND CEMETERY – No report as Committee had not met.

(iv) CHRISTMAS LIGHTS – No report as Committee had not met.

(v) ASSETS & ACQUISTIONS – No report as Committee had not met.

(vi) ELY/RIBE – Cllr Hobbs reported the twinning weekend, to celebrate the 60 anniversary of the twinning with Ribe had been a great success. It had been a big community effort, with several local organisations being involved. The Mayor thanked Cllr Hobbs for all the work he had put into this. It was also agreed to write to Mr Hughes, the Chairman of the Association, thanking him for organising such a wonderful weekend.

(vii) YOUTH FORUM – No report as Committee had not met. The Mayor informed there would be support between schools and businesses as East Cambs will benefit from a half person to secure these links, from the successful bid.

11. WORKING PARTIES/STEERING GROUPS REPORTS

The Mayor proposed that in view of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted the following matter be considered in private and that the power of exclusion of the public under Section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 be exercised. This was seconded by Cllr Yates and unanimously agreed. *Due to the confidential nature of this item, this was discussed in Committee at the end of the meeting.*

CCTV - a verbal report was given in Committee at the end of the meeting.

12. REPORTS FROM EXTERNAL MEETINGS

City of Ely Allotments Association – minutes of a meeting held on the 11th March were noted.

Section 106 meeting – minutes of a meeting held on the 14th April were noted. Members noted the draft Terms of Reference for the new CIL meeting, which will replace Section 106 meetings. This was agreed in principle, with the details being discussed further by the new Council, following the elections.

Prickwillow Village Council – minutes of a meeting held on the 10th March were noted.

13. TRAFFIC ISSUES WITHIN PARISH

The Mayor informed members a list of observations/ideas regarding traffic issues within the parish had been forwarded to Cambs County Council for their consideration. They will be conducting a traffic survey in early summer, which the Council will be able to contribute to.

14. NORTH ELY UPDATE

Members had received a clarification from ECDC regarding safer routes to schools regarding the new Ely school.

15. TO APPROVE THE APPOINTMENT OF THE ESTATES TECHNICIAN

The Mayor proposed the appointment of Mr Sebastien Villatte as the Estates Technician. This was seconded by Cllr Yates and unanimously approved.

16. STRENGTHENING PARISH AND TOWN COUNCIL ACCOUNTABILITY - TO MAKE COMMENTS ON THE CONSULTATION ON EXTENDING THE REMIT OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT OMBUDSMAN TO LARGER PARISH AND TOWN COUNCILS

Members noted the consultation, but had no comments to make on this.

17. TO RECEIVE FEEDBACK FROM CLLRS YATES AND LINDSAY REGARDING NEIGHBOURHOOD PLANS

Cllrs Yates and Lindsay informed members their research on neighbourhood plans had highlighted how long a process this was. There were six stages, which could take at least two years to complete. Stage six would be a referendum of parishioners. The process could cost approximately £100,000. Cllr Lindsay recommended that the Council should not proceed with producing a neighbourhood plan due to the timescale, cost and little future benefits this would bring the Council. This was seconded by Cllr Yates and unanimously agreed.

18. TO RECEIVE REPORT FROM ANNUAL REVIEW OF COUNCIL'S POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

Members noted and approved the recommendations from the annual review of the Council's policies and procedures.

19. VOTE OF THANKS TO COUNCILLORS NOT STANDING FOR RE-ELECTION

The Mayor informed members that three councillors would not be standing for re-election. She would therefore like to thank them for all their hard work and contribution to the Council over the period of office. Cllr Barber had been co-opted in November 2013 and had been an excellent Vice-Chairman of the Recreation and Cemetery Committee. Cllr Griffin-Singh had been elected in May 2007 and had brought true vision with what she had wanted to achieve. She was the Mayor in 2013/2014. She had achieved a lot in her time on the Council, kick starting many projects, which the new Council will continue with. Cllr Ashton had been on the Council between 1985-1999 and 2002-2015. He had been a father figure of the Council, bringing insight, knowledge and experience to the Council. He had also been Mayor twice. She thanked him for everything he had done for the Council. Cllr Ashton said he had enjoyed his time on the Council and working with everyone. Cllr Rouse wished all the candidates the best in the upcoming election.

The Mayor also gave thanks to Cllr Yates for the good partnership they had this year, with him supporting her as the Deputy Mayor. Cllr Yates thanked the Mayor for leading the Council and was thankful for all the effort and commitment she had given.

Cllr Rouse, District Cllrs Friend-Smith, Friend-Smith, Austen and the parishioners left the meeting at 8.35 pm.

20. COUNCIL SERVICES AND PERSONNEL

The Mayor proposed that in view of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted the following matter be considered in private and that the power of exclusion of the public under Section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 be exercised. This was seconded by Cllr Yates and unanimously agreed. *Due to the confidential nature of this item, this was discussed in Committee at the end of the meeting.*

21. FINANCE

Members approved the following for payment:

Internet Marketing Company	24.00	paid by direct debit
Barclays	27.55	paid by direct debit
Barclaycard	286.86	paid by direct debit
ECDC	891.00	paid by direct debit
ECDC	246.00	paid by direct debit
ECDC	384.00	paid by direct debit
Armourstore Self Storage Ltd	207.60	paid by direct debit
ESPO	234.97	paid by direct debit
ESPO	645.67	paid by direct debit
British Telecommunications	438.42	paid by direct debit
British Telecommunications	102.75	paid by direct debit
Mr P M Jeffs	872.00	109942
Fenland Leisure Products Ltd	78.00	109943
John Yarrow	20.00	109944
BT Payment Services Ltd	29.84	109945
ADeC	381.60	109946
Aztek Services Ltd	410.04	109947
N&C Glass Ltd	1770.00	109948
XMA	52.27	109949
NALC	17.00	109950
Local World	60.00	109951
CamAlarms Ltd	167.47	109952
BFS Group Ltd	168.60	109971
Zurich Municipal Management Services	114.00	109954
Trade UK Account	105.51	109955
Allen's Skip Hire Ltd	120.00	109956
Labour-tech Recruitment Ltd	189.00	109957
Icomply Ltd	690.00	109961
Glasswells	593.52	109958
WiderPlan Ltd	112.54	109959
Local World	391.20	109960
G & J Peck Ltd	694.12	110021
Balfour Beatty Living Places Ltd	478.01	109962
AmeyCespa (East) Ltd	6.60	109963
G & J Peck Ltd	3044.00	109964
ECDC	1.00	109965
Ely Museum	52.00	109966
ESPO	41.04	109967
Thurlow Nunn Standen Ltd	166.53	109968
John Yarrow	224.00	109969
Ben Baxter	170.00	109970
Labour-tech Recruitment Ltd	63.00	109972
Isle Interactive Ltd	30.00	109973
FuelGenie	258.88	paid by direct debit
D Block	84.00	109975
CamAlarms Ltd	618.27	109976
& J Peck Ltd	40.23	109977

Payments relating to staff since meeting on the 7th April 2015

Salaries and wages	£10270.77
Inland Revenue (tax & NI)	£2510.66
Pension fund payments	£3496.85

To note and approve the bank reconciliation against the accounts for the period ending 30th April 2015 - this was deferred to the next meeting, due to the bank statement not having been received.

The Council went into Committee for items 10 and 20.