



**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE CITY OF ELY COUNCIL HELD IN THE VERNON CROSS ROOM,
ELY MUSEUM, MARKET STREET, ELY AT 7.00 PM ON MONDAY 29TH JUNE 2015**

PRESENT:

The Mayor, Cllr E Every
Cllr A Arnold
Cllr A Whelan
Cllr S Friend-Smith
Cllr D Warman
4 parishioners

Deputy Mayor, Cllr I Lindsay
Cllr R Hobbs
Cllr M Rouse
Cllr C Whelan
Cllr P Moakes
5 parishioners applying for co-option vacancy

Cllr C Phillips
Cllr J Pearson
Cllr S Austen
Cllr M Lansell

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 1ST JUNE AND MATTERS ARISING

The minutes of the last meeting held on the 1st June were agreed and signed as a true record. Pages 1429, 1430, 1431, 1432, 1433, 1434 and 1435 refer.

Matters arising: Page 1429, item 4 – The Clerk tabled a thank you letter from the Prickwillow Engine Museum for their grant towards work to the old Ely Fire Engine.

Page 1429, item 4 – Cllr Lindsay informed members the Environment Committee would be picking up the issue with ‘A’ Boards in the City centre. They will be working with the Access Group to identify the problems.

5. CHAIRMAN’S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Mayor welcomed everyone to the meeting. She informed members the new Events Manager; Deborah Jones had now been with the Council for a week. She had lots of ideas to move the Maltings forward.

Councillors had attended seminars regarding Planning and the Community Infrastructure Levy and others are planned. Some councillors had also attended the ECDC Parish Workshop. Informal presentations had also been received regarding the proposed straw pellet facility at Queen Adelaide and the McCarthy & Stone development on Lisle Lane. The Traffic and Transport Working Group would be holding their first meeting very soon.

The Mayor informed those present, that items 11 and 22 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.

6. QUESTION TIME

Cllr Rouse, in his capacity as a County Councillor reported the Highways Committee would be holding a special meeting to consider rescinding a previous decision regarding the community hub in Cambridge.

Cllr Hobbs in his capacity as a District Councillor informed members ECDC were very close to bringing 48 hour moorings to the river. This had been received very well by the boat users and it was hoped it will be implemented in early Summer. He also informed members the Ministry of State would not be calling in the cinema or leisure centre projects. ECDC have undertaken a facility audit for the whole district and the City of Ely Council should be receiving information regarding this. They have also produced departmental delivery plans, half of which have now been agreed.

Richard Morgan, a parishioner, asked Cllr Rouse if the County Council archives would still be moving to Ely. He confirmed that it was still the County's intention to do this. However, the moving of the Cambridgeshire Collection will be a separate consultation. He was not aware of the timeframe for this.

Phil Mitzman, a parishioner raised his concerns regarding the green space at Arundell and Northwold, Ely. He said there were approximately 75 houses in this area and the open space was used for a variety of activities. However, due to the current condition of the grass, as a result in the reduced number of cuts, a lot of these activities could not be undertaken. He was disturbed by the attitude of the District Council towards these concerns raised by residents to them. He felt this kind of attitude could lead to other areas in the City falling into decline. He also felt there were signs of the community's determination to maintain these areas and hoped the City of Ely Council would support ECDC's request for funding to provide for additional cuts. The Mayor confirmed this will be discussed at item 17.

7. MAYOR'S ENGAGEMENTS & REPORT

The Mayor had attended a planning meeting for the Springboard Skills event at the Maltings; held a Mayor's Charity meeting – VCAE; attended the City Centre Forum Sub-Group meeting; talked to the Over 60's at Ely Community Centre; attended the Class of Alconbury Graduation at Ely Cathedral; attended G's Open Farm Sunday and the Cambridgeshire Regiment Annual lunch and parade. She had also attended St Mary's Junior School String Orchestra Performance at the Cathedral; chaired the Chamber of Commerce Learning and Skills Sector meeting; St Ives Civic Service; recommenced the Business Mentoring Programme at Ely Sixth Form; opening of Ely Community Centre; corporate EACH fund raising presentation; Ely St John's Primary School resources meeting; Chamber of Commerce Skills Event Review; EARTH AGM; St Etheldreda's Parade; duty managed for Viva Performance at the Maltings; Springboard Skills Event at the Maltings; Pos+Ability meeting; was the guest speaker at Ely College Year 7-10 Awards at Ely Cathedral and attended the High Sheriff's Summer Reception. The Deputy Mayor had attended the opening of the Ely Southern cycleway; G's Open Farm Sunday; Cambridgeshire Forces presentation and Huntingdon Civic Service.

8. PLANNING

Reports of a Planning Committee meeting held on the 15th June 2015 and immediately prior to this meeting were received.

9. INFORMATION ONLY ITEMS

The following information only items were received:-

Notification of tree work:- 6 Houghton Gardens, Ely; 23 The Vineyards, Ely; Sessions House, Lynn Road, Ely; 22 Lynn Road, Ely

Notification of Street Naming and Numbering:- new flats and dwellings, 12 to 19 St Mary's Court, Ely

Notification of road closure for Queen Adelaide LC, Prickwillow Road, Ely – 8-9 August

Notification of footway resurfacing works on Herons Close, Ely. Work is programmed to start week commencing 29th June, with works anticipated to last approximately three weeks

LCR

10. COMMITTEE REPORTS

- (i) PERSONNEL, FINANCE AND GOVERNANCE – No report as Committee had not met. The next meeting will be held on the 6th July.
- (ii) ENVIRONMENT – Cllr Lindsay presented a report of a meeting held on the 8th June, which was approved. Cllr Friend-Smith thanked the Mayor for organising a clean-up of the City. The notes from the Ely in Bloom Working Group held on the 7th April, were also noted. The Ely in Bloom competitions will run again this year.
- (iii) RECREATION AND CEMETERY – Cllr Pearson presented a report of a meeting held on the 23rd June, which was approved. Members approved the request from 1st Ely Scouts to put ‘slackline’ fixings between the Scout Hall and the Guide Hall on St John’s Road, Ely. Members had considered the three quotations for replacement play equipment at Stuntney play area and approved the option for a Foxtail climbing unit from Sovereign Play Equipment at a cost of £8535.64 plus VAT. An application for Section 106 funding will be made for this project. Three quotations had been obtained for upgrading the roadway and new pathways in the cemetery. Members unanimously agreed the quotation from Grays Surfacing at a cost of £17624.00 plus VAT. Members also agreed that all Estates staff would be provided with an android phone for work use. A business mobile phone contract will be sought up to the cost of £15 per month, per phone. Members approved the payment of this contract by direct debit. The Clerk informed members of a possible phone tariff at £7.50 per month, per phone through Tesco. Members agreed this option for the new phones.
- (iv) CHRISTMAS LIGHTS – Cllr Arnold presented a report of a meeting held on 22nd June, which was approved. Reports from the Switch-On Group and Lighting Group were noted. A fundraising magic show will be held at the Maltings on the 29th and 30th October 2015. The theme for this year’s switch-on would be ‘The Magic of Christmas’
- (v) ASSETS & ACQUISITIONS – No report as Committee had not met.
- (vi) ELY/RIBE – No report as had not met.
- (vii) YOUTH FORUM – No report as Committee had not met.

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.
 Sessions House Phase II Working Party – Cllr Lindsay gave a verbal update of the initial meeting of this Working Party. A representative from Purcell Miller Tritton had agreed to look at the building with regard to the installation of a lift and advise the Council as to the options available.

12. REPORTS FROM EXTERNAL MEETINGS

Ely Trinity Dole – minutes of a meeting held on the 4th June were noted.
 Prickwillow Village Council – tabled minutes of a meeting held on the 12th May were noted.

13. TRAFFIC ISSUES WITHIN PARISH

The Mayor informed members the Traffic & Transport Working Party will be meeting shortly.

14. TO CONSIDER APPLICANTS FOR THE CO-OPTION OF THE COUNCILLOR VACANCY IN THE NORTH WARD

Cllr Hobbs sought clarification from three of the councillors as to whether they were representing a political party, as a result of a recent political publication that had been circulated to residents of the West ward. This had identified them as a team of this political party, on the City of Ely Council. He felt this may have an impact on the voting for the applicants. All three confirmed they were not representing any political party, and were aware that parish councils are not political.

Members considered six applicants for the co-option of the vacancy in the North Ward. All applicants gave a short talk about themselves and why they would like to be a councillor. One of the applicants had pre-recorded their talk as they were not able to attend the meeting. This procedure had been agreed at the previous Full Council meeting, if applicants were unable to attend, due to an acceptable reason. Following the talks, given by the applicants, members followed the Council's Standing Orders and undertook a confidential vote. After eliminating three of the applicants on the first vote, on the second vote, consisting of the three remaining applicants, one achieved an overall majority of 8 votes. The Mayor announced that Mr S Pittock had been elected as the new councillor to fill the North ward vacancy.

5 parishioners left the meeting at 8.20 pm.

15. TO DISCUSS REPORT FROM ELYSIAN ASSOCIATES REGARDING VAT REGISTRATION

Members noted the report from Elysian Associations regarding the Council registering for VAT. The Mayor proposed the recommendations be approved and this was seconded by Cllr Whelan. Members unanimously agreed. Elysian Associates will therefore register the Council for VAT as their agent, with effect from the 1st July 2015, as per the charges set out in the additional email. The Council will also sign up for their help line at a cost of £750 plus VAT per year.

16. CONSULTATION EMAIL FROM CAMBS COUNTY COUNCIL ON THE REVISION OF CAMBRIDGESHIRE'S STRATEGY FOR FLOOD RISK MANAGEMENT

Cllr Lansell would look at this consultation and submit comments on behalf of the Council.

Item 17 was discussed before item 15

17. TO CONSIDER REQUEST FROM ECDC TO PROVIDE FUNDING FOR ADDITIONAL HIGHWAY GRASS CUTTING WITHIN THE CITY OF ELY

Cllr Hobbs declared an interest in this item as he was an ECDC councillor.

ECDC are currently contracted to cut the highway areas three times a year by Cambs County Council. The County Council have provided additional funding to increase the cuts to five a year. Members considered the request from ECDC for funding of £1000 to increase the highway cuts from five to ten per year. Members also discussed the issues raised by Mr Mitzman. Cllr Moakes proposed the Council agrees to provide this funding. This was seconded by Cllr Friend-Smith. Members unanimously approved this recommendation subject to these cuts covering the Parish of Ely. It would also be requested that the problems in Arundell/Northwold should be addressed as soon as possible. Clarification would also be sought from ECDC regarding parishioners who are willing to cut the grass outside their properties, but will not do so because of the potential liability if there is an accident resulting from them doing this.

18. ELECTORAL REVIEW OF CAMBRIDGESHIRE: DRAFT RECOMMENDATIONS

Cllrs Lansell and Phillips gave feedback to members on these proposals. It was agreed Cllr Lansell would formalise the Council's response and email to the Clerk for submission.

19. TO MAKE COMMENTS ON STREETLIGHT PROPOSALS FOR ELY

The first phase of the streetlighting proposals for Ely had been received. It was agreed the Clerk would allocate roads to each Councillor to check the proposals and make comments.

20. TO CONSIDER QUOTATION FOR SECONDARY GLAZING WITHIN THE OFFICE AT SESSIONS HOUSE

Members considered the quotation from Halls of Cambridge for secondary glazing within the office at Sessions House at a cost of £2130 plus VAT. Cllr Hobbs proposed this quotation be accepted and this was seconded by Cllr Arnold. This was unanimously agreed as the noise levels from the road are extremely loud.

21. TO DISCUSS EMAIL FROM CAMBS COUNTY COUNCIL REGARDING UNRECORDED PUBLIC RIGHT OF WAY BETWEEN BYWAY 48 ELY AND BYWAY 44 LITTLE DOWNHAM

Members were of the opinion that this was a public right of way between Byway 48 Ely and Byway 44 Little Downham. Cllr Hobbs recommended the Council supports the official recording of this public highway. This was seconded by Cllr Arnold and unanimously agreed.

22. COUNCIL SERVICES

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 Lindsay and unanimously agreed.

Due to the confidential nature of this item, this was discussed in Committee at the end of the meeting.

23. FINANCE

Members approved the following for payment:

Internet Marketing Company	24.00	paid by direct debit
Barclays	37.92	paid by direct debit
Barclaycard	626.13	paid by direct debit
ECDC	887.00	paid by direct debit
ECDC	250.00	paid by direct debit
ECDC	384.00	paid by direct debit
Armourstore Self Storage Ltd	207.60	paid by direct debit
FuelGenie	226.44	paid by direct debit
Southern Electric	186.64	paid by direct debit
Francotyp Postalia Ltd	100.00	paid by direct debit
British Telecommunications	40.33	paid by direct debit
Prickwillow Engine Trust	493.00	110012
E Every	2295.00	110013
Ely Tyre Services	78.90	110014
Simpson's Nurseries Ltd	37.49	110015
City of Ely Military Band	200.00	110016
Allgood Glass	55.00	110017
Screwfix	19.99	110018
AmeyCespa (East) Ltd	18.70	110019
Cooleraid Ltd	4.74	110020
Thurlow Nunn Standen Ltd	98.31	110023
Create Signs	36.00	110024
Konica Minolta Bus Solutions Ltd	381.83	110025
Cottenham Brass	200.00	110026
Fenland Leisure Products Ltd	86.16	110027
Warren Access	1158.00	110028
Local World Ltd	60.00	110029
EDF Energy Customer Field Services	216.00	110030
Salmons Bros Ltd	46.20	110031
Argos Business Solutions Ltd	94.99	110032
Bidvest 3663	82.99	110033
Littleport Band	200.00	110034

Finance continued

Allen's Skip Hire Ltd	120.00	110035
A Arnold	8.00	110036
Paul Nunn Roofing Ltd	840.00	110037
Ben Baxter	76.00	110038
Aztek Services	570.00	110039
Gordon Harrison	105.29	110040
1st Ely Scout Group Council	60.00	110041
RGP Security Services Ltd	196.00	110042
ESPO	171.37	110043
ECDC	446.31	110044
Labour-tech Recruitment Ltd	189.00	110045
Labour-tech Recruitment Ltd	63.00	110046
Trade UK	76.83	110047
K Ellis	104.00	110048
Rialtas Business Solutions Ltd	2544.42	110049
Anglian Water	23.37	110050
Labour-tech Recruitment Ltd	2447.20	110051
Engraving World Ltd	25.50	110052
Abbey Supply Company Ltd	55.15	110053
BI Catering Equipment Services	252.07	110054
Ely College	50.00	110055
British Telecommunications	25.42	paid by direct debit
G & J Peck Ltd	236.46	110056
Daniel Block	36.00	110057

Payments relating to staff since meeting on the 1st June 2015

Salaries and wages	£9995.32
Inland Revenue (tax & NI)	£2617.27
Pension fund payments	£4119.52

Memers noted and approved the bank reconciliation against the accounts for the period ending 31st May 2015