



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, 11TH JANUARY 2016

PRESENT:

Mayor, Cllr E Every
Cllr S Friend-Smith
Cllr M Lansell
Cllr M Rouse
6 parishioners

Cllr C Phillips
Cllr J Pearson
Cllr D Warman

Cllr A Arnold
Cllr P Moakes
Cllr R Hobbs

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Cllrs Pittock, Lindsay, Austen, C Whelan and A Whelan.

2. COUNCILLOR REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATIONS

There were no requests for dispensations.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

Cllrs Every, Hobbs and Rouse declared an interest in item 8, as East Cambridgeshire District Councillors, in relation to the planning application for Barton Road car park.

4. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING HELD ON THE 14TH DECEMBER 2015 AND MATERS ARISING

The minutes of the last meeting held on the 14th December 2015 were agreed and signed as a true record. Pages 1474, 1475, 1476, 1477, 1478 and 1479 refer.

Matters arising:- Page 1476, item 14 – The Deputy Mayor informed members comments drafted by Cllrs Lansell and Phillips had been submitted on behalf of the Council, with regard to the electoral review of East Cambridgeshire.

Page 1474, item 4 – Cllr Arnold informed members she had undertaken research into the issue of stock from shops displayed on the pavement, in relation to table and chair licences. She gave a summary of her findings and members agreed this should be discussed further at the next Environment Committee meeting.

Page 1476, item 15 – The Clerk gave an update on the Section 106 slipway project. As the costs had been considerably more than originally projected, further discussion had taken place with ECDC and it had been agreed a smaller scheme would be undertaken by ECDC staff. A cost for this will be supplied, but it was anticipated to be in the region of £3,500 to £4000. Members approved these revised costs and agreed the Clerk could authorise these works, once the formal quotation had been received.

Page 1476, item 17 – Cllr Rouse informed members CCC Highways Committee would be meeting on the 12th January. At this meeting the withdrawal of the funding for school crossing patrols would be discussed. He was uneasy about cutting this front line service and hoped savings could be found elsewhere, to allow it to continue. The Mayor reiterated that the Council was opposed to this cut in service.

5. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman wished everyone a Happy New Year. She reported the business plans for the Committees were now in their final stage of completing. This year's Volunteer Celebration evening would be held on the 29th February. This is where the people who volunteer for the Council are invited to attend an evening reception, at which the Council says 'thank you'.

6. QUESTION TIME

Cllr Rouse in his capacity as a County Councillor advised members that he sits on the Highways Committee. The Highway's budget only forms a small part of CCC's budget, so any cuts in Highways tends to be on the front line, which can be very contentious. It was likely that the mobile library service would be saved, but a compromise would be the switch off of the streetlights. The time for switching these off had been proposed for midnight, but it was now being considered between 2.00 am to 6.00 am or 2.00 am to 5.00 am. There was a proposal to increase CCC council tax by 1.99% being put forward.

Cllr Hobbs in his capacity as a District Councillor informed members ECDC had issued a press release today regarding the coach parking and car parking at Barton Road car park, in relation to the planning application that ECDC had submitted. He confirmed there would be one setting down and pick up place within the car park. They are currently looking at other drop off points within the City and sites for parking the coaches. He reported that the first official digging for the construction of the leisure centre had commenced. He confirmed this would be open for April 2017. He also reported he and the Mayor had met with members of the Allotment Association and CCC officers regarding the By-pass and the new cycleway between Stuntney and Ely. They had discussed how the allotment site would be aligned to the new road, which will improve the entrance and access to the allotment site.

A parishioner asked Cllrs Hobbs and Every where ECDC were planning to find the extra 13 car parking spaces they say the number has increased by. Cllr Hobbs confirmed it was from taking away the coach parking and the reconfiguration of the existing spaces.

Another parishioner asked what the figure for the number of new houses in Ely in the next five years was. Cllr Moakes said it was 3000. The parishioner then asked if there was going to be that many new houses, where would they park their cars when they came into the City. Cllr Moakes said there would be new bus routes and they could walk or cycle.

Mrs Haynes, a parishioner asked if the issue regarding 'A' boards would also be discussed at the next Environment Committee meeting, along with the issues raised by Cllr Arnold. The Mayor confirmed it would.

Mrs Holden, a parishioner suggested that Mr Clarke from ECDC consult with the Access Group regarding the new proposals for the slipway. She said the next meeting was on Wednesday, 13th January at 10.00 am at ECDC offices. Cllr Hobbs said he would see if Spencer Clarke was able to attend.

7. MAYOR'S ENGAGEMENTS & REPORT

The Mayor had attended the Mayor of Cambridge's Reception at the Guildhall; she started the Arthur Rank Hospice Fun Run; attended a Chamber of Commerce Learning and Skills meeting; opened the new premises of Ely Tax and Accountancy; attended the opening of Babylon Arts Gallery; the Positive Youth meeting; Highfield's Bazaar; Governors' Christmas meal with St John's Primary School; the Isle of Ely Festival meeting; Ely College staff meeting; CCTV Christmas meal; Ely College parents' meeting; collecting money for NSPCC at Ely Station; Ely Society's Christingle Service at the Cathedral. She had also attended Mary Will's funeral; the Inner Wheel Christmas lunch; a meeting regarding time credit initiatives at CCC; the British Chamber of Commerce education and business seminar in London; St John's Primary School Foundation nativity play; the opening of the newly refurbished Boots the Chemist store; Mrs Horton's funeral; met with J Beer regarding new campus of Hi-tech businesses in Downham Market; attended Brigadier Cox's Open House reception at Mildenhall; City of Ely Military Band concert; St John's Primary School KS2 play; Christmas Carols at Mrs Freestone's King's Ely with Cathedral Girls Choir; Pos+Ability Christmas lunch; Mayor of St Ives' Carol Concert; met with the Dean; meeting regarding the Timebank initiative and the Hereward Rotary arts competition at Babylon Gallery.

8. PLANNING

Reports of a Planning Committee meeting held on the 30th November 2015 and immediately prior to this meeting were received. Cllrs Every, Hobbs and Rouse declared an interest in Plans B and C from the Planning B meeting, prior to the Full Council, in their capacity as District Councillors, and signed the Register of Members Interest Book, pages 132, 130 and 129 respectively. Cllr Moakes took the Chair, whilst these plans were discussed and Cllrs Every, Hobbs and Rouse left the room. Cllr Moakes explained these plans had initially been discussed at the Planning Meeting, but due to the meeting not being quorate they had been deferred to this Full Council meeting. However, once the three councillors had left the room, there were only 7 councillors present, so the meeting was still not quorate. The two planning applications were still discussed with the following recommendations:- Plan B – refusal due to overdevelopment of the site. Plan C – refusal on the grounds of unacceptable loss of coach parking spaces and loss of Poets House car parking spaces. The proposed dwellings are too tall, out of character with the surrounding area and the dwellings are too close to the highway. It was agreed these recommendations would be emailed to all councillors by the Clerk. If a majority agreed with these, they would be submitted as the Council's comments.

Cllrs Every, Hobbs and Rouse re-joined the meeting and Cllr Every continued to chair the meeting.

Six of the parishioners left the meeting at 7.55 pm.

9. INFORMATION ONLY ITEMS

The following information only items were received:-

No8tification of tree work:- 29 John Amner Close, Ely; 12 Sycamore Lane, Ely; land outside 10 Springhead Lane, Ely; 32 Egremont Street, Ely; 26 Canute Crescent, Ely; Ely Cathedral, The Gallery, Ely; 10 Silver Street, Ely; 9 Buckingham Drive, Ely

10. COMMITTEE REPORTS

(i) PERSONNEL, FINANCE AND GOVERNANCE – The Mayor presented a report of a meeting held on the 7th January, which was approved. A recommendation of a proposed precept for 2016/2017 of £423,754 was noted. It was agreed to discuss this under agenda item 14.

(ii) ENVIRONMENT – No report as Committee had not met. The next meeting will be on the 15th February.

(iii) RECREATION AND CEMETERY – No report as Committee had not met. The next meeting will be on the 18th January.

(iv) CHRISTMAS LIGHTS – No report as Committee had not met. The next meeting will be on the 1st February.

(v) ASSETS & ACQUISTIONS – No report as Committee had not met. The next meeting will be on the 26th January.

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

(vii) YOUTH FORUM – No report as had not met.

One parishioner left the meeting at 7.57 pm.

11. WORKING PARTIES/STEERING GROUPS REPORTS

Nothing to report.

12. REPORTS FROM EXTERNAL MEETINGS

There were no reports from external meetings.

13. TO DISCUSS DEACONS LANE ALLOTMENTS

Members noted that the Allotment Association did not wish to proceed with taking the lease of this site. The Clerk recommended that if the Association did not proceed with this, then the Council would not be able to administer this site within current staff levels. Cllr Rouse felt it was a very important site and the City of Ely Council should contact the Church Commissioners about the future of the site. The Mayor and Cllr Rouse will arrange a meeting with them.

14. TO SET THE PRECEPT FOR 2016/2017

The Mayor gave a full history and explanation regarding the proposed precept for 2016/2017. All members present were given the opportunity to give their comments on the proposed precept and all were in agreement with the reasons for increasing this. Cllr Moakes proposed the precept for 2016/2017 be set at £423,754, which was seconded by Cllr Pearson. This was unanimously approved by all members. Cllr Friend-Smith requested that the Council works towards achieving proper access to Sessions House, with external funding.

15. FINANCE

Members approved the following for payment:

Internet Marketing Company	24.00	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
ECDC	3451.00	paid by direct debit
British Gas	6640.47	paid by direct debit
Lex Autolease	243.27	paid by direct debit
Francotyp Postalia Ltd	100.00	paid by direct debit
Barclaycard	265.34	paid by direct debit
Worldpay	18.01	paid by direct debit
Worldpay	173.32	paid by direct debit
Worldpay	28.74	paid by direct debit
Siemens Financial Services Ltd	469.71	paid by direct debit
Siemens Financial Services Ltd	178.80	paid by direct debit
British Telecommunications	25.33	paid by direct debit
Greene King Brewing & Retailing	538.90	paid by direct debit
Barclays	125.95	paid by direct debit
Jewson Ltd	51.07	110358
Jewson Ltd	34.56	110373
RGP Security Services Ltd	70.20	110359
Clearview	4523.50	110363
Konica Minolta Business Sols	107.77	110364
C4 Digital Group Ltd	360.00	110365
Bidvest Foodservices	7423.04	110367
RGP Security Services Ltd	187.20	110368
Labour-tech Recruitment Ltd	232.42	110374
Labour-tech Recruitment Ltd	98.90	110374
Gordon Harrison	115.55	110376
CamAlarms Ltd	126.00	110377
Konica Minolta Business Sols	369.33	110378
BHTA Number 3 Account	200.00	110379
City Cycle Centre	25.27	110380
G & J Peck Ltd	131.88	110381
G & J Peck Ltd	8.09	110381
ESPO	58.42	110382
ESPO	55.80	110382
ESPO	5.81	110382
Deeping Direct Deliveries	115.20	110383
CCTV Volunteer	21.60	110384
CCTV Volunteer	21.60	110385
Ely Folk Weekend	200.00	original chq banked so replacement chq 110370 now cancelled
Wider Plan Ltd	112.53	110372
Mrs A Hayter-Smith	200.00	110371
ECDC	1437.50	110387

CD Clowe	285.32	110388
15. Finance continued		
Ben Baxter	76.00	110389
Anglian Water	67.71	110391
Anglian Water	20.50	110390
2 Train	284.00	110392
FuelGenie	201.65	paid by direct debit
ECDC	70.06	110393
Mr M Pinion	20.47	110394
American Express	29.34	paid by direct debit
British Telecommunications	158.68	paid by direct debit
British Telecommunications	378.97	paid by direct debit
Neaves & Neat	95.70	110395
Blushed Studios	300.00	110396
Anglian Water	443.31	110403
Cooleraid Ltd	20.22	110397
British Telecommunications	327.58	paid by direct debit
Southern Electric	2730.37	paid by direct debit
Thurlow Nunn Standen	34.95	110398
Vodafone	68.50	paid by direct debit
Nisbets	14.37	110399
B Hewerdine	222.99	110400
Trade UK	160.86	110386
White China	12.00	110401

Payments relating to staff since meeting on the 14th December 2015

Salaries and wages	£13215.17
Inland Revenue (tax & NI)	£3898.73
Pension fund payments	£6140.79

The bank reconciliation against the accounts for the period ending 31st December 2015 was deferred to the next Full Council meeting.