



**CITY OF ELY COUNCIL
SESSIONS HOUSE
LYNN ROAD
ELY
CAMBS CB7 4EG**

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL COUNCIL MEETING & MAYOR MAKING
HELD AT 7.30 PM ON MONDAY, 16TH MAY 2016
AT THE MALTINGS, SHIP LANE, ELY**

PRESENT:

The Mayor, Cllr E Every	Cllr I Lindsay	Cllr R Hobbs
Cllr C Phillips	Cllr A Arnold	Cllr J Pearson
Cllr S Austen	Cllr A Whelan	Cllr M Rouse
Cll S Friend-Smith	Cllr M Lansell	Cllr C Whelan
Cllr P Moakes		

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Cllr S Pittock, Cllr D Warman, The High Sheriff of Cambridgeshire, Mr & Mrs Gray, Mr & Mrs Morbey, Mr & Mrs Hampton, Mr & Mrs Shropshire, The Bishop of Ely, Ms J Chaplin, Mrs A Broadhurst, Mr R Delahaye, Mr A Lindsay, Cllr A Bailey, Cllr B Hunt, Lord-Lieutenant of Cambridgeshire, Col Robyn Slade, Ms S Didlick, Mr J Ison, Mr W Bebbington, Mr J Willson, Sir John Baird, The Very Reverend Mark Bonney, Chief Constable Campbell, Cllr C Green, Cllr P Bucknell, The Bishop of Huntingdon, Ms Lucy Frazer MP, Ms E Forde, Squadron Leader J Neild, Mr G Wilkinson and Rev Canon N Abbot.

2. Out Going Mayor's Report for 2015/2016

Cllr Every said that it had been a real privilege and a joy to serve as Mayor of the City of Ely over the past two years. The aim for the City of Ely Council was and continues to be based on the pride we have in promoting the City, preserving the heritage, encouraging economic sustainability, growth, and making Ely a desirable community in which to live, be educated, work, shop and enjoy leisure time.

Cllr Every's objectives for the years had been based on Pride, Partnership and People. She wanted to work on initiatives to:

- Develop pride, both individual, community and corporate, in our City environment.
- Expand the existing partnership working and collaboration which has been so important in the Council moving forward.
- Develop new Partnerships required to meet the Council's aims.
- Support residents, local communities and businesses through overt support and improved communication.

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Out Going Mayor's Report for 2015/2016 continued

It was important to Cllr Every that initiatives started should be sustainable and gained a momentum where they could continue and the opportunity to serve for 2 years had considerably helped this.

She was delighted to report that the Council's partnerships were thriving. In particular, the City Centre Forum was striving to develop our local City economy through local consultation. The strong relationships had resulted in the City Centre benefiting from increased footfall during all major events. We aim to develop this further through widening our relationships and establishing a more formal mechanism which will be able to take advantage of localism initiatives which will need to be picked up and funded in the future. The collaboration which now exists means that knowledge and development of local initiatives and developments are shared providing economies of scale and reducing the likelihood of overlap or omission.

Cllr Every reported that strong business links with schools had been developed, which would encourage employability skills and greater opportunities for young people to work locally and promote apprenticeships. Working with the District Council and the Local Enterprise Partnership had resulted in regional funding to obtain support on a Skills Strategy and Career Guidance programmes now recognised and inspected in schools through the Ofsted process. Plans are now in hand to set up a volunteer network of businesses working with the Chamber of Commerce and Cathedral Business Group and the Skills Service, who are prepared to support the employment of apprentices locally. A Apprenticeship Ambassador Network had been initiated to work alongside schools and provide information.

The Pride in Ely initiative had undertaken two litter picks involving increasing numbers of volunteers and local organisations. The City of Ely Council will continue the work on this to ensure there is a planned and systematic programme to support the initiative. With partners, including Ely Perspective and Rotary Clubs, there is currently a plan to clean up Steeple Row.

Cllr Every reported that phase 2 of the refurbishment of Sessions House was in hand. The Council had been working with the Access Group, pursuing the feasibility of putting in a lift which would reach the top floor and open many more opportunities for Council and community use. It is now regularly used as part of the Ely Heritage trail and educational visits organised by the Museum. It was hoped that the Court House space could be used for arts, drama and music activities. An inaugural concert took place in May 2016 when the Rocking Ukuleles tested, very successfully, the acoustics of the building.

Cllr Every gave a brief update on the Maltings. The venue has now emerged as the Village Hall it should always have been, providing a wonderful setting for commercial and community events. Members of staff have increased with increased bookings and the aim for the Maltings is to provide the right mix of lettings so that the venue remains an asset, but not a liability for our residents.

The City of Ely Council has been working in collaboration with Highfields Special School to renovate the Maltings Cottage as a Community Project. The aim is to provide a pop up cafe enabling the Sixth Form students from the school to gain valuable employability skills to help equip them for later life.

In an attempt to improve communication, Cllr Every ran three Community Panels. The intention was to provide an opportunity to consult with residents on emerging issues. An improved and interactive new City Council website was launched this year.

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Out Going Mayor's Report for 2015/2016 continued

Cllr Every believed that the Council's achievements are the result of strong team work within the City of Ely Council, both Councillors and staff. At the beginning of the year, a new Council was democratically elected which has worked really well together with a common aim to benefit the residents of Ely. The strengths of the team had been put to good use on committees and collectively created a new Business Plan for the next 3 years. Business planning for the future will enable the Council to manage the viability of the planned growth to come.

Sadly some experienced councillors were lost and the Council was devastated to learn of the death of Nigel Clarke who had been such a fantastic support during his time on the Council and indeed after he had left.

Cllr Every's highlights of the year had been the people she had met and the events she had attended and paid tribute to the hospitality, generosity, the energy and drive that local community groups have. Cllr Every felt that the huge numbers of volunteers in Ely really do make our community a better place to live and she hoped that they had also benefited from the support the role of Mayor can give. Cllr Every, thanked the generosity of our local businesses who never fail to support the work that the Council does and what the Council is trying to achieve. In addition, Cllr Every thanked those who had helped raise funds - local residents, colleagues, family and friends as well as the businesses who have been so generous in donating prizes for raffles and auctions and then buying them! Their support had resulted in her raising over £20,000 over the last 2 years for the Mayor's Charities, £12,000 for EACH in the first year and this year, together with Ely Rotary Club, £8,000 to support the work of volunteers through the Voluntary and Community Action East Cambridgeshire (VCAEC).

Cllr Every also thanked the Councillors of the City Council and all the volunteers who had helped the Council maintain so many of its services such as CCTV, Ely in Bloom, Christmas Lights and Switch On. It had been a real privilege to work with such a great team. A special thanks was given to all the staff of the City of Ely Council, to the Dean for being her Chaplin and the Cathedral for hosting many of her activities.

Cllr Every finally thanked her husband, Colin, her sons and all of her friends who had been so supportive and patient over the past 2 years.

3. Vote of Thanks to the Retiring Mayor

Cllr Hobbs said that it was an honour to propose a vote of thanks to the out-going Mayor, Cllr Elisabeth Every. He described how Cllr Every had taken on the challenge to improve the Council's profile and had demonstrated that communication was very important. She had made sure that the City Council was involved with all aspects of city life. She had lead from the front and had personally been involved with the set up of the Community Forum and the City Centre Forum, and had built up a strong working relationships with Ely's key partners and in particularly with the Cathedral.

Cllr Every had overseen the successful move of the Council to the new office at Sessions House, the taking back of the Maltings into City Council control, and the installation of the new wireless CCTV system. Cllr Hobbs admired how Cllr Every never used the excuse of being Mayor as a reason to not get involved, but often rolled up her sleeves and got stuck in. This was evident on the two litter picks she organised throughout the city, and on numerous occasions in the early day at the Maltings.

Cllr Hobbs offered thanks to Colin Every for his support over the last two years and thanked Cllr Every for two remarkable mayoral years in which she achieved so much.

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4. Election of the Chairman who shall thereupon, in accordance with the Local Government Act of 1972, become the Right Worshipful the Mayor of the City of Ely

Cllr Every nominated Cllr Lindsay for the position of The Right Worshipful the Mayor of the City of Ely.

Cllr Every informed those present that Cllr Lindsay has had close links with Cambridgeshire all his life. Although he left Cambridge at the age of 5 to move to the West Country, he returned as a medical student before joining the Medical Branch of the RAF and qualifying as a doctor. Although he never served at the RAF Ely, one of his children was born there. He served in the RAF for 29 years requiring to be stationed in numerous places. However, he maintained the link with Ely as his children studied and boarded at King's Ely. In 1997, when Ian left the service, he and his wife, Suzanne, settled permanently in Ely and he worked in occupational medicine in the area until finally retiring in 2013. He is an active sportsman, being particularly passionate about tennis and real tennis. He is still involved with running the Outdoor Sports Association and the Tennis Club.

Cllr Lindsay was elected as Deputy Mayor for 2015/2016 and worked closely with Cllr Every, on all aspects of the business of the Council and shared in the decision making with guidance from the very able Clerk.

Cllr Lindsay and Cllr Every have discussed all aspects of Committee work and day to day operations, and have worked together with other councillors on the Business Plan, which means that the City Council has forward plans in place for the next three years.

In his own right, Cllr Lindsay chaired the Environment Committee, and introduced systems to support the development and maintenance of all the responsibilities that the Council has for this area. He also took over responsibility for the Planning Committees. Cllr Lindsay has worked very closely with the Access Group, regularly attending their meetings. This relationship has been extremely helpful particularly as he chairs the Working Party for the Sessions House looking into the feasibility of a new lift to the second floor to allow full access. He is a Trustee representative on the Museum. He also took over the negotiations on the lighting changes that were being introduced and has worked very closely with Balfour Beatty and members of the District and County Council on this, to ensure that the Council get the right and most appropriate lighting solutions for our historic City and the surrounding areas.

Cllr Every had thoroughly enjoyed working with Ian this year, having been extremely impressed with his thoughtful and considered approach to issues and particularly his attention to detail when determining all the relevant information required for decision making.

Cllr Every believed that Cllr Lindsay will prove to be a real asset as he will be able to bring a new and fresh approach and is certain that the City of Ely and its Council will be in safe hands.

Cllr Every proceeded to put forward Cllr Ian Lindsay's nomination as the Right Worshipful Mayor of the City of Ely. This was seconded by Cllr Hobbs and by unanimous agreement, Cllr Lindsay was elected as Chairman and Mayor.

Cllr Lindsay, Cllr Every and the Clerk left the hall and entered the robing room. Cllr Lindsay was invested with the robes and the Chain of Office. The Town Crier then announced the new Mayor and Cllr Lindsay, Cllr Every and the Clerk re-entered the hall.

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5. Reading and Signing of the Declaration of Office and Swearing the Oath of Allegiance by the Right Worshipful the Mayor of the City of Ely

Cllr Lindsay read and signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office. He then swore the Oath of Allegiance.

6. Statement of Acceptance of Office by the Newly Elected the Right Worshipful Mayor of the City of Ely

Cllr Lindsay welcomed everybody to the 42nd City of Ely Annual Council Meeting and Mayor Making. Cllr Lindsay felt greatly honoured to be chosen by his peers to fill such a privileged position as Mayor of the wonderful City of Ely. He promised to do his very best to vindicate the trust that his fellow councillors, had placed in him, and felt comforted to be surrounded and supported by a great team of councillors and officers.

Cllr Lindsay extended his thanks to Cllr Lis Every for her two-year mayoral service and for teaching him all that he knows about being a Councillor and Deputy Mayor.

Cllr Lindsay described how unusual the status of the City of Ely Council was, though not unique, in being a City Council. There are 7 others in the country who have been granted the privilege by the monarch of the time. They include such places as Ripon, Wells, Truro and Salisbury. Cllr Lindsay's aim in his year in office is to make Ely, the best of those 7 places in which to live; the best place to do business; and, the best place to visit.

Over the last 5 years, since the advent of localism, the City Council has progressively assumed responsibility for more parts of the City and its infrastructure. Guided by the new business plan, the Council will continue this process. One of Cllr Lindsay's main objectives will be to prepare the Council for the responsibilities that will come in the form of dealing with major amounts of money from the Community Infrastructure Levy, arising from all the planned developments in North Ely.

As Mayor, one is the visible representative of the City at ceremonial, civic and community occasions. One of his first duties will be to represent Ely in Ribe, Denmark, at ceremonies to mark 60 years of twinning between the two cities. The Mayor is also the visible link between levels of local government, an advocate for their fellow citizens, and chairman of more committees than any of you could believe possible. Cllr Lindsay was enormously grateful to have such a splendid group of councillors around him, who are united in the aim to do the best for the common good. He is equally grateful for the indomitable team of officers running the day to day business of the Council under the experienced eye of Mrs Coulson, the Town Clerk; of a dedicated estates team looking after the various play areas, assets and cemetery estate; and of course Avril Hayter-Smith, Town Crier extraordinaire, abetted by her dedicated, and presumably partially deaf husband Graham. Lastly, but absolutely essential to all the Council's aims and activities, a host of volunteers running such things as the CCTV, the Christmas lights and switch on, Ely in Bloom, clean up days and all those things that add so much to our quality of life.

Cllr Lindsay was delighted to announce that Cannon James Garrard had agreed to be his chaplain and further announced that he will be supporting two charities this coming year, POS+ABILITY and the Red Cross.

The Mayoress, Mrs Suzanne Lindsay was invested with the Chain of Office

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7. Election of the Vice-Chairman who shall become the Deputy Mayor of the City of Ely

Cllr Lindsay proposed Cllr Richard Hobbs as the Vice-Chairman and Deputy Mayor for the City of Ely. Cllr Hobbs has been on the council for 28 years, and had been Mayor 3 times. Cllr Lindsay could not ask for a better Deputy with his intimate and arcane knowledge of local government procedures and was delighted that Cllr Hobbs agreed to his nomination.

Cllr Every was delighted to second Cllr Lindsay's proposal. By unanimous agreement, Cllr Hobbs was duly elected as Vice-Chairman and Deputy Mayor. He read and signed the Declaration of Office and was invested with the Chain of Office.

Cllr Hobbs said it was a great honour to serve as Deputy Mayor for the City of Ely and looked forward to supporting the Mayor throughout the year.

The Deputy Mayoress was then invested with the Beckett Brooch.

8. Committees and representatives to other organisations

Appointments as detailed separately, were proposed by Cllr Lindsay and seconded by Cllr Hobbs and were unanimously approved.

9. Authorisation of Signatories

Signatories as detailed below, were proposed by Cllr Lindsay and seconded by Cllr Moakes and were unanimously approved.

Barclays Bank account – any two of the Mayor, Deputy Mayor and Cllr Arnold.

Cambridge Building Society accounts – any two of the Mayor, Deputy Mayor, Cllr Every and Cllr Arnold.

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