



**CITY OF ELY COUNCIL
COUNCIL CHAMBERS
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ELY CB7 4LS**

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**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING
HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER
AT 7.30 PM ON MONDAY, 22ND APRIL 2013**

PRESENT:

The Mayor, Cllr W Burton

Cllr A Arnold

Cllr J Yates

Cllr B Ashton

Cllr E Griffin-Singh

Cllr S Overall

Cllr N Clarke

Cllr M Rouse

Cllr E Every

Cllr R Hobbs

Cllr J Tyrrell

Cllr J Mackay

Cllr C Jones

8 representatives of voluntary organisations

2 parishioners

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Cllrs Eden and Chaplin.

2. MINUTES OF THE LAST PARISH MEETING HELD ON THE 30TH APRIL 2012

Minutes of the last Parish Meeting held on the 30th April 2012 were agreed and signed as a true record. Pages 128, 129, 130 and 131 refer.

3. MAYOR'S OPENING REMARKS

The Mayor welcomed everyone to the meeting. He explained that it had been a very busy and productive year for the Council. There had been a lot of co-operation from East Cambridgeshire District Council, for which he thanked them. The Council had gained three new councillors this year, with them all working to improve our City and services. He hoped that the parishioners recognised the good work put in by all the City's councillors.

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4. PRESENTATION OF REPORTS

The Committee Chairmen spoke about their Annual Reports, which had been issued with agendas and answered questions raised.

(i) Administration & Other Responsibilities

No questions.

(ii) Recreation & Cemetery

Mr S Geering informed councillors that he felt the new MUGA at High Barns was very good for the area. The community had attempted to have a zebra crossing installed, but this had not been successful. When it was considered again this year they could not get the Heads of the schools in this area to allocate any finances this time. He said the need for this must not be forgotten.

(iii) Street Furniture

No questions.

(iv) Ely in Bloom

No questions.

(v) Christmas Lights

Mr S Geering congratulated the team and the USAF Mildenhall for such a good display of Christmas lights. The Mayor re-iterated this praise and confirmed that there was a lot of hard work from many volunteers that ensure such a good display.

(vi) Youth Forum

Cllr Yates informed those present of the Youth Fair to be held shortly. The purpose of the Fair will be to promote activities for the youth of the City and also the current Youth Clubs that already exist.

No questions.

(vii) City Centre Committee

Mr S Geering said the Council should be working with the traders to promote the City. He felt there should be a unique selling point, such as free car parking and this incentive should be promoted to encourage people to visit.

(viii) CCTV

No questions.

(ix) Localism Advisory Working Group

No questions.

(x) Ely/Ribe Association

Mr S Geering said he was not aware of the Ely/Ribe Association and the twinning with Ribe. He felt it needed to be publicised more.

(xi) Allotments

No questions.

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5. GENERAL FORUM

There were no questions raised under the general forum.

6. REPORTS FROM VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS

Ely & District Cycling Club

Mr Martin Holland informed those present that the Ely & District Cycling Club had been running since 1971. The grant from the City of Ely Council had helped with a new project. During March to September, they hold time trial evenings. This includes turbo training sessions and the grant was used to purchase training DVDs, a projector and a large screen. They have had four new members this season. Thirty plus people participate in the time trials. Mr Andy Darley said that cycling had become more popular over the last few years. The Club hosts two open events during the year and attracts riders from all over the country. Last year they put teams into road racing, which is popular for the younger members. They also arrange several trips throughout the year in connection with cycling. With the Tour de France coming to Cambridge, they will be arranging a sportive ride, which will be open to all Ely residents. They will also be inviting counterparts from Ribe to come over and join in. Next year they will be promoting more of the coaching side of the Club. They both thanked the Council for the grant they had received.

Garage Youth Theatre

Mrs Loaker thanked the Council for the support they had received. The Garage Youth Theatre is part of the Garage Youth Project, which runs on Mondays from 7 – 9 pm and is for 9 -11 year olds. The Garage Youth Theatre runs on Wednesdays from 7 – 9 pm and undertakes two productions per year. The purpose of the group is to include young people from Ely who do not have the experience or confidence to go to the established theatre companies. It had helped to produce a pantomime, the Lion, Witch and the Wardrobe, which 35 young people and members of the community took part in. Members also perform for sheltered housing residents. This has enabled many to gain so much confidence from taking part. The Group wants to be more adventurous and will be doing a new production of Sinbad, in July. They will also be holding the G Factor Talent Competition, for Ely and the surrounding district, the last week in July.

Cambs Search and Rescue

Mr Wayne Bent thanked the Council for their grant. CAMSAR are a voluntary organisation which offers professionally trained personnel to the professional services. It was formed seven years ago, as there was nothing in the area. There are now 23 counties that have search and rescue teams that search for vulnerable people. Claire Butcher explained that the grant had been used towards the cost of a vehicle and the kitting out of new recruits. They have four main vehicles, an incident command unit, two 4 x 4 vehicles and ambulances. They

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have recently had seven new people pass as search technicians, which costs £110 each to kit out. If they leave the kit has to be given back and is recycled to someone else. In 2012, 3542 hours were spent searching on 41 call outs. They also offer vehicles and crews to the ambulance service in the snow and assisted them over the latest bad weather.

Ely Youth Choir

Charlotte Williams said that the Youth Choir had started in 2010 for teenagers. Ely Choral Society funds this to enable them to meet weekly. They do lots of different types of music and have performed at lots of events. She thanked the Council for the grant, which had been used to continue the choir and publicise the choir festival, with roller banner and posters. These are displayed at performances. The number of singers has gone from 16 to 25. Jonathan Rogers said that the Festival for the Youth Choir was this weekend. They will also perform three gigs at the Isle of Ely Festival in June. They had also formed an integrated choir with pupils from Highfield School and the youth choir, which is kept free for the children. This choir is for children from 11 years old. Cllr Overall asked if they had used sign language in the choirs. Jonathan Rogers said this had been done with Highfield pupils and they hoped to do again.

East Cambridgeshire Neighbourhood Watch Association

Mr Stan Geering thanked the Council for their grant. The Association supports neighbourhood watch co-ordinators for streets in East Cambridgeshire. Notices for lamp columns cost £12 each, which the co-ordinators have to ask local residents to fund. The grant was used to purchase 15 of these signs and for publicity to try and increase the number of co-ordinators. The Ely Police Station Open Day is one of the best opportunities to recruit volunteers.

Cllr Rouse said that people were not aware of the depth of activities going on in the town, through these groups. From such a small grant the community gets back so much more. He was fascinated to hear these reports and was very grateful to them all for attending. Councillors unanimously agreed with Cllr Rouse.

7. MAYOR'S CLOSING REMARKS

The Mayor thanked everyone for attending. He said that the Council would continue to allocate funds to groups throughout the City. He hoped that parishioners would look at the Council as being there for the citizens of Ely. There are exciting times ahead for the Council, which will benefit the City. He thanked all the groups present for enhancing what the Council does and ensured them that they were all greatly appreciated.

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