



**CITY OF ELY COUNCIL
SESSIONS HOUSE
LYNN ROAD
ELY CB7 4eg**

Fax: 01353 667057 Tel: 01353 661016

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING
HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER
AT 7.30 PM ON MONDAY, 28TH APRIL 2014**

PRESENT:

The Mayor, Cllr E Griffin-Singh	Cllr A Arnold	Cllr J Yates
Cllr B Ashton	Cllr N Clarke	Cllr M Rouse
Cllr J Tyrrell	Cllr R Hobbs	Cllr J Pearson
Cllr G Barber		

14 representatives of voluntary organisations

2 parishioners

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Cllrs Every and Philips.

2. MINUTES OF THE LAST PARISH MEETING HELD ON THE 22ND APRIL 2013

Minutes of the last Parish Meeting held on the 22nd April 2013 were agreed and signed as a true record. Pages 132, 133, 134 and 135 refer.

3. MAYOR'S OPENING REMARKS

The Mayor welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked all the organisations for their attendance. She said that this year had been a busy year for the Council. As had last year with the Council purchasing the old Magistrates Court and taking the lease of the Maltings Cottage. These projects had not been without issues or influences that had caused delays, but both matters are now progressing slowly. This year has found the Council in a new relationship with East Cambridgeshire District Council, who was now positively embracing localism. As a result the Council has found itself in a position of being able to consider assets and services relating solely to Ely. The Council has now entered into an agreement to shortly take a lease for the Maltings in entirety and accept responsibility for grants to Ely Museum and ADeC. This naturally was a big deal for the Council and many man hours were put to considering the risks of any undertakings, whether immediate or as future aspirations of the Council.

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**THE MAYOR
20TH APRIL 2015**

MAYOR'S OPENING REMARKS CONTINUED

This activity, naturally, sat against all other day to day activities, which this year has been particularly challenging, both financially and otherwise. This has included continuing a successful CCTV provision for the City, aspirations towards improvements to the Riverside area and Steeple Row to enhance the tourism offer. The Council is conscious to input into proposed developments, with some major developments in the North of Ely, Station Gateway and the cinema/leisure centre. There has been a loss of some long-serving councillors, but she was pleased to welcome several new councillors, who showed enthusiasm and real commitment. She looked forward to a very exciting and productive year ahead.

4. PRESENTATION OF REPORTS

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

(i) Finance, Personnel & Other Responsibilities

No questions.

(ii) Recreation & Cemetery

No questions.

(iii) Street Furniture

No questions.

(iv) Ely in Bloom

No questions.

(v) Christmas Lights

No questions.

(vi) Youth Forum

No questions.

(vii) City Centre Forum

No questions.

(viii) CCTV Partnership Steering Group

No questions.

(ix) Ely/Ribe Association

No questions.

(x) Allotments

No questions.

Ms Adams reported there were now only 12 on the waiting list for an allotment.

5. GENERAL FORUM

There were no questions raised under the general forum.

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6. REPORTS FROM VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS

Ely Roller Hockey Club

Three representatives from the Ely Roller Hockey Club were in attendance, Hattie Ford, Heather Dunand and Emily Barrow. The Club has been running for 15 years and has 40 members, ranging from under 9s to seniors. They thanked the Council for the grant, which has been used for funding and publicising the ladies tournament in Spain. It had been used towards a kit for the team, printed leaflets and posters to publicise the event. They have held a session to bring new members to try the sport. This was very successful with 25 children attending.

Centre 33

Andy McGowan said that Centre 33 runs two evening groups at the Cathedral Centre, for under 18s that may have issues at home. Thirty of the young people are carers, aged between 8-18. The grant the Council awarded helped to fund activities for some 11 year olds. One of these activities was practical cooking skills. The group gives the opportunity for these children to speak to someone if they wish. A third of the young people attending are a carer for more than one person in their family. Laura, who attends the group, said that it provides here with an escape from her home. She had been bum boarding on dry slopes, had attended performances, does cooking and gets support, with groups coming in to talk on a number of issues. She has found the group to be invaluable.

Ely Aquarius Gateway Club

Gill Bell had been with the Club for nearly 30 years, starting at age 18. They undertake various activities for adults with learning disabilities. These include crafts, trips to an annual pantomime and summer outings. The Club meets once a month and attends the annual Joan Mann Sports Day, with members taking part. The grant from the Council helped fund some of these activities.

Pos+ability

Linda Neate said that Pos+ability had been set up to help stroke survivors and those with muscular dystrophy to keep as independent as possible. They are provided with two hours of seated exercises, with volunteers giving tea and coffee. These exercises help with their strength and dexterity. The grant from the Council has helped purchase equipment for these sessions. The charity is hoping to open a centre in Littleport as well. She thanked the Council for their grant.

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English Language Café

Mike Bland, who is a member of the English Language Café said this had been formed in July 2011, by ECDC's Migrants Housing Project. However, after five months the support finished. Eight volunteers enjoyed it so much and because of the benefit it gives to students, agreed to carry on. Over the last two years it has bought source material and increased publicity. They hold two sessions per week at the Hub in the Lighthouse Centre. 40 students, from many countries attend. He invited councillors to attend a session to see what they do. There are 2/3 ex-teachers as mentors, with the other volunteers just interested in helping the students, who are at various levels of learning English. He thanked the Council for the grant they received.

Campaign Amateur Theatre

Robert Bullen said that CAT had been bringing quality, amateur music theatre to Ely for 45 years, by the people of Ely. The group was started with the intention to make money for charities. They performed 2/3 shows in Ely, one of which was a pantomime. The grant received from the Council was used towards the cost of putting on an ultra violet scene. It enabled them to buy paint and materials for clothing. The Mayor had supported them at the pantomime and they hoped to receive continued financial support from the City of Ely Council, which they were very grateful for.

7. MAYOR'S CLOSING REMARKS

The Mayor thanked everyone for attending, especially the organisations that had spoken. She said it was really useful to hear where the grants go and what they are spent on. The grants cover a very broad range of activities and make for an enriched community. This Council helps deliver some of its services by the use of volunteers and so do these organisations. It is very important that people are encouraged to volunteer. She thanked everyone again for coming.

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