



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

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**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL COUNCIL MEETING & MAYOR MAKING  
HELD AT 7.30 PM ON MONDAY, 15TH MAY 2017  
AT THE MALTINGS, SHIP LANE, ELY**

**PRESENT:**

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

**1. Apologies for Absence**

Apologies were received from the Bishop of Ely; Mr J Willson; Cllr J Schumann; Chief Constable Wood; the Lord Lieutenant; Mayor of Peterborough; Mr P Smith; Mayor-Elect of Thetford; Mrs L Titmarsh; Littleport Parish Council; Mr N Abbott; Sqn Leader Neild; Mrs A Morbey; Mayor of March; Mrs J Crawley; Miss J Chaplin; Mrs M Haynes; Cllr C Bower; Mayor of Cambridge; Mr M Pocock; Sir & Lady Paice; Mr R Spencer; Mr J Dennick; Lantern Community Primary School; Mr & Mrs Donaldson; Cllr P Cresswell; Mr I Evans; Cllr C Green; Mayor of St Neots; Cllr P Bucknell; Rev C Hill; Mr R Delahaye; Mrs S Jay; Mrs M Pickering and Sandy Town Council

**2. Out Going Mayor's Report for 2016/2017**

The Mayor welcomed everyone to the 43rd Annual Council Meeting and Mayor Making for the City of Ely Council. He said it had been a great privilege to serve as the City's Mayor, your leading citizen over the past year and he hoped that he had vindicated the trust that was afforded to him by his fellow councillors a year ago to the day.

On that day in May last year he referred to the other 7 parish councils in the country that also has City Council status. Places such as Ripon, Wells, Truro and Salisbury, and said that his aim would be to maintain Ely's position amongst the seven, as the best place in which to work, in which to live, and which to visit. Indeed, those aims became the aims of the whole Council as they were incorporated as a vision statement into The City of Ely Business plan 2016-2019, which was finally adopted on the 25th July 2016, and which is currently being reviewed, as befits any living document. The Council needs a map to guide them to where they are going because councillors move on and there is a pressing need for continuity as Ely changes around us.

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THE MAYOR  
30TH MAY 2017

### **Out Going Mayor's Report for 2016/2017 continued .....**

He said that he thought they would be pleased to hear that there has been progress in most of the areas that his predecessor, Cllr Lis Every outlined last year. Work is about to start on the provision of a lift in the Sessions House, alongside a refurbishment of the previous juvenile court to create a Council Chamber. This will also open up the top floor of the building with access for all, and provide a worthy Council Chamber and suite of rooms for meetings and events of all kinds. The Maltings is now well established as a favoured venue for weddings and is host to a wide variety of events. It is pleasing to see that more local theatre companies are now using it again, and, of course, ADEC continue to use it as a cinema and for the screening of live performances by national bodies. The Council is on the way to leasing the Maltings Cottage to Highfields school who will take on the repair of the building and subsequently use it for a variety of educational purposes particularly aimed at preparing their senior students for future employment. You may also be aware that we have a new tenant for the Maltings restaurant, and he has ambitious plans to develop this area of the riverside.

On the Council front you may recall that one of the councillors resigned last year resulting in a by election. It was sad to lose Cllr Pittock, though he continues to play a major role in the work of the Perspective Group, but every cloud has a silver lining as we were able to welcome back Cllr John Yates, as a vastly experienced and hardworking ex-mayor and City councillor. Last year Cllr Every reported the untimely death of former Cllr Nigel Clark, another great doer for the City. He was glad to be able to report that a memorial bench in his name, has just been installed on Barton Square. Some may remember that he worked at King's School for many years, and the bench is sited next to the path that he used nearly every day in pursuit of his duties at the school.

The Council has continued with all its normal work through a committee system and representation on so many other organisations, but he felt he should mention three other areas which had played an important role in reversing the impact of events that lie outside the Council's direct control, namely the threatened closure of the Minor Injuries Unit, the impact of the County Council PFI initiative on street lighting and a decision to revise gritting routes in the City. Where we have a more direct influence we have helped with the provision of pedestrian crossings in Lynn Road and Cambridge Road and new cycleways. None of these actions arise in isolation, but require co-operation between councillors in each tier of local government, individuals and a variety of other organisations. It takes time, sometimes up to a decade, sometimes a week, patience and persistence to achieve such results, and some are still works in progress. But the message is clear continuity of purpose is vital.

After his brief report on his year in office, he moved to the most important part of the evening's event. He felt that no man was an Island, and he owed so many thanks. To his fellow councillors, for their support and work over the year. To the businesses who support the City in so many different ways. To the myriad of people and organisations who have invited him in their events over the year. To the volunteers who do so much, for the good of the City. The campaigners who get things changed and the Clerks who have kept them on the straight and narrow, despite their foibles and idiosyncrasies.

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THE MAYOR  
30TH MAY 2017

### **Out Going Mayor's Report for 2016/2017 continued .....**

He had two sets of special thanks, to two people who had done so much over the year. The first was a fellow councillor who above all is a doer. When it comes to rolling up the sleeves and doing, when it comes to being there when needed, when it comes to taking on jobs that the rest resist there is one who shines out. He referred, of course, to his fellow signatory on the Council's bank account, Cllr Alison Arnold.

He also paid a special tribute to the lady Mayoress, his wife of 44 years and the power behind the throne, Suzanne. He said that without her unstinting efforts none of the civic events would have worked and the charity events would have come to naught. He thanked her. The fruit of so much effort is reflected in the charity fund now standing at around £5,500 to be split between Pos+Abilty and the British Red Cross.

### **3. Vote of Thanks to the Retiring Mayor**

Cllr Every said twelve months ago she had been delighted to nominate Cllr Ian Lindsay as the next Mayor of the City of Ely and twelve months later it had been a privilege and honour to propose the vote of thanks to the Mayor, for the past year.

As Cllr Lindsay had said in his acceptance statement last year, his aim to make Ely the best of the small number of City Councils that were in existence as a place to live, do business and visit. Having worked closely with him, she felt she could speak on behalf of all the councillors, to say that he had worked tirelessly towards achieving this aim. There is the Business Planning process in place and he had ensured the Council continued on this agreed path, to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the Council, as a greater number of services are taken on and the Council plays a more influential role with other Councils. But it was his leadership that she wanted to speak about. He had been a steady hand on the tiller and a guiding, tolerant and caring leader. All have benefited from his meticulous attention to detail, which had been so important as the work of the Council had grown. He had also worked to ensure that the members of the Council had worked closely together and had been included in all the work of the Council, the committees and working parties. This had been a testament to how effectively a group of people can work together with a common aim, with an outstanding leader.

Cllr Lindsay had also personally, overseen a number of major projects, not least of which was the continued challenge of the replacement the City's street lights and it had been with thanks to him that the correct lights were eventually supplied in the City Centre, with him still working on the current issues that emerge almost daily. As Chair of the working group, working on the Sessions House, he has moved forward the process to turn the Sessions House into the home of the Council Chamber, which through collaborative working with the East Cambridgeshire Access Group, will be fully accessible when the new internal lift has been built this year. As a listed building, this process had been no mean feat.

It was with real sincerity and warmth, that on behalf of all the councillors, she thanked him for all his hard work and commitment during his very positive year. She also thanked Suzanne, who had been a fantastic Mayoress, supporting the Mayor on his civic duties, but also organising events which had been real fun and effective in fund-raising. Everyone had also enjoyed working with her.

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THE MAYOR  
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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 Lindsay nominated Cllr Richard Hobbs for the position of The Right Worshipful the Mayor of the City of Ely. He said it give him great pleasure to propose Cllr Richard Hobbs as the Right Worshipful Mayor of the City of Ely for 2017-2018.

He was sure that most of those present already knew Richard. He was a true native of Ely and had served on both the District Council and the City Council for more years than he might care to remember. Perhaps only the Clerk had been around longer. He had already been Mayor three times in the past (1994, 2000 and 2009), so he came with a vast store of experience and plenty of practice to boot. His father was Mayor in 1981 and between them they must hold a series of records connected with public service to the citizens of Ely. He suspected that when it came to having the Mayor's chain engraved in the traditional manner, he would be entitled to a hefty frequent customer discount, as well as loyalty points.

He said that he knew Richard and Pat would be the greatest of ambassadors for Ely on every occasion, and on behalf of Suzanne and himself, he wished them every success and enjoyment of these roles in the forthcoming year.

Cllr Phillips said it was an honour and pleasure to second Cllr Lindsay's proposal. He said that Cllr Hobbs had the heart for Ely. He was born and raised here and had a deep love of the City. Richard had given a life time of service and served the City before. He had the experience and a track record for delivering for Ely.

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

**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 Hobbs 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 Hobbs said that as many of you know, this was not his first time in the Mayoral role, but experience in the past has proved, that each year presents different challenges and rewards.

As the Council embarked on another year, he wanted to take this opportunity to pass on the Council's thanks to the past Mayor and Mayoress, Ian and Suzanne. They had carried out their duties with such ease and were fine ambassadors for the City. He felt they would be a hard act to follow.

He said the role of the Mayor was very much a dual role, first and foremost is to be responsible for the City Council's administration and to make sure that the residents of the City gain the maximum from their Council Tax. The second role of the Mayor is an ambassador, where the Mayor promotes Ely and supports local organisations. In particular the numerous hard-working volunteers who make this fine City "tick".

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THE MAYOR  
30TH MAY 2017

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

He was very fortunate to be taking over at a most exciting time in Ely's history. For, at last, we will see the long-awaited bypass opening and the completion of the new leisure village. Both will add quality to residents lives and prepare us for the expected growth of our City, which will bring its own challenges.

His focus and charitable objective will be to support Ely in becoming a dementia aware City. A City where people will be aware of and understand dementia, and those with dementia will feel at ease in the City, which should give them choice and control of their day to day life. There are over a 1,000 people living with dementia locally. They either visit regularly or live within the parish and, sadly this number is expected to rise with an ever-increasing ageing population. Action needs to be taken now so he called upon businesses, religious groups, the volunteer sector and all organisations to undertake a small amount of training to make Ely a "DEMENTIA AWARE CITY".

Both Pat and himself looked forward to renewing old friendships and making new ones, as they looked forward to this coming year.

*The Mayoress, Mrs Pat Hobbs was invested with the Chain of Office*

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

Cllr Hobbs proposed Cllr Michael Rouse as the Vice-Chairman and Deputy Mayor for the City of Ely. Cllr Rouse had been on the Council for over 40 years and had been Mayor once before. He had extreme experience and he was pleased that he had agreed this nomination.

Cllr Lindsay seconded Cllr Rouse's proposal. By unanimous agreement, Cllr Rouse 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 Rouse thanked Cllr Hobbs for his kind words. He said it was an honour to represent the City and was fully aware of the responsibilities and duties involved with this role. It would have been his father's birthday today and he had been Chairman of the Urban District Council 50 years ago. He was a hard act to follow. He had therefore, grown up in this background and had a sense of duty and responsibility. He was looking forward to supporting and helping the Mayor. His youngest daughter, Cassie would be his Mayoress.

*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 Hobbs and seconded by Cllr Yates and were unanimously approved.

## **9. Authorisation of Signatories**

Signatories as detailed below, were proposed by Cllr Hobbs and seconded by Cllr Arnold 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, Cllr Lindsay, Cllr Every and Cllr Arnold.

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THE MAYOR  
30TH MAY 2017