



**CITY OF ELY COUNCIL
RECREATION & CEMETERY COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF A MEETING HELD
AT 6.30PM ON TUESDAY 22ND MAY 2018**

PRESENT:

Mrs S Jay – Deputy Clerk to the Council

The Deputy Mayor, Cllr A Arnold Cllr C Phillips Cllr D Warman Cllr J Yates Cllr I Lindsay

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cllr Friend-Smith

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were received.

3. TO APPOINT CHAIRMAN AND VICE CHAIRMAN

Cllr Arnold proposed Cllr Phillips as Chairman of the committee, this was seconded by Cllr Warman and unanimously approved by members. Cllr Phillips then took the chair and proposed Cllr Friend-Smith (in her absence) as Vice Chairman subject to her agreement. This was seconded by Cllr Arnold and unanimously agreed by members.

4. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING HELD ON 6TH FEBRUARY 2018 AND MATTERS ARISING

Minutes of the meeting held on the 6th February 2018 were agreed and signed as a true record.
Page RC 080 and RC 081 refer.
There were no matters arising.

5. BUDGET UPDATE

Members noted the budget update, dated 21st May 2018. There were no significant variances.

6. RECREATION

6.1 To consider replacement vans

The Deputy Clerk reported that the larger van's lease is coming to an end in August and the smaller van which is owned by the council, is 10 years old. This van requires repair work which will cost £1600.00, which exceeds the value of the van and due to its age will only incur further ongoing costs. She reported she had obtained costs for leasing two replacement vans through the existing supplier Lex Auto lease, which was through an ESPO contract. The new vans are equivalent to the existing van that is leased and will cost £286.02 per month each, on a 3 year lease. Taking into account leasing costs already spent and work done on the small van, these costs will take the budget approximately £800 over the £5000 set for 2018/19. She advised this overspend could be taken from the recreation equipment (new and repairs) budget, although it may be possible to sell the small van which will reduce this. Cllr Lindsay suggested there may be other headings within the Council to which the overspend could be allocated to, as the Estates Team's vehicles service all departments. Members unanimously agreed to lease the two vehicles and sell the small van.

6.2 To receive an update on quotations received for St Johns and High Barns play areas

The Deputy Clerk reported that she is still waiting for 1 quotation for the fitness equipment at St Johns Road recreation area and 2 for the upgrading of equipment at High Barns play area. Once these have been received it will be necessary to arrange another committee meeting to discuss these.

7. CEMETERY

7.1 To receive an update from the Cemetery Expansion working group

Members noted the report of the Cemetery Expansion working group that had been circulated with the agenda. Cllr Phillips reported the working group had a very successful meeting at the Cemetery in which parcels of land had been identified as potential burial space, these being an area at the lower end of the Cemetery and also the recycling area. The Estates Manager is in the process of obtaining quotations for clearing these areas and any landscaping that is required. Members agreed the project should be paid for from CIL.

7.2 To receive an update on extension to storage

The Deputy Clerk reported that she had submitted the planning application for the extension to the storage shed. When planning permission has been granted, she will complete a Section 106 application for the funding.

7.3 To discuss possible formation of 'Friends of Ely Cemetery' group

Cllr Phillips explained to members that many of the inscriptions on old memorials were beginning to fade and become unreadable. He explained the first page of the burial book contains interesting history about local families that can be researched on the internet and through newspaper archives. This coupled with inscriptions on memorials, forms part of the social history of Ely and it would be a great shame that inscriptions could be lost forever. He advised that the committee had discussed some time ago about the formation of a 'Friends of Ely Cemetery' group. He felt that with the involvement of members of the public who have a keen interest in local history, recording these inscriptions could be a starting point for the group. Members agreed that it would be a good idea to see how much public interest there would be in forming this group. Cllr Phillips agreed to draft a letter to the press inviting the public to get in touch with the Deputy Clerk. If enough interest is generated, then a meeting will be arranged.

8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The Deputy Clerk reported that there is a 'Cemetery of the Year' competition which is organised by the by the Memorial Awareness Board. She advised that the Estates Manager is in favour of entering. Members fully supported the idea and it was agreed the Deputy Clerk will complete the application.

9. DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

Monday 23rd July @ 6.30pm, Monday 15th October @ 6.30pm, Monday 21st January 2019 @ 6.30pm, Monday 18th March @ 6.30pm and Monday 17th June @ 6.30pm. Additional meetings will be arranged as required.