



**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, 21ST MAY 2018
AT THE MALTINGS, SHIP LANE, ELY**

PRESENT:

The Mayor, Cllr R Hobbs
Cllr C Phillips
Cllr M Rouse
Cllr M Lansell

Cllr E Every
Cllr A Arnold
Cllr P Moakes
Cllr C Whelan

Cllr I Lindsay
Cllr D Warman
Cllr E Every
Cllr J Yates

The Mayor said that as his last act whilst Mayor, he was changing the agenda and item 1 would be taken before item 5.

1. 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 for the ensuing year 2018/2019

Cllr Hobbs nominated Councillor Mike Rouse for the position of The Right Worshipful the Mayor of the City of Ely. He said it was an honour and a privilege to propose Cllr Rouse as the Right Worshipful Mayor of the City of Ely for 2018-2019. He is one of the most senior councillors on the Council. He came from the old Ely Urban District Council, when the City of Ely Council was formed in 1974. He has shown leadership over all these years and has a wealth of experience. It had been 42 years since he had last been Mayor. It gave him great pleasure to propose Cllr Rouse.

Cllr Arnold said it was a pleasure to second Cllr Hobbs' proposal.

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

2. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Cllr S Friend-Smith; Cllr S Austen; Cllr J Pearson; Cllr A Whelan; Mr & Mrs B Ashton; Revd Hill; Mrs Hearne-Casaperi; Mr J Palmer; Cllr C Green; Mayor of Ramsey; Mr R Spencer; South Cambs District Council Chairman; Mayor of Downham Market; Mrs M Haynes; Mayor of Cambridge; Mayor of Huntingdon; Mayor of Wisbech; Lucy Frazer MP; Mr R Bradney; Mayor of King's Lynn; Mr M Fletcher; Mr & Mrs Chinery-Colyer; Mr R Bamford; Mayor of Peterborough; Mayor of Sandy; the Bishop of Huntingdon; Canon Garrard; Mrs A Morbey; Mrs S Jay and Mrs M Pickering.

.....
THE MAYOR
2ND JULY 2018

3. Out Going Mayor's Report for 2017/2018

Cllr Hobbs said that time had passed so quickly during his Mayoral year. He thanked his wife, the Mayoress, who had supported him over this last year and the previous three occasions that he had been Mayor. He thanked the Deputy Mayor, who had been a huge support and had taken so many photographs of him at events. He thanked the Clerk and her team, in particular Mrs Pickering, who had supported him in organising all his mayoral engagements. He also thanked his fellow councillors for their support through the year. He felt the year had been very challenging, taking on the new services of Tourism, Town Centre management and the Oliver Cromwell House. They had recently had the Eel Festival Weekend, which had been marvellous. In particular, there was also the British Town Crier Championship, which occurs as part of this weekend. This was a wonderful event and is organised by the Town Crier and the Bell Keeper. Everyone had an excellent time. He had given two Freemans of the City during his year. One to Mr Malcolm Fletcher of the City of Ely Military Band and one to Mrs Avril Hayter-Smith, the Town Crier. He said the Council would not survive without the volunteers that give their time freely to this Council. It is a big commitment on their behalf and the work they undertake is remarkable. He congratulated them all and hoped they would continue to support the Council. He wished Cllr Rouse, his successor a good year.

4. Vote of Thanks to the Retiring Mayor

Cllr Lindsay said twelve months ago when he had nominated Cllr Richard Hobbs as the next Mayor of the City of Ely, he had made three main points; firstly, his strengths as a man of Ely through and through; secondly, his experience as a truly long-standing member of both the District and the City Council and thirdly, his unique record as a three times previous Mayor and son of an earlier Mayor. So now he has completed a record breaking fourth and final time according to Pat, his Mayoress. But who knows hop springs eternal. He knew that he and Pat would be great ambassadors for Ely and that has proved exactly the case.

In his turn, he told how fortunate he felt to be taking over at such an exciting time in Ely's history and referred to the completion of the leisure village and progress of the Southern Bypass. He promised that his charitable focus would be on making Ely a Dementia aware City. As predicted the leisure village was completed very slightly ahead of schedule and our City can now boast sports facilities, second to none in the district. The Bypass has proved more challenging, but he did not blame Richard for that. He succeeded in his aim of making Ely more aware of Dementia and in his generous donation to Pos+Ability, he enabled them to set up a local exercise class for those with the condition. But what was not predicated was that, as a City Councillor, he has led the way in an unexpected direction as we now find ourselves as a Council much more in charge of its own destiny, having taken over Tourism and Town Centre management from ECDC. Without this vision and willingness to seize the opportunity offered, this simply would not have happened. I think that this will be the fitting memorial to his year as Mayor and it all goes wrong we will know who to blame, but of course it will not.

As ever he has continued the ambassadorial work as Mayor, representing the City at numerous high profile county events, as well as working alongside so many local organisations and charities. He said Richard had been an outstanding Mayor, had performed all his duties as the Chairman in an exemplary manner and been an outstanding ambassador for this beloved City. On behalf of his fellow councillors and the citizens of Ely, he thanked him.

.....
THE MAYOR
2ND JULY 2018

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 Rouse 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 Rouse thanked Cllr Hobbs and Cllr Arnold for nominating him to this office. He was honoured and humbled to accept, mindful of the responsibilities of the position, in not only leading the City Council but representing Ely further afield. He was flattered to be asked again so soon! It made him think of the changes in Ely over those years. Ely has grown considerably. Then the population was around 11,000 and now it is around 18,000 and continuing to grow. More houses are being built because people want to live here and homes are needed for our own children, especially ones that they can afford.

Since he was first Mayor, Ely had seen:

The A10 ByPass in 1986, the Stuntney ByPass and now this year will at last see the A142 taken around Ely, linking with Angel Drove, that didn't exist as a road in 1976. The opening of the A10 ByPass prompted one of the greatest and most rapid expansions in the City's history on the western side, not all of it as successful as it could have been.

Paradise swimming pool was built and has now been replaced by the new pool at the Hive. The Paradise Sports Centre was built and now we have additional sports facilities at Downham Road for the whole District. We have a fine country park, where there was once the rubbish dump. The Rex Theatre was lost in 1981, but now we have Cineworld and a Leisure Village.

The cattle market was lost but it gained Waitrose and the Cloisters shopping precinct. We now have more general markets, craft and farmers markets on the Market Place, but he realised, like many other towns, we are facing challenges in maintaining our traditional High Street shopping offer, but we have kept parking free, which must help.

The riverside has improved enormously and the railway station is busier than ever. Kings Ely has expanded and is now a co-educational school with an outstanding and international reputation and we have the City of Ely College and some fine primary schools in Ely, offering great opportunities for our young people. There are more businesses and companies in Ely and East Cambs than ever before offering work.

He said they were probably sitting there thinking of many other changes that have happened over the years, he had listed only a few, but he could recommend a few books, if they wanted to go into more detail.

It was a Greek philosopher, Haraclitus, some five hundred years before the birth of Christ who said: 'The only constant is change'. We all know that some of the changes we want happen very slowly, while things we hope for sometimes take a long time. As Councillors we try and manage change. A good example of this was when the Ministry of Defence decided to close the beloved RAF Hospital. A strong local campaign led by former Councillor, the then Mayor, Brian Ashton could not make them change their mind, but he did manage to retain the Princess of Wales Hospital and it will be

.....
THE MAYOR
2ND JULY 2018

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

extended and improved soon. Another example was when the Court Service closed the Magistrates Court at Ely, but this Council stepped in to buy the Sessions House building for our community.

There was no doubt in his mind that with devolution and as is the case in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough with an elected Mayor, that the structure of Local Government has to and will change. But whatever happens he also believed that parish councils are the bedrock of a truly local government. Parish councils do not have a lot of power in the present complexities of local government, which is why the Council has taken back control of the funding of Ely Museum, the Maltings and now Oliver Cromwell House and the tourism and town centre service, to take decisions about Ely into the Council's hands as far as we can.

Our independent shops and all the restaurants we now have need tourism and visitors as well as our support as a community.

So inevitably over the years Ely has changed. Some may say for the worst, often meaning 'I wish I was young again when everything seemed possible.' It is all too easy to see only problems, things that need fixing, things that are not ideal, but he said he was a 'possibilist', believing that we can make Ely an even better place in which to live. That is why he became a Councillor so many years ago, that is the reason all my colleagues here are councillors – to improve our City and parish. When he said to his late father, who was also a long serving City and County councillor, he was thinking of standing for the Council, he said: 'It's up to you, if you get elected just don't expect any thanks.' He did not and never have, because that is not the reason we stand. We choose to serve and if elected, then we do our best on your behalf. That's all we can do.

The Ely he grew up in was a small, dull, gaslit, market town. It was a time 'BT', before Tesco, before any supermarkets for that matter. All the shops closed at lunchtime on a Tuesday and there was nothing apart from the churches and chapels open on a Sunday. The riverside area was totally run down and there were no leisure craft at all. The railway station was likely to be closed. The Cathedral was threatened by death-watch beetle and the only take away food was fish and chips. Look at our city now. His Council colleague, Lis Every described it recently as 'a vibrant' place. It certainly was over the three days of Eel Day and the food and wine festival.

As the City's Mayor, he wanted to celebrate with those present what makes Ely the City we all love. What is it? Our great cathedral, our market town, our river, the railway...?

He suggested that while all these things are something to be proud of, it is the people, all of us, our sense of community, our concern for each other that make Ely and our parish. That is what the Mayoress and himself particularly wanted to celebrate this year. Invite us to your events, your clubs, your activities. If you think we can help you in anyway – get in touch.

The Mayor usually nominates a charity, or charities. Cassie and himself would like to do things a little differently. This is a big year for the Royal British Legion and the Royal Air Force. His father was proud of his wartime service in the RAF and being a member of the Royal British Legion and they will be supporting both the British Legion and the Royal Air Force Association throughout the year, but they also want to put on events and support events for other charities and organisations. As a contribution to the outgoing Mayor's campaign to make Ely Dementia Aware, he will be hosting a performance of Holding Hands by the Field Theatre group at Ely Museum on 14th July. He is particularly pleased that this performance of Holding Hands will be sponsored by part of the money

.....
THE MAYOR
2ND JULY 2018

presented by KD Theatre to the Mayor, so live theatre supporting more live theatre. Again, Debra Curtis and the Field Theatre Group are here this evening if you want to find out more about the new play. The annual Ball again will be in support of Pos+Ability and Linda Neate is here this evening if you want to talk to her about the work of that Group. He would like the Mayor's Gala Pantomime performance to be in aid of Little Miracles and again Rebecca Seaman is here this evening and will be happy to tell you more about that charity. He hoped other groups would come forward with similar ideas and that as a community you would help us to help them.

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

It had been a privilege to accompany the immediate past Mayor on numerous visits to organisations and events in Ely and he honestly believed there had never been a time when so much is happening not just in the City, but throughout the parish. Spotted in Ely was present, Elyi and other reporters – all of them promote, reflect, report upon our community. As Mayor it is possible for us also to link groups, make people aware of what is happening, spread the word and publicise. As EM Forster famously wrote: 'Only connect'. If we connect and work together we build an even stronger community and even finer City.

He was delighted that his younger daughter, Cassie, had accepted the office of Mayoress and they were honoured to offer their services this year.

The Mayoress, Miss Cassie Rouse 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 Rouse proposed Cllr Alison Arnold as the Vice-Chairman and Deputy Mayor for the City of Ely. He said she was born, bred and raised in Ely and he had known her and her family for many years. She was practical and was meticulous with anything she takes on. He was delighted to nominate her. Cllr Hobbs seconded Cllr Arnold's proposal. By unanimous agreement, Cllr Arnold was duly elected as Vice-Chairman and Deputy Mayor. She read and signed the Declaration of Office and was invested with the Chain of Office.

Cllr Arnold said she wished to thank everyone for giving her this opportunity and honour that had been bestowed on her by her election as Deputy Mayor to the City of Ely Council. She thanked her proposer and seconder and was also grateful to those Councillors who gave faith and support to endorse this proposal. She was honoured and humbled to be elected in this role and will endeavour to support, work alongside the Mayor in his important role to execute his duties as the City of Ely Council Chairman.

The Deputy Mayor's Consort was then invested with the Beckett Brooch.

8. Committees and representatives to other organisations

Appointments as detailed separately, were proposed by Cllr Moakes 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 Yates and were unanimously approved.

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

Cambridge Building Society accounts – any two of Cllr Hobbs, Cllr Lindsay, Cllr Every and Cllr Arnold.

.....
THE MAYOR
2ND JULY 2018