

**CITY OF ELY COUNCIL
PERSONNEL, FINANCE AND GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF A MEETING HELD AT 7.00 PM ON
3RD DECEMBER 2018**

PRESENT:

The Mayor, Cllr M Rouse
Cllr R Hobbs
Cllr S Friend-Smith

Cllr E Every
Cllr P Moakes

Cllr I Lindsay
Cllr C Phillips

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Cllr Arnold.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

3. MINUTES OF THE LAST PERSONNEL, FINANCE AND GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE MEETING (HELD ON THE 5TH NOVEMBER 2018) & MATTERS ARISING

Minutes of the last Personnel, Finance and Governance Committee meeting held on the 5th November 2018, were agreed and signed as a true record. Pages PFG 56, 57 and 58 refer.

Matters arising:- Page PFG 58, Item 9 – Cllr Every informed members she had also applied to ECDC for an additional £65,000 from the CIL 123 list for Ely Museum. The City of Ely Council had agreed to underwrite this amount at the last Full Council. The request went to the Finance Committee at ECDC on 29th November and was approved. However, they still have to wait to see if this is called in. If confirmation is received from ECDC that this has been granted, then the City of Ely Council will not be required to underwrite this amount.

4. BUDGET UPDATE AND SECOND DRAFT OF BUDGET FOR 2019/2020

Members noted the budget update, dated the 27th November. There were no variances of concern. Members also considered the second draft of the proposed budget for 2019/2020. This was discussed at great length. Cllr Hobbs proposed a recommendation be put before members at the next Full Council meeting on the 17th December, that a precept of £575,000 be approved for 2019/20. This was seconded by Cllr Friend-Smith and unanimously approved by the Committee members. There will be an increase on a Band D Council Tax from £75.16 per month to £82.85 per month, which is an increase of 10.25%. The Clerk will provide an explanation of the reasons for the increase. Cllr Every suggested that all events should be looked at and the costs scrutinized.

5. COMMUNICATIONS/PR

The Communications/PR Working Group had still not met. The Mayor informed members that the Community Forum, which had been held on the 27th November, the topic of which was Community Safety, had been very informative and well received. He thanked Cllrs Arnold, Every and Lindsay for the support they gave him at the meeting and would hope that at the next Forum more members would give their support. Cllr Every felt the Visit Ely and Christmas Lights Team had worked well together, promoting the Christmas Lights Switch On. She also wanted to record her thanks to the Senior Administration Officer for all her hard work with regard to the Community Forum and the Council's website. She suggested members could provide her with any items for the website.

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COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN

25th February 2019

6. HEALTH AND SAFETY ISSUES

There were no issues with regard to health and safety.

The Mayor proposed that in view of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted, regarding agenda item 7, that this be considered in private and that the power of exclusion of the public under Section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 be exercised. This was seconded by Cllr Every and agreed to go into Committee at the end of the meeting

7. PERSONNEL ISSUES

In view of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted, this was discussed in Committee at the end of the meeting.

8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Members noted the Internal Auditor's reports from her visits to Sessions House, the Maltings and Oliver Cromwell House in October and November 2018. There were no issues raised, apart from three in relation to the Maltings. These were currently being addressed and procedures put in place.

Members considered the request from a shared equity scheme housing owner, regarding retrospective permission for a conservatory/extension, which was built 5 years ago. Members unanimously agreed they approve this request, subject to the owner providing an independent survey to show that this had not compromised the structure of the building.

The Clerk informed members of confirmation from Soham Town Council that they had agreed to take over control of the CCTV cameras for Soham. This would hope to be achieved by the end of March 2019. It was agreed that a charge would have to be made to Soham Town Council for the use of this Council's antenna on the Cathedral to enable their system to operate. The Clerk will also seek legal advice as to what type of service agreement would be needed between the two Councils. This would need to include a clause that states that although their service runs off this antenna, this Council could not guarantee that this would be a service that could be offered in perpetuity.

The Clerk had been requested to raise a request regarding the installation of cameras in the swift boxes, that this Council had agreed could be installed at the Maltings and the cemetery by Action for Swifts. They felt this would not be appropriate and suggested that this might be done at the Centre E, where swift boxes are also being installed.

10. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be on Monday 25th February 2019 at 7.00 pm.

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COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN

25th February 2019