



**CITY OF ELY COUNCIL
RECREATION & CEMETERY COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF A VIRTUAL MEETING HELD
AT 6.30PM ON MONDAY 22ND JUNE 2020**

PRESENT:

Mrs S Jay – Deputy Clerk to the Council

Cllr C Phillips

Cllr A Arnold

Cllr D Warman

Cllr C Whelan

Cllr M Downey

NOT PRESENT:

The Mayor, Cllr M Rouse

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were no apologies received.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were received.

3. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING HELD ON 2ND MARCH 2020 AND MATTERS ARISING

Minutes of the meeting held on the 2nd March 2020 were agreed by members and taken as signed by the Chairman, as a true record. Pages RC 099 and RC 100 refer.

There were no matters arising.

4. BUDGET UPDATE

Members noted the budget update, dated 15th June 2020, there were no significant variances.

5. RECREATION

5.1 PARADISE PLAY AREA

The Deputy Clerk informed members that the Paradise play area equipment is in need of upgrading. The meeting held recently, with representatives from East Cambs Trading Company had indicated that the development of the old Paradise pool site would not have an impact on the play area. However, members were concerned that it would not be a good time to install new equipment whilst there is a building site adjacent to the area.

In order to move this matter forward members agreed the Estates Manager would be requested to write a report of the condition of the equipment, detailing the timescale for replacement. The Deputy Clerk will contact ECDC to ascertain their timescales for the development and what impact the construction process will have on the play area.

6. CEMETERY

6.1 To discuss guided tours of the Cemetery

Cllr Phillips reported that he had received a request from Visit Ely for them to facilitate paid guided tours of the cemetery. Members agreed this idea was not in the essence of the cemetery, as it is open to the public 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, and people are welcome to visit any time they wish and for whatever reason. The volunteers of the Friends of Ely Cemetery will be planning to offer tours to visitors free of charge as part of regular open days once the current situation with Covid -19 is over.

6.2 To discuss area in front of mound.

Cllr Phillips reported the area in front of the mound contains some very old and important headstones, many of which are deteriorating. The area is currently designated as a wildflower garden and is not cut for around three months of the year. Members agreed that the headstones should be preserved and the wild flower garden moved later in the year to another area of the cemetery, that is more open.

6.3 FRIENDS OF ELY CEMETERY

Cllr Arnold updated members on the Friends of Ely Cemetery. The website is now live. Three bug hotels and hedgehog houses have been installed at the cemetery. He and Cllr Phillips have recently visited the cemetery to look at headstones that have been uncovered during the excavation works of the old recycling area. It is hoped these will be located to another area of the cemetery in order to preserve them.

Cllr Phillips asked members if they would be in agreement to no longer restricting burials to those of parishioners only. Many other cemeteries allow for this. A person's preference maybe, that they wish to return to Ely where they grew up, or for other reasons, to be buried. The Deputy Clerk reported that we do not receive many requests for this, but under the current rules it is not allowed. Therefore, members agreed to change the rules in order to allow for the burial of non-parishioners. The fees for these will be single fees for parishioners, double fees for residents of East Cambridgeshire and triple fees for residents outside of the district. This change will take effect after the matter has been approved at the next Full Council meeting on the 29th June 2020.

The Deputy Clerk reported an urgent request had been received from a former parishioner's family to be buried in the cemetery. The person had lived all their life in Ely until 4 years ago and was due to move back earlier in the year, but this got put on hold due to the current Covid -19 situation. Members agreed this was extenuating circumstances and agreed to them being interred in Ely cemetery.

7. HEALTH AND SAFETY

The Deputy Clerk reported Zurich inspection reports had been received for the cemetery, with a minor fault being reported on the excavator, which will be repaired.

8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

There was no any other business to report.

Cllr Phillips thanked members as this is likely to be the last meeting of this committee in its current format, as it will soon become under the remit of the new Assets Committee. Cllr Warman thanked Cllr Phillips for all his hard work.

9. DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

Monday 24th August @ 7 pm

Due to enforced social distancing caused by the Coronavirus, this meeting took place by video communication, accessed by the Zoom meetings facility.