



CITY OF ELY COUNCIL
ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF A MEETING HELD AT 7.00PM
ON MONDAY 15TH FEBRUARY 2016

PRESENT;

Cllr A Arnold Cllr I Lindsay Cllr C Phillips Cllr C Whelan Cllr A Whelan Cllr S Pittock Cllr J Pearson
Cllr E Every Cllr S Friend-Smith.

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Cllr P Moakes and Cllr R Hobbs.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST – *to receive Declarations of Disclosable Pecuniary & other interests from Councillors, as set out in Standing Order 83b.*

There were no declarations received.

3. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING HELD ON THE 26TH OCTOBER 2015 & MATTERS ARISING

The minutes of the last meeting held on the 26th October 2015, were agreed and signed as a true record. Pages ENV13 and 14 refer.

Matters arising: - Page 13, Item 3– Matters Arising. There has been no progress with the purchase of the plaque or an agreement on where it will be sited.

Page 14, Item 5 – A copy of Ely Perspective’s inspection walkabout has still not been sourced.

Page 14, Item 8 –The Ely Perspective Arboretum Trail leaflet will be launched in March 2016.

4. BUDGET UPDATE

The Administration Officer highlighted the budget spend to date and the heading relating to the estimated expenditure to the year end. Members were unclear as to where these figures had been set. Cllr Lindsay agreed to discuss this with the Clerk and send an explanation to all Councillors that were present.

5. BUSINESS PLAN

Cllr Lindsay has now completed this document and has submitted it to Cllr Every to be considered at future meetings. The Ely in Bloom business plan is still outstanding.

6. ELY IN BLOOM

Please see the notes from the meeting of the last Ely in Bloom Working Group attached. The Working Group has sourced two lotus vases with plinths that are to be located at the front of Sessions House. These are to be funded from sponsorship and donations to Ely in Bloom. Cllr Whelan felt that the budget was not coherent enough for her to support this purchase, however, Cllr Lindsay proposed that the vases should be ordered from the ring-fenced budget heading. This was seconded by Cllr Every and agreed by the majority of members present. This recommendation will go to the next Full Council meeting.

A flyer has been produced that will be delivered to local shops and businesses, encouraging them to take part in the 90th birthday celebrations of HRH, Her Majesty the Queen. It is hoped that businesses will put out a hanging basket, planted in the Queen’s racing colours of purple, scarlet and gold.

7. TREE MAINTENANCE - UPDATE

The tree inspection report has now been received from Haine Tree Services. The majority of the trees are located in the cemetery and recreation areas. There are approximately 57 trees that are in need of attention. The Council is waiting for a quote for the cost of the work.

It was proposed that the budget for tree maintenance for 2016/2017 should be administered from “one pot” as opposed to being split across two Committees. As the majority of the trees are in the cemetery and recreational areas, Cllr Every suggested that the budget allocated for the Environment Committee, should be part of the Recreation and Cemetery Committee’s budget. This was unanimously agreed.

8. REQUEST FOR A DOG WASTE BIN IN THE COUNTRY PARK

A request for a dog waste bin had been received from East Cambridgeshire District Council (ECDC) to be erected in the Country Park. There is a problem with dog fouling in the Park and ECDC have arranged for Veolia to empty the bin, if a new one can be purchased. It was agreed that a Section 106 application would be made for 5 dog bins in order to replenish stocks.

It was also agreed that 5 packs of the anti dog fouling stickers would be purchased from ECDC.

9. PRIDE IN ELY CLEAN UP WEEKEND

The pride in Ely/Clean for the Queen weekend will be the 2nd and or 3rd April 2016. Organisations such as the Scouts, VCAEC and Rotary Club have already kindly agreed to help. Members of the public, who attended the last Community Forum, were asked if there were any particular areas that they would like clean up teams to concentrate on. Equipment needs to be sourced and volunteers from the community would need to be found to co-ordinate the activities. Cllr Pearson advised that Sanctuary should be contacted as they have experience of organising this type of community event. Cllr Lindsay and Cllr Pittock agreed to lead on this.

10. HIGHWAY OBSTRUCTIONS

The problems caused by A-boards and cafe furniture that are placed on the Highway, within the City, were discussed. Cllr Lindsay had undertaken a survey of highway obstruction caused by A-boards and presented his findings to Dist Cllr Andy Pearson. The Access Group are waiting for a response. Cllr Lindsay reported that it is quite a difficult problem to resolve. Local businesses rely on the A-boards during the winter months to attract attention, as shop doors are closed, but equally the A-boards should not pose a threat to people with disabilities or access difficulties. Cllr Lindsay suggested that we should take a “softly softly” approach to this problem and try and appeal to the public duty of the retailers. Cllr Pittock volunteered to write a polite notice and to ask for it to be included in the trader’s bulletin, sent out by ECDC.

11.A.O.B.

Cllr Pittock had noticed that the war memorial was not currently lit at night and asked for this to be investigated. Cllr Arnold attended a Barns Voice meeting and agreed to visit an area of concern where there seems to be a problem with dog fouling.

12. DATE AND TIME OF THE NEXT MEETING

The date of the next meeting was not set.