



CITY OF ELY COUNCIL
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CITY OF ELY COUNCIL
CLIMATE & ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF A VIRTUAL MEETING HELD AT 7.00 PM
ON MONDAY 10TH AUGUST 2020

PRESENT;

Cllr I Lindsay Cllr S Bellow Cllr R Denness Cllr R Morgan Cllr E Carlsson-Browne.

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Cllr E Every. Cllr M Downey did not attend.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST *to receive declarations of interests from Councillors.*

No declarations of interest were received.

3. MINUTES OF THE LAST ENVIRONMENT MEETING HELD ON THE 23RD JUNE 2020 & MATTERS ARISING

The minutes of the last meeting held on the 23rd June 2020 were agreed and signed as a true record. Pages ENV 55 and 56 refer.

Matters Arising – Page ENV 56 – Item 11 – A.O.B – The amendments to the war memorial have been approved by Cllrs Lindsay and Bellow and it should be in situ by the end of August 2020.

4. TO APPROVE THE NEW TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR THE COMMITTEE

The terms of reference were reviewed and agreed by all.

5. BUDGET UPDATE

Members noted the budget updates, dated 4th August 2020. There were no significant variances. It was noted that there are funds available for such things as maintenance and for the purchasing of new street furniture such as benches. Cllr Lindsay had received a letter from a parishioner suggesting that there is a lack of outdoor seating around the City. He responded by asking for the parishioner to suggest locations that would benefit from the installation of new seating and the Committee would assess the cost.

The parishioner also complained about unsightly rubbish bins that are in need of either refurbishment or replacement. Cllr Lindsay has communicated the need for this with ECDC as this is the responsibility of the District Council.

The CCTV budget does not have enough money for replacement cameras but there is a possibility of applying for CIL funds.

6. HEALTH & SAFETY ISSUES

There were no issues to report.

7. FLORAL DISPLAYS

Cllr Lindsay was impressed by the quality of the floral displays. He reported that the watering of the planters and hanging baskets is taking the Estates Team about an hour. There is still no information as to when the new adapted vehicle will be delivered.

A request was received to extend the floral displays to brighten up some of the lanes and alleyways, such as Chequer Lane in Ely. Cllr Morgan questioned whether they would be subject to vandalism but it was agreed that a new planter at this location would be at no more risk than at any of the other locations. Cllr Lindsay agreed to add this request to the Action Plan.

8. HIGHWAYS

The Council is waiting for more detailed information from Cambs County Council regarding ‘pop-up’ cycle lanes.

Prickwillow Traffic Calming – this has not been resolved in terms of a plan. Previously, rumble strips had been suggested but because of noise issues and maintenance, this idea has been abandoned. It has been suggested that ‘pillows’ could be a better solution but it is feared that there may be some resistance from farm traffic.

It was agreed that Cllr Lindsay and Cllr Denness would meet to assess the current list of minor highway requests in more depth, but the priority referrals are:

Speeding on Prickwillow Road (Thistle Corner to town)
Prickwillow Village traffic calming
20mph zones in the city centre.

When a ward Councillor is contacted directly by the parishioner with a minor highway request, as the first point of contact, the Councillor will speak to the resident to ensure that there is mileage in the proposal. A simple form has been devised to log the nature of the requests, the action taken and outcomes. This needs to be completed by the Councillor who was the first point of contact and then passed on to one of the following Climate Change & Environment Committee members, who will then present it for discussion at the next meeting.

East – Cllr Lis Every
North – Cllr Sarah Bellow
Cathedral – Cllr Ian Lindsay
West – Cllr Rebecca Denness

Cllr Carlsson-Browne reported that some of the public footpaths, such as parts of the Hereward Way, are overgrown. It was re-iterated that issues of this nature need to be logged on the Cambridgeshire County Council website. Cllr Bellow made members aware of the footpath 2026 project in which volunteers are asked to identify historic footpaths that are missing from the map in England and Wales. All rights of way must be identified by the 1st January 2026 deadline, after which, it will no longer be possible to add old paths to the official record.

9. UPDATE FROM THE CLIMATE CHANGE WORKING GROUP

Cllr Denness provided an update from the Climate Change Working Group. It is proposed that a Community Forum will be held with climate change as the theme. Expert speakers will be invited in order to educate Councillors and the general public.

10. UPDATE FROM THE CCTV WORKING GROUP

The focus at the moment is to try and install more cameras. Currently, the cameras are a mix of digital and analogue and are running as effectively as they can. The Working Group and the CCTV team is trying to identify where the ‘hot spots’ are. At present there are many cameras in car parks but are these the areas where the cameras are most needed? A source of funding needs to be identified for any improvement scheme.

11. ACTION PLAN

Cllr Lindsay will update the Action Plan and forward it to members.

12. A.O.B.

Cllr Bellow proposed that it would be beneficial if volunteers could be recruited to participate in the community winter gritting scheme, managed by Cambridgeshire County Council. Information and a call for volunteers would be posted on the website and Facebook.

12. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting is scheduled for 21st September 2020.

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