



**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE CITY OF ELY COUNCIL HELD IN THE COUNCIL
CHAMBER AT 7.00 PM ON MONDAY, 4TH APRIL 2011**

PRESENT:

Mayor, Cllr B Ashton
Cllr E Griffin-Singh
Cllr J Yates
Cllr S Overall
Cllr J Chaplin

Cllr J Pearson
Cllr R Hobbs
Cllr S Friend-Smith
Cllr P Eden
Cllr R Bradney

Cllr N Covell
Cllr W Burton
Cllr A Winchester
Cllr M Rouse
Cllr J Moakes

1. APOLOGIES

No apologies were received.

**2. REQUEST INTENTION OF THOSE IN ATTENDANCE WHO WISH TO SPEAK ON
AN AGENDA ITEM – as per standing order 60 b**

There were no intentions to speak.

3. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING HELD ON THE 7TH MARCH & MATTERS ARISING

The minutes of the last meeting held on the 7th March were agreed and signed as a true record.

Pages 1116, 1117, 1118 and 1119 refer.

There were no matters arising.

4. QUESTION TIME

As there were no members of the public or councillors present, there was no question time.

5. MAYOR'S ENGAGEMENTS & REPORT

The Mayor had attended the Adult Learning Disability Trust parliament; the official opening of Brown & Co; the City of Ely Fairtrade Fashion Show; East Cambs Primary Careers Convention; the King's School Gala Choral Concert in the Cathedral and the closure of Ely Courthouse. He had attended his specially arranged "A Celebration of Volunteering" service at St Mary's Church; met the new Bishop of Ely; attended the long service awards for Cambridgeshire Constabulary and the Hoop Trundle at the King's School. He had also attended various meetings on behalf of the Council, on various issues such as CCTV, future development of Ely, Riverside, railway crossing seminar and new workshop.

6. PLANNING

Reports of a planning committee meeting held on the 21st February 2011 and immediately prior to this meeting were received.

7. INFORMATION ONLY ITEMS

The following items for information only, were received:

Letter from Cambridgeshire County Council regarding Cambridgeshire Library Service Review
Street Naming and Numbering:- renaming of 10A Egremont Street to 4 The Paddock, Ely

Notification of tree work:- Griffin Country Store, 3 Three Cups Walk, Ely; Barnacre 10A Egremont Street, Ely; 90 Broad Street, Ely; 11 Waterside, Ely; 19 Williams Close, Ely; Bamford House, Deacons Lane, Ely

8. COMMITTEE REPORTS

(i) ADMINISTRATION – The Mayor presented a report of a meeting held on the 21st March, which was approved. The Mayor informed members the Deputy Mayor, the Clerk and himself had compared the three quotes received for the Council's insurance cover for 2011/2012. It had been agreed to remain with Zurich Insurance, due to their very competitive quote for a five year deal. The annual review of the rent and administration charge for the Local Needs Housing Scheme had been undertaken with an increase by the RPI at the end of January, which was 5.1%. Following the review of the Council's Standing Orders, the Mayor proposed these now be approved and adopted by the Council. This was seconded by Cllr Yates and unanimously approved. All members will be issued with a revised copy of the Standing Orders. Members noted that Cllrs Burton and Griffin-Singh had undertaken the review of the effectiveness of the system of internal audit for the Council. There were no areas of concern. The Internal Auditor's report from his second visit on the 16th March was noted, with no areas of concern. Members had unanimously agreed to sign up to a new legal service to be provided by East Cambs District Council with regard to property related legal work. The Mayor signed a Service Level Agreement for this. There would be no obligation on the Council to use this service.

(ii) STREET FURNITURE – No report as Committee had not met.

(iii) RECREATION & CEMETERY – Cllr Bradney presented a report of a meeting held on the 14th March, which was approved. A new tractor and mower had been ordered. New play equipment and surfacing for High Barns Play area had also been ordered. Plans for the purchase of memorial roses by families have now been finalised. Existing borders in Section F will be allocated for this. These will be on a lease, with families choosing the colour of the rose and the fee charged will include a commemorative plaque and maintenance. The Council will also offer memorial benches, memorial plaques and a book of remembrance. Three quotes will be obtained for a new roundabout at St Johns Road play area.

(iv) CHRISTMAS LIGHTS – No report as committee had not met.

(v) ELY IN BLOOM – Cllr Overall presented a report of a meeting held on the 8th March, which was approved. The winter planting has now been undertaken. Members of the Committee will be helping with the arrangements for the Royal Wedding day celebrations on the 29th April. Gardening competitions for the community will be organised to include a best hanging basket, best community project, best shop window and best volunteer flower bed. Judging day will be the 19th July. The colour scheme for this year's summer planting is red, yellow and orange. A quote will be obtained for the hanging baskets from East Cambs District Council.

(vi) ELY/RIBE – Cllr Hobbs presented a report of a meeting held on the 9th March, which was approved. Representatives from Ribe would be visiting Ely in April 2012. There were still concerns about the tapestry displayed at the Maltings. Due to the amount of time this is closed, the general public and visitors to the City do not have the opportunity to view this.

(vii) YOUTH COUNCIL – The Youth Council will next meet on the 6th April.

(viii) CCTV – No report as Committee had not met.

9. REPORTS FROM EXTERNAL MEETINGS

City of Ely Perspective Design Group – minutes of a meeting held on the 15th March were noted. Cllr Friend-Smith informed members the planning application for Steeple Row had now been submitted. A pre-application to the English Heritage Lottery Fund had been submitted and approval had been given for them to proceed to the next stage.

Prickwillow Village Council – minutes of a meeting held on the 1st March were noted.

City of Ely Perspective Executive – minutes of a meeting held on the 29th March were tabled and noted. Members agreed to discuss the future role and Action Plan of the City of Ely Perspective at a future Full Council meeting.

10. TO DISCUSS RESPONSE FROM ELY ROYAL BRITISH LEGION REGARDING THE CELEBRATION OF THE ROYAL BRITISH LEGION'S 90TH BIRTHDAY

The Clerk informed members the local branch would be having a stall in the Butter Market on the 11th June to celebrate their 90th birthday. The Mayor will also spend some time on the stall. They would like to have the City of Ely Military Band playing alongside them. Members felt this location would not be appropriate for this and requested the Clerk contact East Cambs District Council to ask if they could be moved near to the war memorial. Ely in Bloom would also prepare the hanging baskets on the war memorial in the RBL colours. Members also agreed to fund the band if this was necessary.

11. TO FORMALLY ADOPT THE EMPLOYER'S DISCRETIONS POLICY STATEMENT ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT PENSION SCHEME

The Mayor recommended the new Discretions Policy Statement on the Local Government Pension Scheme be approved and adopted. This was seconded by Cllr Eden and unanimously approved. The Mayor signed the document.

12. TO DISCUSS RESPONSE FROM STAGECOACH REGARDING CHANGES TO BUS SERVICES

Members noted two letters from Stagecoach and the County Council, which had been tabled regarding changes to the bus services. It was unanimously felt that Ely had been treated poorly compared to other areas. The Deputy Mayor will respond to the Stagecoach letter and will also write to Mr Edge at Cambs County Council requesting Cllr Eden join the working party. Cllr Eden requested members feedback any criticisms from parishioners/passengers to him regarding these revised services.

13. TO MAKE COMMENTS ON A PROPOSED PROHIBITION OF DRIVER ORDER – BYWAYS OPEN TO ALL TRAFFIC NO 45 AND NO 46 ELY, NO 47 AND NO 48 LITTLE DOWNHAM

Members agreed to support the proposed Prohibition of Driver Order.

14. STREET LIGHTING MAINTENANCE CHARGES OPTIONS

Members considered the three options available to them and unanimously agreed to sign up to a contract with Balfour Beatty, through the County Council at an annual cost of £433.08.

At 7.55 pm Cllr Rouse left the meeting.

15. TO DISCUSS POSSIBLE RELOCATION OF COUNCIL OFFICES

Cllr Yates presented a report on the possible relocation of the Council offices. Members gave their views on the proposals and voiced their concerns or support. Several members asked if the use of the Court House for the Council's offices had been fully investigated. The Mayor confirmed this had been looked at and that there was not enough office space. The Court Service is having a professional conservation report undertaken by English Heritage on the Court House. They will also be producing a backlog of the work needed and the costs of the building. Cllr Eden felt if the Council offices were to be relocated to the cemetery site, then there should be a facility within the city centre where people can call in for information regarding the Council's services. This could be shared with other organisations.

Cllr Yates proposed members consider his recommendation from the report that the Council agrees to relocate the Council offices to the cemetery site, subject to obtaining planning permission and satisfactory tenders. This was seconded by Cllr Bradney and members then voted. There were nine votes for the proposal and four against. There was one abstention due to need for an outreach facility in the City Centre if offices were to be relocated. It was agreed to investigate whether the Council could have a central service in Ely. Members agreed if the planning application was refused by East Cambs District Council then a new application would be submitted for just the erection of a workshop. Cllr Overall agreed to assist with access regarding the final plans.

16 . CORRESPONDENCE

The following correspondence was noted:

LCR Community Action Keeping in Touch

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MAYOR
3rd May 2011

17. FINANCE

The following were approved for payment:

PAYEE	AMOUNT	CHQ NO
Tiscali	15.31	pd by direct debit
Internet Marketing Company	24.00	pd by direct debit
ECDC	488.25	pd by direct debit
ECDC	3068.39	108186
Simpson's Nurseries Ltd	12.50	108187
T Coulson by cash	50.02	108188
RBL Poppy Appeal	18.00	108189
Argos Business Solutions Ltd	117.46	108190
Konica Minolta Business Solutions East Ltd	172.76	108191
MiJan Ltd	36.00	108192
Gordon Harrison	112.68	108193
ESPO	121.57	108194
EARTH	10.80	108195
ECDC	480.00	108196
ESPO	13.40	108197
Screwfix Direct	67.50	pd by direct debit – credit card payment
Travelodge	1383.50	pd by direct debit – credit card payment
One Stop Promotions Ltd	300.60	pd by direct debit – credit card payment
EMG Motor Group	73.58	pd by direct debit – credit card payment
British Red Cross	48.00	108198
ECDC	6006.46	108199
Anglian Water	57.27	108200
Mr R Delahaye	87.64	108201
Berrycroft Stores Ltd	80.35	108204
Countryside Services	84.00	108202
ESPO	59.49	pd by direct debit
ESPO	140.55	pd by direct debit
The Information Commissioner	35.00	108205
Smiths Gore	225.00	108206
1st Ely Scout Group	60.00	108207
T Coulson by cash	85.00	108209
Zurich Insurance	13256.86	108208
CCTV Volunteer	51.20	108210
Argos Business Solutions Ltd	8.30	108211
ESPO	236.99	pd by direct debit
ESPO	74.49	pd by direct debit

Payments relating to staff since meeting on 7th March 2011

Salaries and wages	£7693.32 (pd by BACS)
Inland Revenue (tax & NI)	£2452.24 (pd by BACS)
Pension fund payments	£1823.17 (pd by BACS)

The bank reconciliation against the accounts for the period ending the 31st March 2011, was not tabled as the bank statement had not been received.