



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

PRESENT:

Mayor, Cllr J Yates

Cllr A Winchester

Cllr M Rouse

Cllr R Hobbs

Cllr N Clarke

Mary Rayner – The Harbour School

Cllr E Griffin-Singh

Cllr S Overall

Cllr J Chaplin

Cllr A Brear

Mrs C Jenkinson-Dix – City of Ely College

District Cllr S Friend-Smith

Cllr W Burton

Cllr P Eden

Cllr B Ashton

Cllr A Arnold

The Mayor welcomed the new members of the Council to their first Full Council meeting. He hoped they would enjoy being a councillor and contribute to the Council.

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Cllrs Every and Wood .

**2. REQUEST INTENTION OF THOSE IN ATTENDANCE WHO WISH TO SPEAK ON
AN AGENDA ITEM – as per standing order 83 b**

There were no intentions to speak.

3. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING HELD ON THE 6TH JUNE & MATTERS ARISING

The minutes of the last meeting held on the 6th June were agreed and signed as a true record. Pages 1133, 1134, 1135, 1136, 1137 and 1138 refer.

Matters Arising:- Page 1133, Item 3 – The Mayor informed members the Hereward's variation to their licensing application had been agreed. However, permission had not been granted for the siting of tables and chairs in Chequer Lane. This is public highway and the responsibility of the County Council. They have insisted the tables and chairs be removed, so the highway is not blocked. Inspector Sissons had requested a meeting be arranged by the Mayor, for all parties to see if this decision can be reversed.

Page 1133, Item 3 – The Mayor informed members a response was still awaited from Cambridgeshire County Council regarding the roundabout at Thistle Corner and why it was still not open. It was now thought the hold-up was due to Anglian Water and issues regarding drainage.

Page 1135, Item 10 – The Mayor confirmed a letter with the Council's comments regarding an application for civil parking enforcement powers – East and South Cambridgeshire, had now been sent.

Page 1135, Item 8 – The Mayor reported the Fabric Committee of the Cathedral are content with the Youth Council's lighting proposals for the Park. He had written to the members of the Youth Council to inform them of this decision. A lease between the Cathedral, ECDC and the City of Ely Council will have to be drawn up before the installation of the lights can proceed.

Page 1135, Item 12 – The Clerk informed members the Annual Return for the year ended 31st March 2011 had been signed off by the external auditor, Moore Stephens. On the basis of this review, it is their opinion the information contained in the Annual Return was in accordance with the Audit Commission's requirements and no matters had come to their attention, giving cause for concern that relevant legislation and regulatory requirements had not been met.

Page 1136, Item 15 – The Mayor confirmed the planning application for the new workshop at the cemetery had now been submitted to ECDC.

Minutes of the last meeting held on the 6th June & matters arising continued

Page 1136, Item 17 – The Mayor confirmed an expression of interest had been made to ECDC regarding the Council's wish to take over responsibility of the Ely Riverside.

4. PRESENTATION BY MRS JENKINSON-DIX (CITY OF ELY COLLEGE) AND MARY RAYNER (THE HARBOUR SCHOOL) REGARDING PROPOSALS TO ESTABLISH THE BRIDGE FREE SCHOOL IN ELY

The Mayor welcomed Mrs Jenkinson-Dix and Ms Rayner to the meeting. They had been invited to attend to explain to councillors their proposals to establish the Bridge Free School in Ely. They explained this would be a partnership between the City of Ely College, the Harbour School and South Park Academy Trust. The South Park Academy is an established, independent provider of this type of service, so have expertise in this area. The Harbour School has 60 places and 20 residential places. They also have a waiting list. The Bridge Free School will be for those who cannot access mainstream school. It will not be in competition with other schools, as it is about an alternative provision and will serve Witchford and Ely. Their main objective will be a route to getting these children back into mainstream school. They will take children from Keystage 2 upwards. It is felt that if they can intervene earlier there is more chance these children will re-enter mainstream school. Children need to have a sense of belonging, so this provision needs to be local. They will also be looking to add a substantial function to the school, eg; sports club, which will make it a centre for the whole community.

The timetable for this proposal was confirmed as; end of July receive notification if application has been shortlisted; if successful will have to be interviewed; could be open by November/December 2012.

They explained that they needed to obtain local support and would hope the City of Ely Council would provide a letter of support for the application. Members unanimously agreed they would give their support and the Mayor would send a letter to that effect.

The Mayor thanked Mrs Jenkinson-Dix and Ms Rayner for a very informative presentation and wished them every success with this application.

5. QUESTION TIME

District Cllr Sheila Friend-Smith reported that Cllr Eden and she would be meeting with the consultants regarding the Steeple Row planning application to talk through issues raised by ECDC regarding this, to try and resolve these.

She hoped that the Youth Council meeting would continue and gave details of a contact at the City of Ely College who was keen to be a liaison for this.

She raised her concerns regarding the amount of years it had taken for the roads in the High Barns/Longchamps area to be adopted. Some roads have still not been adopted , 10-12 years after the completion of the development. It was agreed the Mayor would write to the Highways Department to confirm the legal position regarding this.

6. MAYOR'S ENGAGEMENTS & REPORT

The Mayor had attended the Volunteer Bureau Bus Event in the Market Place,; the British Legion 90th Birthday stall and collection on the Market Place; the Annual Service for the Cambridgeshire Regiment Association and the Royal Anglian Regiment Association (Cambridgeshire) and presentation of the Freedom of the City of Ely scroll to the Royal Anglian Regiment; the annual BBQ of the Ribe Association; Earth AGM; the 800th Anniversary of the Midsummer Common Fair, Cambridge; Queen Etheldreda Parade and Service in Ely Cathedral and Noyze Midsummer Feast in Prickwillow. The Mayor had held his Civic Service and had also attended the Independence Day celebrations at Alconbury.

Cllr Rouse thanked the Mayor for a very good Civic Service.

7. PLANNING

Reports of a planning committee meeting held on the 23rd May 2011 and immediately prior to this meeting were received.

8. INFORMATION ONLY ITEMS

The following items for information only, were received:

Internal Auditor's Report from final visit 26th May 2011

Street Naming and Numbering:- 19A & 19B West Fen Road, Ely; Padnal Lodge, Ely Road, Prickwillow, Ely; 2A & 2B Broad Street, Ely

Notification of tree work:- 1 The Range, Ely; 9 Lumley Close, Ely; TPO – outside 39, 55 and opposite 65 Waterside, Ely

9. COMMITTEE REPORTS

(i) ADMINISTRATION – The Mayor presented a report of a meeting held on the 20th June, which was approved. The Mayor confirmed he had sent letters of thanks to the councillors who had stood down at the last election. He thanked them for their long service to the community. A drop-in stall had been held on the 4th June. Members agreed the next one would be arranged for September. A representative from Tourism at ECDC would be invited to attend a Full Council meeting to give a short presentation on how Ely is promoted in other areas and how this Council can help.

(ii) STREET FURNITURE – No report as Committee had not met. The next meeting will be held on the 11th July.

(iii) RECREATION & CEMETERY – No report as Committee had not met. Cllr Hobbs reported the annual tour of the cemetery was undertaken on the 25th June. The cemetery was felt to be in good order. Observations were made by some councillors and these will be discussed at the next Recreation and Cemetery Committee meeting. Councillors had also visited the High Barns play area to look at the new equipment and see the proposed location of the new MUGA. It had been confirmed planning permission was not required for this. Funding was being sought. The next meeting will be held on the 18th July.

(iv) CHRISTMAS LIGHTS – No report as Committee had not met. The next meeting will be held on the 25th July. Cllr Chaplin reported that the existing light fixtures have now been tested and additional fixtures will be ordered shortly.

(v) ELY IN BLOOM – No report as Committee had not met. Cllr Overall reported the new planter for the war memorial was now in place and had been planted up.

(vi) ELY/RIBE – No report as Association had not met.

(vii) YOUTH COUNCIL – Youth Council had not met. The Mayor reported he had held his first meeting of Youth Groups, which could lead to the formation of a Youth Forum. This is his Mayoral theme for the year. This had been very successful with all participants being very enthusiastic.

(viii) CCTV – Cllr Burton presented a report of a meeting held on the 27th June, which was approved. Three further volunteers and 3 PCSOs have now completed the CCTV training. Further training for volunteers will be provided in house. Feedback was received from some of the volunteers and various issues will be addressed. The transition of the administrative arrangements was still on-going. The need for more volunteers will be promoted through various means as a priority.

(ix) DIAMOND JUBILEE – Cllr Burton presented a report of a meeting held on the 13th June, which was approved. Members had agreed the celebrations will be on the 4th June 2012. It was felt that the most appropriate venue for the daytime would be Jubilee Gardens. This would have a street party theme, with bands playing in the bandstand and be aimed at families and children. For the evening the celebrations would move to the Park for an event that is more adult orientated. Ideas for the evening included a concert with local bands, food stalls and a tug of war competition. Members agreed to feedback their ideas to the Diamond Jubilee Committee. Cllr Rouse informed members Her Majesty the Queen wishes oak trees to be planted to commemorate the Diamond Jubilee and is proposing a national Jubilee Wood project. He suggested that perhaps the bund to the West of Ely, which is currently having landscaping plans drawn-up, could be an appropriate area for this to be located in. It was agreed this would be discussed at the next Diamond Jubilee Committee meeting.

10. REPORTS FROM EXTERNAL MEETINGS

City of Ely Allotments Association – minutes of a meeting held on the 11th May were noted. Cllr Clarke has been appointed as the new representative for the Council on this organisation.

Section 106 – minutes of a meeting held on the 20th June were noted.

City of Ely Perspective Riverside Group – minutes of a meeting held on the 14th June were noted.

11. NESTA PROJECT - PRICKWILLOW

Members unanimously agreed the City of Ely Council would support this work and become involved in the NESTA Neighbourhood Challenge. The Clerk will ascertain what this will involve.

12. YOUR COMMUNITY – YOUR SPEED: A GUIDE TO HOW LOCAL COMMUNITIES CAN CHANGE SPEED LIMITS

Members agreed that any proposals should be identified through the Street Furniture Committee. It was suggested that perhaps Prickwillow could benefit from this scheme.

13. FEEDBACK FROM TOUR OF MALTINGS COTTAGE

The Mayor gave a summary of the recent tour of the Maltings Cottage, which was well attended. It was proposed by Cllr Ashton that the Council move forward with negotiations for this cottage from ECDC. A further Expression of Interest should be submitted for this. Members unanimously agreed with this proposal. Members also agreed it would be useful to form a small working group to help take this forward. This would enable a balanced view to be taken of the options that might be available for the use of the cottage. This working group will then feedback to Full Council, which will be considered by all members before a final decision is made.

14. ELY NEIGHBOURHOOD PANEL – APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMAN

Cllr Ashton proposed the Mayor continue as the Chairman of the Panel. This was seconded by Cllr Hobbs and unanimously agreed. The Mayor informed members on the next agenda of this Panel, there would be an agenda item 'What is the role of the City of Ely Council and its future ideas'. This would be presented by Cllr Ashton.

15. COUNCIL FUNDING OF ELY PERSPECTIVE

The Mayor outlined what the Perspective was and what it did. It was formed in 2005 and is now a Limited Company. The Council gives it an annual grant of £5145. Cllr Eden explained the Perspective Switch-on group organises the events for the switch-on evening for the Christmas Lights. There are three main expenses associated with this; the staging, road closures and electrics. The Perspective makes a donation towards these costs. Cllr Eden proposed the cost of these could be taken out of their grant and added to the Christmas Lights budget. The remainder of the grant could then be paid to the Perspective towards their running costs. Members unanimously agreed to this proposal. The Clerk clarified this could be undertaken but the costs for this year would need to be obtained, as the Christmas Lights budget would not be able to absorb any additional costs for these expenses. Once these had been received the remainder could then be paid to the Perspective.

16. CORRESPONDENCE

To receive the following correspondence

LCR

Community Action

Clerks & Councils Direct

17. FINANCE

The following were approved for payment:

PAYEE	AMOUNT	CHQ NO
ECDC	487.00	paid by direct debit
ECDC	346.00	paid by direct debit
Talk Talk	15.31	paid by direct debit
Internet Marketing Company	24.00	paid by direct debit
St Mary's PCC	105.00	108277
Cambs Regt Assoc RAR	200.00	108278
Jewson Ltd	19.27	108280
G B Sport & Leisure	53.40	108281
City Cycle Centre	3.22	108282
BACS	80.80	pd by direct debit
Mr N Clarke	24.00	108283
MiJan Ltd	36.00	108284
Ely Tyre Services	180.00	108285
Konica Minolta Business Sols East Ltd	386.06	108286
Middle Fen & Mere Internal Drainage Board	75.60	108287
EMG	125.34	pd by direct debit – credit card payment
Plumbase	37.06	pd by direct debit – credit card payment
T Coulson by cash	84.00	108290
Allen's Skip Hire Ltd	84.00	108288
ESPO	109.13	108289
ECDC	837.50	108279
LunchBox	210.00	108291
Moore Stephens	1260.00	108292
Witham Oil & Paint (Soham) Ltd	183.14	108293
Henderson Electrical Services Ltd	64.80	108294
Fuel Genie	408.74	pd by direct debit
Anglian Water	84.00	108295
Jewson Ltd	15.48	108296
G & J Peck Ltd	17.84	108297

Payments relating to staff since meeting on 6th June 2011

Salaries and wages	£8298.72 (pd by BACS)
Inland Revenue (tax & NI)	£2336.71 (pd by BACS)
Pension fund payments	£2049.14 (pd by BACS)

Members noted and approved the bank reconciliation against the accounts for the period ending 31st May 2011