



MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE CITY OF ELY COUNCIL HELD IN THE VERNON CROSS ROOM, ELY MUSEUM, MARKET STREET, ELY AT 7.00 PM ON MONDAY 10TH MARCH 2014

PRESENT:

The Mayor, Cllr E Griffin-Singh	Deputy Mayor, Cllr E Every	Cllr C Phillips
Cllr A Arnold	Cllr J Yates	Cllr B Ashton
Cllr M Rouse	Cllr N Clarke	Cllr G Barber
Cllr R Hobbs	Cllr J Outen	Cllr J Pearson
Cllr J Tyrrell		
<i>Mrs V Holden (parishioner)</i>	<i>Mrs M Haynes (parishioner)</i>	<i>District Cllr J Friend-Smith</i>
<i>District Cllr S Friend-Smith</i>		

1. APOLOGIES

No apologies were received.

2. COUNCILLOR REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATIONS AND DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

There were no requests for dispensations and no declarations of interest requested.

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

Mrs Holden and Mrs Haynes declared an intention to speak on agenda items 4 and 15. District Cllr J Friend-Smith and District Cllr S Friend-Smith declared an intention to speak on agenda item 5.

4. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING HELD ON THE 10TH FEBRUARY AND MATTERS ARISING

The minutes of the last meeting held on the 10th February were agreed and signed as a true record. Pages 1318, 1319, 1320, 1321, 1322, 1323 and 1324 refer.

Matters arising:- Page 1318, item 4 – The Clerk informed members that she had now received a response from Mr Pavelin regarding a feasibility study. He had confirmed that the City of Ely Council would not be able to access information needed to ascertain if a Crown Post Office would be viable for the City. He apologised for his suggestion that the Council could do it themselves and revised his suggestion that the Council should pressurise Post Office Ltd to do the study, or to contact Consumer Futures to inform them of the current Post Office service issues in Ely. The Mayor also updated members from the two weekly update that had been received from the Post Office Ltd. There are currently two possible businesses that have expressed an interest in providing the Post Office service. Post Office Ltd intend to advertise this opportunity again. Members discussed the situation and agreed the Mayor would write a letter to Post Office Ltd regarding the current situation. The question would be asked about what they intend to do once the permission for the temporary Post Office expires.

Mrs Holden asked the Mayor, when she visited the Stained Glass Museum did she take the interactive experience for people who could not take the stairs. The Mayor said she had not, but had asked about it. Mrs Holden said that the Access Group had helped organise this experience. It had been funded by the National Lottery. It is a video guide, through a touch screen, which allows access to all the areas of the Museum and also gives views out of the windows. Mrs Haynes informed members that a school had refused to visit the Museum as one of the children from the class could not gain access. She felt they should consider how they can get better access to the Museum.

Minutes of the last meeting held on the 10th February and matters arising continued

Page 1320, Item 11 – Cllr Clarke confirmed that quotes for clearing the ditches at Bridge Fen had now been passed to the City of Ely Allotments Association for consideration.

Page 1321, Item 14 – Cllr Rouse informed members he had attended a Cambs County Council budget meeting in his capacity as a County Councillor. They had earmarked an additional sum of money for community transport. They will also be looking at the possibility of providing some extra funding to Ely Soham Dial-a-Ride. Section 106 Agreements could be worded to give a contribution to community transport, rather than specifically to a bus service.

5. QUESTION TIME

The Mayor informed those present that item 17 would be discussed in Committee at the end of the meeting. Due to the confidential nature of this item, members of the public would be excluded from the meeting.

District Cllr J Friend-Smith informed members he had sent an e-mail to Mr Herbert of Post Office Ltd and asked for an update. Mr Hughes of ECDC had informed him that it was very likely that Post Office Ltd would be applying to extend the lease for the Post Office portakabin in the car park in March. If this goes past May, there will probably be a sharp increase in the rental charge. Mr Herbert had been in touch with James Paice MP, and District Cllr J Friend-Smith thought it might be worth contacting him as well.

With regard to Morley Drive/Meadow Way the ownership of this land was currently being transferred to ECDC. The Mayor informed District Cllr J Friend-Smith that the City of Ely Council's bid for the Minor Highway Improvement Scheme for this area had not been successful.

District Cllr S Friend-Smith raised her concerns regarding the issue of the cobbles in the City Centre that have recently been replaced. These were felt to be even more dangerous now, by quite a few cyclists. Cllr Rouse informed District Cllr S Friend-Smith that unfortunately it takes three months to obtain a road closure. The materials selected for this project had been too expensive for the budget available. He was very angry about this situation and felt people should have been informed that the trial was not going ahead. However, it was hoped that another area nearby will be trialled in the near future. She requested that the Council writes a letter to the County Council saying how disappointed they are with the situation and that action needs to be taken. Cllr Every proposed that the Mayor send a letter regarding this matter. Cllr Barber seconded this proposal and was unanimously agreed. Cllr Rouse reported that the North of Ely Country Park report has now been completed and will be going out to consultation. There are concerns regarding who will manage this area and also the current Country Park in the longer term. Members agreed to discuss the Country Park when this comes up for public consultation.

6. MAYOR'S ENGAGEMENTS & REPORT

The Mayor had not had time to compile her list of engagements, so these will be given at the next meeting. She had however, held an Under 18 Drop In last Saturday, where 8 children had attended to speak on issues that they were concerned about. She was assisted with this event by Cllrs Arnold, Outen and Phillips.

The Deputy Mayor had attended the Ely Waits concert.

7. PLANNING

Reports of a Planning Committee meeting held on the 27th January 2014 and immediately prior to this meeting were received.

8. INFORMATION ONLY ITEMS

The following items for information only, were received:

Notification of tree work:- 48 John Amner Close, Ely; 1A Lynton Drive, Ely; St Mary's Junior School, High Barns, Ely; 25 Cromwell Road, Ely; 1 Morton Close, Ely; 1 Willow Grove, Ely; 12 Deacons Lane, Ely; 17 Beech Lane, Ely; Allotment Gardens, Deacons Lane, Ely; Ely Diocesan Offices, Bishop Woodford House, Barton Road, Ely; 20 Nutholt Lane, Ely; 22 Chapel Street, Ely; The Chapter House, The College, Ely; The Almonry Restaurant, 36 High Street, Ely; Almonry Croft, 34 High Street, Ely; Deanery Meadow, Ely

28 Cambridge Road, Ely – fell a Beech tree and a Lime tree on the County Council highway verge beside 28 Cambridge Road, which is subject to a TPO – members had no objection to the removal of these two trees, for the reasons stated in the letter from ECDC. However, they requested that if these two trees are removed, two new trees need to be planted within the City to replace them.

Notification of street naming and numbering:- 8 Old Bank, Prickwillow, Ely; 120B St John's Road, Ely

Information Only Items continued

Notification of permission to remove hedgerow at Byway 76/40, leading south from Angel Drove, Ely and east of Greenacres Farm, Cambridge Road, Ely

Letter from Chairman of Stop Berry Fen Wind Farm Campaign – members noted this letter but felt it was not appropriate for the City of Ely Council to become involved in this campaign, as it was not within their parish. If they wish however, members are free to support them as individuals.

District Cllr J Friend-Smith left the meeting at 7.35 pm.

9. COMMITTEE REPORTS

- (i) FINANCE AND PERSONNEL – No report as Committee had not met.
- (ii) STREET FURNITURE – Cllr Arnold presented a report of a meeting held on the 24th February, which was noted. Cllr Arnold informed members a Tree Policy will be drawn up. This will be finalised at the next Street Furniture Committee meeting and will then be brought back to Full Council for formal approval and adoption. Quotes for the erection of the new Riverside signs are being obtained. Members approved the solar lighting project for the Riverside, which will be funded through Section 106 funding. The long term maintenance of these lights would need to be clarified before this is moved forward.

District Cllr S Friend-Smith left the meeting at 7.45 pm.

- (iii) RECREATION AND CEMETERY – Cllr Clarke informed members of the recommendation of the interview panel regarding the appointment of Mr S Villatte for the part-time seasonal worker. This was unanimously approved.
- (iv) CHRISTMAS LIGHTS – The Mayor presented a report of a meeting held on the 3rd March, which was approved. Members had recommended that the Switch-On evening should come under the umbrella of the Council. This would mean that the annual grant to the City of Ely Perspective of £5145, would be transferred to the Christmas Lights Committee budget and be identified as 'Switch On'. Any surplus at the end of the financial year would be ring-fenced and carried forward to the next financial year. This was proposed by Cllr Rouse and seconded by Cllr Arnold and unanimously agreed by all members. Members thanked Mr Newstead for all his hard work in organising the Switch-On evening. Cllr Clarke proposed that any money raised from the Switch-On evening or donations should also be ring-fenced. This was seconded by Cllr Every and unanimously agreed.
- (v) ELY IN BLOOM – No report as Committee had not met.
- (vi) ASSETS & ACQUISITIONS – No report as Committee had not met.
- (vi) ELY/RIBE – No report as not met. The next meeting will be on the 15th April.
- (vii) YOUTH FORUM – No report as not met.

10. WORKING PARTIES/STEERING GROUPS REPORTS

City Centre Forum – notes of a meeting held on the 12th February were noted.

11. REPORTS FROM EXTERNAL MEETINGS

Section 106 – notes of a meeting held on the 3rd March were noted.
Prickwillow Village Council Annual General Meeting – minutes of a meeting held on the 13th January were noted.
Prickwillow Village Council – minutes of a meeting held on the 13th January were noted. One of the issues raised was that of lorries going into the village by mistake and then having to turn around. A G's rep had been present at the meeting and reported that they had now implemented a 20 mph limit of their vehicles through the village. Their vehicles had also been tracked and crops rotated, which had resulted in a 15% reduction in their traffic.

12. TO MAKE COMMENTS ON THE DRAFT ELY STATION GATEWAY SUPPLEMENTARY PLANNING DOCUMENT

Members fully supported the proposals for this area and would do everything in the Council's power to enable this to move forward. It was agreed councillors would respond as individuals to the question sheet on the consultation.

13. TO APPROVE SIGNING AND SEALING BY THE CHAIRMAN OF THE LEASE RELATING TO PREMISES AT ELY POLICE STATION FOR THE CCTV CONTROL ROOM

Cllr Ashton declared a personal interest in this item and took no part in the discussion.

Cllr Hobbs proposed the signing and sealing by the Chairman of the lease relating to premises at Ely Police Station for the CCTV Control Room. This was seconded by Cllr Yates and unanimously approved. The Chairman then signed the lease and the Clerk sealed the document.

14. TO NOMINATE BUILDINGS/STRUCTURES TO BE INCLUDED OIN THE LOCAL REGISTER OF ‘BUILDINGS OF LOCAL INTEREST’

Members noted the list of possible buildings and structures, which had previously been submitted by the City of Ely Council, when this register was originally being considered. It was agreed that some of the buildings proposed were not felt to be appropriate now. Members unanimously agreed that Cllr Arnold and Rouse would complete the forms for the proposed buildings to be put forward for inclusion on this register.

15. UPDATE ON MAGISTRATES COURT

Members noted the notes of the Magistrates Court Working Party held on the 3rd March. The design of the entrance door had not been finalised yet, but this should not prevent the planning application being submitted. As soon as the planning permission is submitted the tender documents and specifications will be sent out. Three quotes for the painting of the exterior of the magistrates court had been obtained. Members unanimously agreed to accept the cheapest quote of £3950 plus VAT from Greg Blunt. This does not include the painting of the pillars or portico. The Clerk will obtain an additional price for this. Cllr Tyrrell asked which allocated budget heading the building works for the Magistrates Court would be funded from. This was currently being considered.

Mrs Holden asked for confirmation as to whether the planning application had been submitted yet. Cllr Yates informed her that this should be ready to go in very shortly. She also asked if English Heritage had looked at this yet. Cllr Yates was not aware that they had. He informed her that Cllr Every and himself would be arranging to meet with her to go through the planning application, from an access point of view. Mrs Holden informed members that she would pursue this issue if she could not gain access to the Council Chamber.

16. UPDATE ON CO-OPTION OF COUNCILLOR VACANCIES

The Clerk informed members there had been no applications received for the two councillor vacancies. These vacancies will be re-advertised.

17. COUNCIL SERVICES

The Mayor proposed that in view of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted the following matter be considered in private and that the power of exclusion of the public under Section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 be exercised. This was seconded by Cllr Yates and unanimously agreed.

Due to the confidential nature of this item, this was discussed in Committee at the end of the meeting.

19. FINANCE

Members approved the following for payment:

Talk Talk	15.31	paid by direct debit
Internet Marketing Company	24.00	paid by direct debit
Barclays	27.18	paid by direct debit
FuelGenie	259.23	paid by direct debit
Barclaycard	253.01	paid by direct debit
Southern Electric	83.27	paid by direct debit
British Telecommunications	62.70	paid by direct debit
Francotyp Postalia Ltd	100.00	paid by direct debit
Francotyp Postalia Ltd	72.00	paid by direct debit
Francotyp Postalia Ltd	43.20	paid by direct debit
ESPO	115.59	paid by direct debit
ESPO	71.85	paid by direct debit
Ely Museum	20.00	109412
Highline Extreme (OZ-UK) Ltd	11500.00	109414
Wider Plan Ltd	112.54	109415

Finance continued

Salmons Bros Ltd	5608.91	109416
Local World	72.00	109417
Gordon Harrison	224.31	109418
City Cycle Centre	7.13	109419
Witham Oil & Paint (Soham) Ltd	35.72	109420
Argos Business Solutions Ltd	53.88	109421
1st Call (Hire & Sales) Ltd	13.44	109422
CCTV Volunteer	12.00	109423
G & J Peck Ltd	959.98	109424
ESPO	60.73	109425
CCTV Volunteer	14.40	109426
CCTV Volunteer	26.15	109427
CCTV Volunteer	0.95	109428
CCTV Volunteer	20.00	109429
CCTV Volunteer	6.40	109430
CCTV Volunteer	24.00	109431
CCTV Volunteer	3.29	109432
The Bishop of Ely's Registry	240.00	109433
Thurlow Nunn Standen	55.54	109434
Cooleraid Ltd	4.80	109435
G & J Peck Ltd	279.22	109436

Payments relating to staff since meeting on the 10th February 2014

Salaries and wages	£0.00
Inland Revenue (tax & NI)	£0.00
Pension fund payments	£0.00

Members noted and approved the bank reconciliation against the accounts for the period ending 28th February 2014, which was tabled.