



CITY OF ELY COUNCIL
72 MARKET STREET
ELY
CAMBS CB7 4LS

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL COUNCIL MEETING & MAYOR MAKING
HELD AT 7.30 PM ON MONDAY, 14TH MAY 2012
IN THE CHURCH HALL, ST MARY'S CHURCH, ST MARY'S STREET, ELY

PRESENT:

The Mayor, Cllr J Yates	Cllr S Overall	Cllr R Hobbs
Cllr P Eden	Cllr A Arnold	Cllr J Chaplin
Cllr W Burton	Cllr E Griffin-Singh	Cllr M Rouse
Cllr A Winchester	Cllr R Wood	Cllr B Ashton
Cllr E Every	Cllr A Brear	

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from the Mayor of Cambridge, Bishop Thomson, Chief Constable Parr, Cllr & Mrs N Clarke, the Bishop of Ely, Mr R Bamford, the High Sheriff, Mr A Hampton, Mr J Dennick, Ely Fire Station Commander M Murdock, Mr & Mrs Bebbington, Mr P Sindall, Mrs A Broadhurst, James Paice MP, Mrs S Freestone, Mr & Mrs J Willson, Chairman of Fenland District Council, Miss L Bassett, Chairman of Hunstanton Parish Council, Mrs V Hearne-Casapieri, Mrs M Pickering and Mr & Mrs Hughes.

2. Out Going Mayor's Report for 2011/2012

The Mayor, Cllr John Yates welcomed everyone to the meeting. At the time of last year's Mayor Making the Council had four vacancies after the elections. Following the advertisement of the vacancies, 41 applications were received. By due process members filled these vacancies on what the individuals could offer and their future vision of the Council. This has resulted in adding skills to those that already existed, making the Council a vibrant and active organisation ready to take on new challenges.

Last year he stated that he was committed to the vision held by the Council of taking responsibility for what was Ely and building on the successful CCTV service the Council had then taken on and others, eg; for which the Council had been responsible for. This direction of travel has recently been endorsed emphatically by the Council. He was pleased to say that recent discussions with ECDC had been able to give a broad outline of the Council's ideas for the future and had agreed to work together with a clear understanding that the Council's objective should be to provide improved and more cost effective services for the taxpayer. Some progress on this path has been made. In the last year it had been agreed that the Council will establish, manage and facilitate a City Centre Management Forum to develop ideas and implement them to sustain and improve the City Centre, involving all stakeholders. In partnership with the County Council this Council has established and will operate, on a daily basis street pavement licences. The Council is in discussion and negotiation with ECDC regarding the use

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Outgoing Mayor's Report for 2011/2012 continued

of the Maltings Cottage and the management of the Riverfront. It is also exploring the possibility of taking over the responsibility for car parking at the request of ECDC.

At the same time the essential need for improved workshop and staff facilities at the Cemetery have progressed. Staff hours and numbers have been adjusted to meet seasonal workloads. Additional play areas have been taken on and the facilities at High Barns play area have been improved. Two other successes have been the installation of solar lights in the Park and submission of a funding application for a pedestrian crossing at High Barns.

In order to achieve these objectives, an increased strain had been put on the office staff. A review of these staff had been undertaken and their hours increased appropriately. This essential resource will continually be reviewed throughout the process of taking on additional responsibility.

He was pleased to be able to report that in these stringent times the Council had been able to keep the precept to a 2.5% increase only.

He said it had been a privilege to attend numerous functions throughout the year as Mayor. All of these had been stimulating and pleasurable. He had learnt what it was that made Ely unique. It is not the buildings, river or open spaces as such, but the people and the rich range of activities that take place. He felt it was certainly an exciting and vibrant place to live, work and play.

In his year he had attempted to change the common perception that the youth of today were all anti-social, difficult and coach potatoes. He was particularly proud that with the help of the Ely Standard and other youth organisations that had supported him, he had been able to demonstrate that the opposite exists for the vast majority. From this work he had been able to establish a Youth Forum, which will continue to grow over the next few years.

He thanked his fellow councillors for all their support throughout his Mayoral year; the organisations and individuals who have supported his youth theme; the Reverend Alan Hulme for being his Chaplain for the year and all the support he had given him; his consorts, the main one being his sister Gilly and Sue Hampton who had accompanied him, when his sister had been unable to; and his wife, Helen who have supported him throughout the year. He also thanked the Clerk, Assistant Clerk, Administration Assistant the all the Cemetery staff.

3. Vote of Thanks to the Retiring Mayor

Cllr Hobbs said that it was unbelievable that a year had passed since he had stood before the Council to propose John for the Right Worshipful Mayor to the City of Ely for the forthcoming year. He had warned John that coming from Blackburn, which had produced a former Mayor of Ely, high expectations were anticipated. John had not only lived up to those expectations but exceeded them. Those councillors that have been in the chair know that all too quickly a year is not very long to achieve the changes that are needed in the fast moving City of Ely, but John hit the office of Mayor running and has achieved continuity and laid down strong policies for those who follow. John has used his vast experience when chairing Full Council meetings. He has always ensured that all councillors were able to express their views, and has the art of putting a small amount of humour into a meeting, which has dispelled any tensions. As in many mayoral years many seeds are set and in John's year this was no exception, but sadly those seeds take some time to grow and it can take considerable time before they "bloom". When this happens members will remember the considerable effort and guidance John has given to the development of the City and this Council. It gave him great pleasure, on behalf of the City of Ely Council and the residents of the parish to record thanks to John for all his hard work and dedication.

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4. Election of the Chairman who shall thereupon, in accordance with the Local Government Act of 1972, become the Right Worshipful the Mayor of the City of Ely

Cllr Yates said he was very pleased to nominate Cllr William Burton as the Mayor of the City of Ely for 2012/2013. Before retirement, some ten years ago Will had a very successful career in the building industry, having held senior positions in a family building firm, serving primarily customers across North London. This work entailed meeting bespoke requirements of clients and organising men and materials to time and budget. Quite befitting for a future Mayor. On retiring to Ely, Will has committed himself to the community, becoming involved in local matters through Ely Perspective and the City of Ely Council. He has also been responsible for managing the marina for a time, which fits his passion for boating. Cllr Yates said he had known Will for the last eight years. He had found him to be sincere and devoted to matters he believed in. He had suffered a difficult time with the loss in the last two years of his wife Heather, but he had now found a new life with Siobhan and he wished them well for their future life together. He reiterated that he had no hesitation in nominating him. Cllr Ashton said he was most pleased to second Cllr Burton's nomination. He wished him well and looked forward to working with him. He also hoped he enjoyed undertaking this duty during the coming year.

By unanimous agreement Cllr Burton was elected as Chairman and Mayor.

Cllr Burton, the retiring Mayor and the Clerk left the Hall and entered the robing room. Cllr Burton was invested with the robes and the Chain of Office. The Town Crier then announced the new Mayor and Cllr Burton re-entered the Hall

5. Reading and Signing of the Declaration of Office and Swearing the Oath of Allegiance by the Mayor

Cllr Burton read and signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office. He then swore the Oath of Allegiance.

6. Statement of Acceptance of Office by the Newly Elected Mayor

Cllr Burton thanked everyone for attending. He said he was honoured to accept the office of Chairman of the Council and thanked his fellow councillors for placing their trust in him and he assured them that he would endeavour to uphold the high standards set by his predecessors. Over the past year he had attended numerous functions, representing the Mayor, which had helped him to learn the ropes of the office. He had met many interesting and friendly people. He thanked John for the opportunity to do so.

In his year of office he planned to continue to expand the services the Council are currently providing and continue to build upon that begun over the past years in respect of returning to the City, that which is considered to be the Council's responsibility. This will be achieved by raising the Council's status and using the framework of the Localism Act, together with the involvement of local people and businesses as intended in the Act. The Council is now working with East Cambs District Council and other partners on a strategic vision. To date these responses have been positive and the Council will now build on this in order to develop and deliver services that will benefit everyone who lives, works and visits the City. He said that the Council can make a difference to the community by working together; councils, businesses and residents, and the Localism Act will provide the impetus for this. As mentioned by Cllr Yates, initiatives are in place and many of these will be implemented during this term to drive the Council's vision forward. The first of these is convening the City Centre Forum; the date of the first meeting will be announced next week.

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Statement of Acceptance of Office by the Newly Elected Mayor continued

He said that the Mayor's Charity fund this year will focus on 'Local Community' and will be coordinated on his behalf by the Cambridgeshire Community Foundation and will make use of the Local Giving donation website. He will be working closely with them to raise funds for the City's community. He asked that everyone support his endeavours to help the people of Ely help each other by contributing. He thanked everyone again for attending and hoped they had enjoyed the evening.

The Consort, Mrs Siobhan Burton was then invested with the Chain of Office by the retiring Consort.

7. Election of the Vice-Chairman who shall become the Deputy Mayor of the City of Ely

Cllr Burton was pleased to propose Cllr Griffin-Singh as the Vice-Chairman and Deputy Mayor of Ely.

Cllr Yates seconded Cllr Burton's proposal. He said he had known Cllr Griffin-Singh for eight years. She wears Ely on her sleeve and he felt she would hold the post of Vice-Chairman and Deputy Mayor with honour.

By unanimous agreement, Cllr Griffin-Singh was duly elected as Vice-Chairman and Deputy Mayor. She read and signed the Declaration of Office and was invested with the Chain of Office.

The Deputy Consort was then invested with the Beckett Brooch.

8. Committees, representatives to other organisations, school governors and trustees to Ely Museum

Appointments as detailed separately, proposed by Cllr Hobbs and seconded by Cllr Eden were unanimously approved.

9. Authorisation of Signatories

Signatories as detailed below, proposed by Cllr Ashton and seconded by Cllr Overall were unanimously approved.

Barclays Bank account – any two of the Mayor, Deputy Mayor and Cllr Yates.

Cambridge Building Society accounts – any two of the Mayor, Deputy Mayor, Cllr Yates and Cllr Overall.

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