



**CITY OF ELY COUNCIL  
SESSIONS HOUSE  
LYNN ROAD  
ELY  
CAMBS CB7 4EG**

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**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL COUNCIL MEETING & MAYOR MAKING  
HELD AT 7.30 PM ON MONDAY, 18TH MAY 2015  
AT THE MALTINGS, SHIP LANE, ELY**

**PRESENT:**

The Mayor, Cllr E Every	Cllr I Lindsay	Cllr R Hobbs
Cllr C Phillips	Cllr A Arnold	Cllr J Pearson
Cllr S Austen	Cllr A Whelan	Cllr M Rouse
Cllr D Warman	Cllr Mlansell	Cllr C Whelan
Cllr P Moakes		
<i>Mayor's Consort, Mr Colin Every</i>	<i>Deputy Mayoress, Mrs Suzanne Lindsay</i>	
<i>10 parishioners</i>		

**1. Apologies for Absence**

Apologies were received from Cllr S Friend-Smith, the Town Crier and Keeper of the Bell, Avril Hayter-Smith and Mr Graham Hayter-Smith.

**2. Out Going Mayor's Report for 2014/2015**

The Mayor, Cllr Elisabeth Every welcomed everyone to the Annual Council Meeting and Mayor Making for the City of Ely Council. She said it had been a real privilege and joy to serve as Mayor of the City of Ely over the past year. The aim for the City of Ely Council was and continues to be based on the pride the Council has in promoting the City, preserving the incredible heritage, encouraging economic sustainability, growth and making Ely a desirable community in which to live, be educated, work, shop and enjoy leisure time. Her main objectives of the year were based on Pride, Partnership and People. She wanted to work on initiatives to develop pride, both individual, community and corporate in the City's environment; expand the existing partnership working and collaboration, which had been so important in moving forward; develop new Partnerships required to meet these aims and support residents, local communities and businesses through improved communication. It was important to her that initiatives started should be sustainable and be able to gain a momentum where they could continue.

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THE MAYOR  
1ST JUNE 2015

### **Out Going Mayor's Report for 2014/2015 continued .....**

She was delighted to report the partnerships were thriving. In particular, the City Centre Forum, which strives to develop the local City economy through local consultation. The strong relationships have resulted in the City Centre benefiting from increased footfall during all major events. Progress is also well underway to develop strong business and school links to encourage employability skills and greater opportunities for the young people to work locally. Working with the District Council has resulted in regional funding to support a person working part-time to manage these links in the local area. Plans are also in hand to set up a volunteer network of businesses who are prepared to support the employment of apprentices locally.

The Pride in Ely initiative was launched with a 'litter pick' manned by volunteers in March. The next step is to launch a voluntary code for the city centre organisations.

The Council has acquired the Sessions House, saving one of the most prestigious buildings in Ely. Phase I of the upgrading of the Sessions House is now completed. It now houses the City of Ely Council offices and the Court Room and other rooms are available for meetings. Phase II is now being planned, in order to provide further opportunities for community use and adding to the Ely Heritage Trail and educational visits organised by Ely Museum. In future, the Council offices will be open five days a week. A staffing review has resulted in an organisation which is structured to support the Council's services, including the maintenance of the Council's buildings. The Council took over the Maltings at the end of September last year. The venue is now emerging as the Village Hall it should always have been, providing a wonderful setting for commercial and community events and is open for business. The new Events Manager starts in June and has the mandate to provide the right mix, so the venue remains an asset, but not a liability for the residents of Ely.

She said the Council was aware that improved communication was vital. The Neighbourhood Panel will be reinstated in a slightly different format and will be called the Community Panel. This will provide an opportunity for the Council to consult with its residents on emerging issues. An improved and interactive new City Council website will become 'live' shortly. The Council's achievements are the result of strong team work, both Councillors and staff. The strengths of the team have been put to good use and she believed there was now a basis on which good business planning for the future will enable the Council to manage viability of the planned growth to come.

The highlights of her year had been the people she had met and the events she had attended. She will always remember the hospitality and the energy and drive that the local community groups had. She felt the huge number of volunteers in Ely really do make the community a better place to live. She hoped they had also benefitted from the support the role of Mayor can give.

She thanked all the staff and Councillors of the City of Ely Council, and all the volunteers who had helped the Council to maintain so many of its services. These volunteers work on CCTV, Ely in Bloom, Christmas Lights and the Switch On Evening, City Centre Forum, the Maltings and Sessions House. It had been a real privilege to work with such a great team. She also said thank you to those Councillors who were not present, but with whom she had worked so closely, Simon Pittock; Elaine Griffin-Singh; Brian Ashton; Nigel Clarke and Graham Barber – all who had worked with such commitment for the benefit of the City and its residents. She gave special thanks to John Yates, who

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THE MAYOR  
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### **Out Going Mayor's Report for 2014/2015 continued .....**

had been her Deputy Mayor and she had worked so closely and tirelessly with this last year. Working on the agenda of the Council had meant that he had a real grip on the initiatives requiring sustainability. It was a personal sadness that the Council had lost the knowledge, expertise and commitment that John always demonstrated. Her best wishes went to him and his wife, Helen, who was also a great support. The challenge for the Council was to continue to improve. The key would be to growing the existing partnerships and establishing new ones between Councils, other agencies and the community. 2015/16 will continue to bring opportunities for the City and its people. The Council needs to ensure that it capitalises on these. She thanked the Dean for being her Chaplin for the year and the Cathedral for hosting many of her activities. She had met with him regularly and been able to share information which, she believed, had benefitted all. The charity she had chosen for her year was East Anglia's Children's Hospices (EACH), which gives care and support to life threatened children, young people and their families and has a local hospice in Milton. She thanked all those who helped raise funds, particularly the local businesses, colleagues and friends who had been so generous in donating prizes for raffles and auctions. She believed she would be able to give £12,000 to the Hospice. Putting that into perspective, would pay for 2.5 days of running costs there.

Her final thanks were to her husband, Colin, her sons and all her friends, who had been so supportive and patient. She could not have done any of it without them. She thanked everyone for listening.

### **3. Vote of Thanks to the Retiring Mayor**

Cllr Hobbs said he could not believe it had been a year since he had proposed Cllr Every. He thanked her for leading the Council this past year and all the energy she brought. She had shown great leadership and strength and moved the Council forward to be more community based, with greater links with local businesses. He thanked her on behalf of all the Councillors and the City for such an excellent year.

### **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**

Due to the Mayor Elect, John Yates not being re-elected it was necessary for a nominee for Mayor to be proposed and seconded.

Cllr Hobbs proposed Cllr Every be re-elected for a further year. He felt that her experience over the last year would be beneficial in continuing to move the Council forward, especially as there were six new councillors. This was seconded by Cllr Lindsay and by unanimous agreement Cllr Every was elected as Chairman and Mayor.

*Cllr Every and the Clerk left the hall and entered the robing room. Cllr Every was invested with the robes and the Chain of Office. The Mayor and Clerk re-entered the hall.*

### **5. Reading and Signing of the Declaration of Office and Swearing the Oath of Allegiance by the Right Worshipful the Mayor of the City of Ely**

Cllr Every read and signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office. She then swore the Oath of Allegiance.

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THE MAYOR  
1ST JUNE 2015

## **6. Statement of Acceptance of Office by the Newly Elected the Right Worshipful Mayor of the City of Ely**

Cllr Every thanked her fellow Councillors and said it was a huge honour to continue as Mayor. She was thrilled and delighted to continue for another year. She welcomed the new councillors to the Council and hoped they were enjoying and feeling part of the team. She looked forward to benefitting Ely and its residents.

*The Consort, Mr Colin Every was re- invested with the Chain of Office*

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

Cllr Hobbs was pleased to propose Cllr Ian Lindsay as the Vice-Chairman and Deputy Mayor of Ely. Although he had not been on the Council for very long, he was very confident that he brought a wealth of experience and will do an excellent job of supporting the Mayor.

Cllr Every said that she was very happy to second Cllr Hobb's proposal and she looked forward to working with him.

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

Cllr Lindsay said he felt enormously privileged, proud and grateful for the honour that councillors had given him by electing him as the Deputy Mayor for the City of Ely. He promised the Mayor he would do his utmost to support her during the coming year. He could not have wished for a better mentor to help him prepare for the following year. He looked forward to the continued building on the firm foundations laid through the sustained efforts of the previous Council, to whom are owed a great deal of gratitude. He said the Council faces a challenging, but exciting future, but he would do his best to represent the aspirations of all his fellow councillors, whilst promoting sustainable growth and development in the City of Ely, so that it remains such a nice place to live and bring up children.

*The Deputy Mayoress was then invested with the Beckett Brooch.*

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

Appointments as detailed separately, were proposed by Cllr Arnold and seconded by Cllr Pearson and were unanimously approved.

## **9. Authorisation of Signatories**

Signatories as detailed below, were proposed by Cllr Rouse and seconded by Cllr Phillips and were unanimously approved.

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

Cambridge Building Society accounts – any two of the Mayor, Deputy Mayor, Cllr Hobbs and Cllr Arnold.

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THE MAYOR  
1ST JUNE 2015