



**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE CITY OF ELY COUNCIL HELD IN ECDC COUNCIL CHAMBER,
THE GRANGE, NUTHOLT LANE, ELY AT 7.00 PM ON TUESDAY 7TH APRIL 2015**

PRESENT:

The Mayor, Cllr E Every
Cllr A Arnold
Cllr A Whelan
Cllr S Pittock
1 parishioner

Deputy Mayor, Cllr J Yates
Cllr R Hobbs
Cllr I Lindsay
Cllr E Griffin-Singh
District Cllr J Friend-Smith

Cllr C Phillips
Cllr N Clarke
Cllr M Rouse
Cllr J Pearson

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Cllrs Ashton and Barber.

2. COUNCILLOR REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATIONS

There were no requests for dispensations.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

No declarations of disclosable pecuniary and other interests from Councillors as per Standing Order 83b were received.

4. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING HELD ON THE 9TH MARCH AND MATTERS ARISING

The minutes of the last meeting held on the 9th March were agreed and signed as a true record, subject to the deletion of payment to ESPO of £85.28. Pages 1407, 1408, 1409, 1410, 1411 and 1412 refer.

Matters arising: Page 1408, item 5 – Cllr Yates informed members he had met with Linda Franklin, a parishioner who had attended the last Full Council meeting. He had discussed the concerns she had raised with regard to obstacles in the streets, such as ‘A’ boards. He had undertaken a brief survey of ‘A’ boards in the City and had counted 25. The Mayor informed members she had also gone around the City with the Guide Dog Association, blind folded. She endorsed the dangers there are. Cllr Yates proposed he write on behalf of the City of Ely Council to the Highways Department to ascertain which businesses have licences to use the pavement and the County Council’s policy for ‘A’ boards. Cllr Hobbs suggested that Cllr Yates pass the information on his survey to Fenprobe, as they will be able to record this for their clients to be aware of. Cllr Griffin-Singh requested the Council thinks about the way they approach this with the traders. The Council has built up a good relationship with the traders and should approach this with them carefully.

Page 1408, item 5 – The Mayor informed members the Access Audit had been received for the Sessions House. Mrs Holden, as Chair of the Access Group had therefore been invited to go through this with a small group of members. This had been a very useful meeting. Mrs Holden had attended in her electric wheelchair and brought her NHS manual wheelchair with her. She tried the electric lift into the Chamber with both wheelchairs, and with a slight adjustment to the lift, was happy to that wheelchair access into the Chamber was acceptable, regarding an access point of view. Mrs Holden agreed to examine the Access Audit report in more detail and a further meeting will then be arranged.

Page 1409, item 9 ii) – Cllr Clarke confirmed the letter to Barretts regarding the sewage problems had been drafted, but not yet sent. The Mayor reported her ‘Spring Clean’ had been a great success, with 29 people volunteering. Cigarette butts were a big problem within the City.

Page 1410, item 13 – Cllr Yates informed members that he had been undertaking work on this. There will be a Flotilla, with a 1940’s theme at Ely Aquafest. The Rotary Club of Ely will also be having a Glen Miller band event. He had spoken to the Cathedral regarding a Peace Service in September.

The Mayor reported that 35 people had attended the recent Council Drop In and two successful tours of Sessions House had been undertaken.

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.

Cllr Rouse, in his capacity as a County Councillor reported the yellow lines for Lisle Lane were approved at Committee. Test work for a possible cycleway on Sainsbury's side of Lisle Lane is currently being undertaken.

Cllr Hobbs in his capacity as a District Councillor informed members the plans for the new cinema and outline plans for the swimming pool had been approved. It was anticipated the new cinema would be completed late 2016/early 2017. He said it was a very exciting time for Ely and the district. City members had attended the recent ECDC Parish Seminar. Cllr Hobbs requested the Council send feedback to Commercial Services on this experience.

District Cllr J Friend-Smith was concerned the new development in the North of Ely did not have the same problems with roads being adopted, as with some of the more recent developments. He was concerned about the road works currently being undertaken in Market Street. He had requested the disabled parking be moved nearer to the Post Office, but had been informed this could not be undertaken at the present time.

6. MAYOR'S ENGAGEMENTS & REPORT

The Mayor reported there would be new agenda items on Full Council as standard items regarding Chairman's Announcements, Traffic and North Ely. The traffic item will give members the opportunity to look at all the current issues and report back regularly. This will ensure the Council pulls these issues together and be more proactive in working with other agencies. The North of Ely will enable regular updates from ECDC, as this is a major item.

The Mayor had attended the Stuntney Village Council, a meeting regarding Fenland/Ely funding for Apprentices in March, Stamp Auction, had given a talk to St Mary's School, Cambridge students on the electoral system and local government, visited the Language Café in Ely, had attended a discussion on apprenticeship funding with ECDC/Skills Funding Agency, CCC Project Group meeting on the Ely By-Pass, meet with the Dean of Ely Cathedral, met with ECDC and Bridge regarding broadband, held Drop-in and tours at Sessions House and attended prize giving of short story competition. She had also attended a 'Sinfonia Concert 'The Island and Hereward', attended Ely Youth Choir Concert, interviewed for an Events Manager at the Maltings, Guide Dog Blindfold Tour around Ely, City Centre Forum seminar, Regional Apprentice Ambassador Training, Ely College Year 7 Film Festival, Ely Imps Concert organised by the Cathedral for EACH, Ely Choral Society Monteverdi Vespers Cathedral Concert, Pride in Ely Litter Pick, Access meeting in the Sessions House and ECDC Parish Councils Seminar

7. PLANNING

Reports of a Planning Committee meeting held on the 23th March 2015 and immediately prior to this meeting were received from Cllr Yates.

8. INFORMATION ONLY ITEMS

The following information only items were received:-

Notification of tree work:- The Priors House, The College, Ely; 3 Douglas Court, Ely; Douglas Court, Ely; 3 Summerhayes, Ely; 22 Williams Close, Ely; 10 Barton Square, Ely; Hereward Hall, Kings School, Ely; 32 Egremont Street, Ely; 7/8 The Gallery, Ely; 74 St Mary's Street, Ely; Bishop Woodford Retreat & Conference Centre, Bishop Woodford House, Barton Road, Ely

Notification of changes to local bus services: Cancellation of Absolutely by Norfolk Green and replaced by Stagecoach 15/15A/15B

LCR

The Clerk

Clerks & Councils Direct

9. COMMITTEE REPORTS

(i) PERSONNEL, FINANCE AND GOVERNANCE – The Mayor presented a report of a meeting held on the 23rd March, which was approved. A Working Group to undertake the annual review of the Council's adopted Policies and Procedures were appointed. Members agreed the arrangements for the public to speak at Full Council meetings should remain the same. If a member of the public raises a question or provides information on an item, this will be noted and then referred to when the item is discussed by members. Public are unable to take part in any debate. Members considered a request for financial assistance towards the maintenance of the old Ely fire engine. It was agreed the Clerk would identify if there was any available underspend in the 2014/15 budget to fund this maintenance. If this was identified it was agreed in principle, this financial assistance would be provided to the Prickwillow Engine Museum. Members clarified the mistake in the minutes of the meeting held on the 15th October 2014. This should have read the Internal Auditor was reappointed for 2014/15. Members noted following the External Auditor's recommendations from 2013/14 accounts, Sessions House would be recorded at its original cost of £1 on the annual return and no adjustment to this value will be made unless it is disposed of. Members also discussed whether they felt the Council had maintained an adequate system of internal control during the financial year and whether it had carried out an assessment of risks facing the Council. Members had undertaken a cash reserve risk assessment when setting the precept. They had also assessed the risks of taking responsibility for the Maltings. Although, this had not been a formal risk assessment, but in various discussion documents considered at Full Council. The Council also follows set internal controls. Members undertook an annual review of the Council's direct debits. The current direct debits were noted and agreed that these should continue. Members, however, approved six new direct debits with British Telecommunications, ECDC and Southern Electric relating to Sessions House and the Maltings.

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

(iii) RECREATION AND CEMETERY – No report as Committee had not met.

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

(v) ASSETS & ACQUISITIONS – No report as Committee had not met.

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

(vii) YOUTH FORUM – No report as Committee had not met.

10. WORKING PARTIES/STEERING GROUPS REPORTS

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.*

CCTV - a verbal report was given in Committee at the end of the meeting.

City Centre Forum Seminar – The Mayor informed members of the successful seminar held on the 24th March. 35 people had attended and Mr A Olley gave a very informative presentation on footfall. A further footfall survey will be carried out once the Post Office has become established. A discussion also took place on the possible signage for the City Centre. The new Ely Food and Drink Guides were handed out.

Broad Street Working Group – Cllr Yates reported this had met in July 2014, when feedback had been given to ECDC on the proposals for the Broad Street/Back Hill junction. These do not seem to have been acted on and Cllr Yates is now following this up.

The Mayor reported there would be a Section 106 meeting next week, which would be the last one in this format. It was agreed the Council would draw up possible projects for future CIL money.

11. REPORTS FROM EXTERNAL MEETINGS

There were no external meetings.

The parishioner and District Cllr Friend-Smith left the meeting at 7.35 pm.

12. NETWORK RAIL CONSULTATION ON ELY TO SOHAM RAIL CAPACITY ENHANCEMENTS

Members discussed this proposal in great detail. It was agreed Cllr Yates would draft a response from the Council. The Council supported the proposal, and would acknowledge the benefits of the ability to move considerable freight from the secondary roads onto the railway, with significant environmental improvements. Enhancing the possible opening of a station at Soham would improve passenger experiences in both directions. It was also imperative that the dualling and the proposed Southern By-Pass for Ely are complimentary, as one without the other would cause chaos and thwart proposals to improve the Station Gateway in Ely.

13. REQUEST FROM CITY OF ELY FOOTBALL CLUB TO RECEIVE AGREED FUNDING FOR NEW FLOODLIGHTS

Members considered the request from the City of Ely Football Club that this money now be granted from Section 106 funding. Cllr Lindsay proposed this funding be allocated from Section 106 funding, which was seconded by Cllr Rouse and unanimously approved. Cllr Hobbs abstained from the vote.

14. TO CONSIDER QUOTATIONS RECEIVED FOR THE COUNCIL’S NEW WEBSITE

Cllr Pittock explained the process that had been undertaken and presented the quotes received for the Council’s new website. Cllr Yates proposed the cheapest quote of £3250 from Chapel Digital Group Ltd be accepted. This was seconded by Cllr Whelan and unanimously approved. Members thanked Cllr Pittock for all his work on this.

15. TO APPROVE THE APPOINTMENT OF THE EVENTS MANAGER FOR THE MALTINGS

The Mayor and Clerk explained the process that had taken place. Three candidates had been interviewed and it was recommended that Mrs D Jones be appointed as the Events Manager for the Maltings. Cllr Rouse proposed this recommendation be accepted. This was seconded by Cllr Hobbs and unanimously approved.

16. STATUTORY RESOLUTION UNDER REGULATION B1(5)

The Mayor proposed the Council pass a resolution from the 1st April 2015, that Christian Weston be specified as a pensionable employee under Regulation B1(5) of the Local Government Regulations 1986 (as amended). This was seconded by Cllr Yates and unanimously approved.

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.*

18. FINANCE

Members approved the following for payment:

Internet Marketing Company	24.00	paid by direct debit
Barclays	27.55	paid by direct debit
FuelGenie	121.99	paid by direct debit
Barclaycard	934.27	paid by direct debit
ECDC	384.00	paid by direct debit
Armourstore Self Storage Ltd	207.60	paid by direct debit
ESPO	66.74	paid by direct debit
ESPO	184.84	paid by direct debit
ESPO	1136.11	paid by direct debit
Mr P M Jeffs	150.00	109889
Konica Minolta Bus Sols Ltd	238.72	109890
Jewson Ltd	60.70	109891
S Jay	12.44	109895

Finance continued

Cambridge Marketing	880.00	109892
Fenland Leisure Products Ltd	28.40	109897
City Cycle Centre	70.67	109898
Labour-tech Recruitment Ltd	73.50	109900
People-Asset Management Ltd	106.80	109901
G & J Peck Ltd	748.80	109902
Henderson Electrical Services Ltd	205.20	109903
BT Payment Services Ltd	155.85	109904
Anglian Water	18.86	109907
Anglian Water	23.88	109908
ESPO	4.32	109905
Wider Plan Ltd	112.54	109906
Labour-tech Recruitment Ltd	63.00	109909
Allen's Skip Hire Ltd	120.00	109910
ACAS	1170.00	109911
Create Signs Ltd	225.60	109912
B&H Designs	102.00	109913
Wider Plan Ltd	112.54	109915
Performing Rights Society Ltd	3139.30	109916
Smiths Gore Client Receipts Acc	251.50	109917
Rogan Heating Services Ltd	235.20	109918
Witchford Lighting Centre Ltd	228.00	109919
Hall Ennion & Young	1552.06	109920
Konica Minolta Bus Sols Ltd	145.40	109921
Labour-tech Recruitment Ltd	63.00	109922
CamAlarms Ltd	174.00	109923
ECDC	93.41	109924
ECDC	94.80	109924
Mitchell & Mayle Ltd	60.00	109927
Salmons Bros Ltd	1868.09	109925
British Telecommunications plc	5900.88	109926
Zurich Municipal	18307.34	109929
Information Commissioner	35.00	109930
Ken Ellis	1000.00	109931
ESPO	210.50	109928
Ben Baxter	44.00	109935
ICCM	90.00	109934
AmeyCespa (East) Ltd	17.89	109933
Francotyp Postalia Ltd	100.00	paid by direct debit
FuelGenie	121.99	paid by direct debit
G & J Peck Ltd	76.33	109932
British Telecommunications	63.36	paid by direct debit
Labour-tech Recruitment Ltd	21.00	109936
Anglian Water	402.44	109937
Ernest Doe & Sons Ltd	389.26	109938
British Telecommunications	165.18	paid by direct debit
British Telecommunications	73.26	paid by direct debit
Thurlow Nunn Standen	11.76	109939
ESPO	18.24	109940
Ernest Doe & Sons Ltd	389.26	109941
Shire Leasing	392.70	paid by direct debit
BT Payment Services Ltd	29.78	109899
BT Payment Services Ltd	162.68	109914
S Pittock	784.47	109896

Payments relating to staff since meeting on the 9th March 2015

Salaries and wages	£9165.55
Inland Revenue (tax & NI)	£2511.57
Pension fund payments	£3482.24

Members noted and approved the bank reconciliation against the accounts for the period ending 31st March 2015 which was tabled.

The Council went into Committee for items 10 and 17