



MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE CITY OF ELY COUNCIL HELD IN ECDC'S COUNCIL CHAMBER, NUTHOLT LANE, ELY AT 7.00 PM ON MONDAY, 6TH FEBRUARY 2017

PRESENT:

The Mayor, Cllr I Lindsay
Cllr M Rouse
Cllr S Friend-Smith
Cllr R Hobbs
Cllr J Yates
2 parishioners

Cllr A Arnold
Cllr M Lansell
Cllr C Phillips
Cllr A Whelan
Cllr J Pearson

3 representatives from Mantle Estates

Cllr P Moakes
Cllr D Warman
Cllr S Austen
Cllr C Whelan

The Mayor observed a one minute silence to remember John Ison, a former councillor and past Mayor of the Council. He had died on the 4th February 2017. The Mayor will send a letter of condolence to his family.

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received and accepted from the Cllr Every.

2. COUNCILLOR REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATIONS

There were no requests for dispensations.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

There were no declarations of interests.

4. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING HELD ON THE 9TH JANUARY 2017 AND MATERS ARISING

Minutes of the last meeting held on the 9th January 2017 were agreed and signed as a true record. Pages 1557, 1558, 1559 and 1560 refer.

Matters arising: Page 1559, item 16 – Cllr Hobbs confirmed he had liaised with Cambs County Council regarding the correct positioning of the double yellow lines in Dovehouse Close. Page 1559, item 17 – Cllr Hobbs reported he had not responded on this consultation yet, but would ensure he did so as soon as possible.

5. TO RECEIVE A PRESENTATION FROM MANTLE ESTATES REGARDING LAND AT ANGEL DROVE, ELY

Three representatives from Mantle Estates gave members a presentation on their plans for the land at Angel Drove, Ely. They confirmed they would be submitting a new planning application in the next few weeks. They envisage this site as a gateway to the City, as already outlined in the Local Plan. Initially, Phase I will be developed, and they are currently talking to a number of large retailers, who may wish to occupy these units.

The Mantle Estates representatives left the meeting at 7.25 pm.

6. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman had no announcements to make.

7. QUESTION TIME

Mrs Holden, a parishioner voiced her concerns regarding the proposed plans to extend the taxi rank in Market Street. She felt if the taxi rank outside Thingmebobs was extended this would cause more obstruction to pedestrians and the disabled, with the boxes already on the pavement and the doors opening from the taxis. It will also reduce the number of parking spaces, which are heavily used by people that wish to pop into the post office etc. Cllr Austen said that Thingmebobs should not have the boxes out. This has been raised with the County Council and they had agreed to monitor this. The Mayor informed Mrs Holden, that due to the time constraints of this consultation, members would be responding as individuals.

Mrs Haynes, a parishioner who has worked with the City of Ely Council on the issue of A boards within the city centre, informed members the Access Group would be having a presentation from the Guide Dogs for the Blind, Streets Ahead campaign, which had been implemented in Norwich. It was hoped this would work in Ely.

8. REPORTS FROM COUNTY COUNCILLORS AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

Cllr Rouse, in his capacity as a County Councillor, informed members he had been on the panel which had considered the Minor Highway bids today. Every village had concern regarding speeding. The results will be published in March. He had also been approached in relation to the taxi rank extension, as there were concerns on the impact this would have on small businesses in this area. People felt there were too many taxis. The Asset and Investment Committee had confirmed the site at Ely, for the relocation of the archives, was still the best option with regards to value for money. They will now finalise the designs and then the tendering process will commence. It is hoped it will be completed in August 2018. He will also be having a further meeting with residents regarding the New Barns Road proposals next week. The County Council's budget plan will be considered on the 14th February.

Cllr Hobbs, in his capacity as a District Councillor informed members that ECDC had commenced the construction of the sports centre, which should be a 62 week build. He had attended a meeting regarding the Bypass, with members of the Allotments Association, which had been very fruitful. There will be a good car park and a more secure site at Bridge Fen, provided as part of this project. He reported there had been two objections to the proposals in Dovehouse Close, so this now had to go back to the County Council for a formal decision.

9. MAYOR'S ENGAGEMENTS & REPORT

The Mayor had attended the Ouses Wash Tourist event; Local Councils consultation on the Draft Local Plan; the opening of the Chagall Exhibition at Babylon Gallery; the opening of Ely Perspective exhibition at Ely Museum; East Cambs Parish Councils meeting at Isleham and presented the Council's Minor Highway bid.

10. PLANNING

A report of a Planning Committee meeting held immediately prior to this meeting was received.

11. INFORMATION ONLY ITEMS

The following information only items were received: -

Tree work:- 1 Bishop Laney Drive, Ely; Rosewall, 5 Lynton Drive, Ely; 190 New Barns Avenue, Ely; 3 Riflemans Close, Ely; 19 Egremont Street, Ely;

Street Naming and Numbering:- Millers House, 64 Quayside, Ely; Silver House, 64 Silver Street, Ely

Changes to local bus services:- changes to 9/X9 and 12

Clerks & Councils Direct

The Clerk Magazine

Town Crier's Annual Report

12. COMMITTEE REPORTS

(i) PERSONNEL, FINANCE AND GOVERNANCE – No report as Committee had not met. Members noted the letter from the Cambridge Building Society regarding their shared ownership review. The Mayor proposed that in view of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted, that this 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 Phillips and agreed to go into Committee at the end of the meeting. The Clerk reported the boiler at Sessions House had broken. A quotation of £9937.50 plus VAT, had been obtained from M Rogerson Ltd, the Council's heating engineers, to replace the boiler. They have always been very competitive with their pricing. Although, three quotes would normally be obtained, due to there being a limited number of commercial engineers in the area and the urgency of the matter, Cllr Hobbs proposed this quotation be accepted. Cllr Friend-Smith seconded this and members unanimously approved this recommendation.

(ii) ENVIRONMENT – Cllr Lansall presented a report of a meeting held on the 23rd January, which was approved. Members approved the new interactive asset map for the Council at a cost of £1110. The memorial bench for Nigel Clarke will be ordered shortly. An update regarding the issues with the street lighting in Ely was noted. A Council litter picking event will take place on the 2nd April.

(iii) RECREATION AND CEMETERY – No report as Committee had not met. The next meeting will be held on the 1st March.

(iv) CHRISTMAS LIGHTS – Cllr Arnold presented a report of a meeting held on the 30th January, which was tabled and approved. The updates from the Switch-on Group and the Lighting Group were noted. The lights will be switched on this year, on the 1st December. The Council will undertake a best dressed shop window competition this year.

(v) ASSETS & ACQUISITIONS – The Mayor presented a report of a meeting held on the 16th January, which was approved. The improved lighting, within the foyer at the Maltings will be completed soon. A sound system for the bar area to provide background music for events was unanimously approved at a cost of £1290 plus VAT. The Mayor reported four tenders had been received for the lift project at Sessions House. A meeting of the Working Group will be arranged to go through these. A letter had been received from ECDC, giving permission for the Council to sublet the Maltings Cottage to Highfield School. In accordance, with the Council's Business Plan, a schedule of planned maintenance would be compiled for all the Council's buildings. This would be undertaken by the part-time Estates Technician.

(vi) ELY/RIBE – No report as had not met. The next meeting will be held on the 7th February.

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

13. WORKING PARTIES/STEERING GROUPS REPORTS

Nothing to report.

14. REPORTS FROM EXTERNAL MEETINGS

City of Ely Allotments Association – members noted the minutes of a meeting held on the 21st December 2016. Cllr Hobbs informed members that water had been installed at the High Barns and Upherds Lane sites.

Ely Museum – notes from the Executive Review Group meeting on the 30th January were noted.

15. NOMINATIONS FOR MAYOR AND DEPUTY MAYOR 2017/2018

The nominations of Cllr Richard Hobbs for Mayor, proposed by Cllr I Lindsay and seconded by Cllr C Phillips and Cllr M Rouse for Deputy Mayor, proposed by Cllr R Hobbs and seconded by Cllr I Lindsay were unanimously approved.

Cllr Arnold raised an objection to some councillors using their mobile phones during the meeting. The Chairman said that he hoped they would not be using them inappropriately.

16. TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE FROM THE CLERK REGARDING THE STAFFING SITUATION AT THE MALTINGS AND CONSIDER GIVING THE CLERK AND CHAIRMAN AUTHORITY FOR APPOINTING ANY NECESSARY STAFF REQUIRED TO MEET THE BUSINESS NEEDS OF THE VENUE, WITHIN THE ALLOCATED BUDGETS

The Clerk gave members an update on the current staffing situation at the Maltings. Due to the number of changes that have happened recently, Cllr Moakes proposed the Clerk, Mayor and Deputy Mayor be given authority to deal with and resolve any staff issues that may occur at the Maltings. These would then be reported to the next appropriate Committee meeting. This was seconded by Cllr Pearson and unanimously approved.

17. TO APPROVE THE APPOINTMENT OF A TEMPORARY VENUE MANAGER FOR THE MALTINGS TO COVER THE EXISTING MANAGER'S MATERNITY LEAVE AND TO PASS A RESOLUTION THAT THEY BE SPECIFIED AS A PENSIONABLE EMPLOYEE UNDER REGULATION B1(5) OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT REGULATIONS 1986 (AS AMENDED)

The Clerk informed members that following the recruitment process and interviews, the successful candidate was Miss Lola Howell. Cllr Moakes proposed she be appointed as the new temporary Venue Manager for the Maltings, to cover the existing Manager's Maternity Leave. Following completion of this, on the 1st January 2018 she would then take the role of Assistant Venue Manger, due to the current Assistant Venue Manager having resigned. This was seconded by Cllr Lansell and unanimously approved.

18. TO MAKE COMMENTS ON EAST CAMBRIDGESHIRE LOCAL PLAN PUBLIC CONSULTATION

The Mayor agreed to respond to this consultation, on behalf of the Council.

19. TO MAKE COMMENTS ON THE CAMBRIDGESHIRE AND PETERBOROUGH CLINICAL COMMISSIONING GROUP'S CONSULTATION ON A FUTURE MODEL FOR AN INTEGRATED OUT OF HOURSE BASE AT CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY HOSPITALS NHS FOUNDATION TRUST (ADDENBROOKE'S)

Members unanimously agreed not to respond to this consultation.

20. FINANCE

Barclays	230.90	paid by direct debit
Vodaphone	68.01	paid by direct debit
Lex Autolease Ltd	243.27	paid by direct debit
Total Gas & Power	2635.14	paid by direct debit
Total Gas & Power	117.00	paid by direct debit
Total Gas & Power	29.95	paid by direct debit
ESPO	688.91	paid by direct debit
ESPO	137.03	paid by direct debit
ESPO	355.51	paid by direct debit
Greene King Brewing & Retailing	132.73	paid by direct debit
Greene King Brewing & Retailing	662.74	paid by direct debit
British Telecommunications	26.88	paid by direct debit
British Telecommunications	118.44	paid by direct debit
British Telecommunications	119.34	paid by direct debit
British Telecommunications	319.88	paid by direct debit
British Telecommunications	104.40	paid by direct debit
British Telecommunications	24.48	paid by direct debit
British Telecommunications	24.48	paid by direct debit
Worldpay	165.76	paid by direct debit
Worldpay	195.88	paid by direct debit
Barclaycard	168.80	paid by direct debit
M P Stephenson & Sons	240.00	110984
Philip Waller Consulting Ltd	425.00	110985
Wider Plan Ltd	256.11	110986
Mr D Badcock	450.00	110987

20. Finance continued

ECDC	125.00	110988
Nisbets	50.31	110989
Millennium Pest Control Ltd	66.00	110990
AmeyCespa (East) Ltd	119.44	110991
Blushed Studios	84.02	110992
CaterFix Ltd	720.00	110993
Allen's Skip Hire Ltd	120.00	110994
Deeping Direct Deliveries	115.20	110995
Glasswells	4071.60	110996
Thames Laboratories	810.00	110997
NVCS Ltd	504.00	110998
City Cycle Centre	8.88	110999
Witham Oil & Plant (Soham) Ltd	26.40	111000
Archant Community Media Ltd	72.00	111001
Stoke Ferry Timber Ltd	105.60	111002
Jewson Ltd	71.37	111003
Trade UK	144.25	111004
G & J Peck Ltd	385.99	111005
Cooleraid Ltd	9.48	111016
Ely Museum	5684.25	111006
Bidvest Foodservice	552.13	111007
G & J Peck Ltd	33.88	111005
Greene King Brewing & Retail Ltd	356.42	paid by direct debit
Local World Ltd	318.96	111008
Trade Uk	12.28	111004
FuelGenie	100.01	paid by direct debit
CCTV Volunteer	10.80	111009
AmeyCespa (East) Ltd	91.48	110991
G & J Peck Ltd	25.67	111015
Mr M Pinion	454.81	111010
RGP Security Services Ltd	46.80	111011
Green King Brewing & Retail Ltd	132.73	paid by direct debit
Aztek Services Ltd	3345.00	111012
Ely Central Heating	115.00	111013
G & J Peck Ltd	49.06	111015
G & J Peck Ltd	12.74	111015
American Express	6.46	paid by direct debit
PPL	159.74	111014

Payments relating to staff since meeting on the 9th January 2017

Salaries and wages	£15487.84
Inland Revenue (tax & NI)	£4126.14
Pension fund payments	£5870.29

Members noted and approved the bank reconciliations against the accounts for the period ending the 31st December 2016 and the 31st January 2017.

CONFIDENTIAL – FOR MEMBERS ONLY

ITEM DISCUSSED IN COMMITTEE AT THE END OF THE MEETING

12. COMMITTEE REPORTS

(i) PERSONNEL, FINANCE AND GOVERNANCE – Members noted the letter from the Cambridge Building Society. Due to the review of Shared Ownership, they have now put a hold on giving mortgages for our shared equity scheme. However, as they are currently the only building society giving mortgages this now means that nobody can obtain a mortgage for one of these properties. This will result in nobody being able to sell one either. The Council has been aware of the current restrictions within the lease for these properties and is in the process of getting the wording in the Section 106 agreement altered. This will make them more acceptable for building societies to lend on these properties. However, this process has not been completed yet and until it is nobody will be able to buy or sell one of the properties. The Deputy Clerk has stressed the urgency of this to both the Council’s solicitor and ECDC’s solicitor and will continue to chase them on this matter. Hopefully, the situation will be resolved shortly.

Members felt that as the Council’s solicitor was undertaking this work free of charge, if it would help to speed up the process, they agreed they would pay for this service.