



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

**Fax: 01353 667057 Tel: 01353 661016**

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**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING  
HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER  
AT 7.30 PM ON MONDAY, 20TH APRIL 2015**

**PRESENT:**

The Mayor, Cllr E Every

Cllr A Arnold

Cllr J Yates

Cllr C Phillips

Cllr N Clarke

Cllr R Hobbs

Cllr G Barber

Cllr S Pittock

Cllr A Whelan

Cllr I Lindsay

*12 representatives of voluntary organisations*

*12 parishioners*

**1. APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received from Cllrs Ashton, Griffin-Singh and Pearson.

**2. MINUTES OF THE LAST PARISH MEETING HELD ON THE 28TH APRIL 2014**

Minutes of the last Parish Meeting held on the 28th April 2014 were agreed and signed as a true record. Pages 136, 137, 138 and 139 refer.

**3. MAYOR'S OPENING REMARKS**

The Mayor welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked all the organisations for their attendance.

**4. PRESENTATION OF REPORTS**

The Committee Chairmen spoke about their Annual Reports, which had been issued with agendas and answered questions raised.

**(i) Chairman's Annual Report**

No questions.

**(ii) Personnel, Finance and Governance**

No questions.

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**THE MAYOR  
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**(iii) Planning**

Mr F Readman, from Ely Perspective asked if the Council had considered using part of the Sessions House for the new base of the Registry Office. Cllr Yates confirmed that Cambs County Council were planning to move this to the Strikes site at Angel Drove.

**(iv) Recreation & Cemetery**

No questions.

**(v) Environment (including Ely in Bloom)**

Mrs Holden, a parishioner asked what the memorial bench scheme was. Cllr Arnold said that it was where people could purchase a bench, to be located in the parish, in memory of a loved one.

Mr Ellis, a parishioner asked about Balfour Beatty replacing the street columns. On their website it said if people have concerns they should go to their Parish Council. The Clerk explained that Parish Councils would be consulted on these proposals, so could also pass on parishioners concerns.

**(vi) Christmas Lights**

No questions.

**(vii) Assets and Acquisitions**

Mr Coney, a parishioner said he was delighted the Council had taken over the Maltings Cottage. He asked if the Council could give an assurance that it would be for community use. Cllr Yates said the Council was committed to providing community use in all its buildings. This does however; have to be balanced with the need to cover the costs of all the buildings. The Mayor said that when acquiring assets for use of residents, they have to be assets not liabilities, so have to make sure it does not cost parishioners.

**(viii) Youth Forum**

No questions.

**(ix) City Centre Forum**

No questions.

**(x) CCTV Partnership Steering Group**

Mr Calvert, representing an organisation asked how the CCTV cameras were monitored. Cllr Clarke explained how this was undertaken.

Mr Ellis, a parishioner asked if the cameras in Soham would be operational soon. Cllr Clarke confirmed they would be.

**(xi) Ely/Ribe Association**

Mr Ellis asked if a tour around Ely Cathedral, for the visiting guests from Ribe, had been booked. Mr Hughes said it had not this time, as many had visited before. If any of the new visitors had not been around the Cathedral, they would be given the opportunity over the weekend to do so.

*Mr Hughes left the meeting at 8.15 pm.*

**(xii) Allotments**

No questions.

**(xiii) Representatives on Other Organisations**

No questions.

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## **5. GENERAL FORUM**

Mr Coney asked if the Council saw a time when they would want to take over the Oliver Cromwell House. Cllr Hobbs replied that under the Localism Act everything was up for grabs. If the City of Ely Council could make a good case then ECDC may consider. However, the City of Ely Council had taken on a huge amount this year and was not really in a position to consider this at present. The Mayor said that unfortunately, it is not just the buildings that you have to take over, but the people as well, which involves TUPE etc. It is currently a very interesting and challenging time for the Council.

Mr Readhead thanked Cllr Arnold for acknowledging the historic signs provided by Ely Perspective, within the Environment annual report. He said that Ely does not have a consistent single brand for Ely and wondered if the Council had considered one for Ely. The Mayor said the Council had its own crest and therefore a brand. If the Council was to consider this in the future, everyone would have to be consulted and it would be very expensive to rebrand.

Mrs Adams, representing the City of Ely Allotments Association said the Great Autumn Show in the 1950s and 1960s had been a big event in Ely. It had now shrunk to a very small horticultural show with 200 visitors. She asked if the Council would consider taking over and making it big again. Cllr Hobbs said he felt people wanted to be more involved in larger events. He hoped the Council and ECDC could get together with the City of Ely Allotments Association in future years.

Another parishioner asked if it could be like the Aquafest. The Mayor said unfortunately you need to have volunteers to help such an event.

Mrs Holden asked as the Council now manage the Maltings was it able to give preferential rates to local groups. Cllr Yates said the Council was trying to get the balance right.

## **6. REPORTS FROM VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS**

### **3rd Ely Scouts**

Brian Calvert, who was the Scout Leader for 3rd Ely Scouts, said they were the newest group in the City with 45 members, aged 6-14 years. They currently had a waiting list for new members. The grant they had received from the Council had been used to purchase more camping equipment; £800 had been used to buy axes and camp cookers. £150 had been set aside for a fund to help families fund scout camping trips that they could not afford. They would be going on a camping trip soon to use their new equipment. He thanked the Council for their grant.

*Mr Calvert left the meeting at 8.40 pm.*

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## **Reports from Voluntary Organisations continued .....**

### **City of Ely Netball Club**

Mark Deas spoke on behalf of Sue Deas, in her absence. The grant of £180 had been used to purchase some new netballs. They were trying to increase the numbers in their Youth Team, which will ultimately increase costs regarding kits and youth training, which the remainder of the grant would be used for. He thanked the Council for their grant.

### **City of Ely Cricket Club**

Mark Deas said that cricket had been played in Ely for a long time, with it being recorded as having been played at the Paradise Field from 1856. The youth team had 60-70 members and was now in its fourth year with ages ranging from 9-under 15. Many of these will progress into the adult team. The Club has accreditation, which shows they have reached certain standards. He thanked the Council for their grant, which they had received for the fourth year. This will be used to purchase coaching equipment, training and cricket software to allow them to review how they are playing.

### **Magpas**

Dr Anne Booth, who had been a volunteer doctor for Magpas, said Magpas had been active for the last 43 years. It provides a senior doctor and paramedic to roadside incidents. This makes a huge difference in the outcomes of these incidents. They had attended to 14 patients in the last year, with 4 so far this year in Ely. They can attend by road or by helicopter. They have a huge amount of volunteers, with 50 doctors. The grant had been used to fund equipment, which is very expensive. A suit, which the doctors wear, costs £580, with £1500 per month being spent on dressings and medicines. She thanked the Council for the help they had given.

### **K9 Project/KO Walk Support**

Chris Kent said the K9 Project operated in Ely and the surrounding area. They also help disadvantaged children and adults with dogs. They link some very vulnerable people to dog walk for other vulnerable people in the community. Those that volunteer get skills and experiences, befriending people whose dogs they walk. It is a win win situation regarding the emotional wellbeing of everyone. They provide all volunteers with training. They also now run a drop-in K9 café at the Cathedral Centre.

## **7. MAYOR'S CLOSING REMARKS**

The Mayor thanked everyone for attending, especially the organisations that had spoken and taking the time to see what the Council do.

She thanked the Council staff and councillors, who have had a very heavy workload this year, achieving a huge amount. She gave special thanks to the Deputy Mayor, Cllr John Yates.

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