



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

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**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING
HELD IN THE MALTINGS, SHIP LANE, ELY
AT 7.30 PM ON MONDAY, 18TH APRIL 2016**

PRESENT:

The Mayor, Cllr E Every	Cllr A Arnold	Cllr S Pittock
Cllr C Phillips	Cllr I Lindsay	Cllr R Hobbs
Cllr M Lansall	Cllr D Warman	Cllr S Austen
Cllr M Rouse	Cllr J Pearson	Cllr S Friend-Smith
Cllr P Moakes		

9 representatives of voluntary organisations *4 parishioners*

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Cllr A Whelan and Cllr C Whelan.

2. MINUTES OF THE LAST PARISH MEETING HELD ON THE 20TH APRIL 2015

Minutes of the last Parish Meeting held on the 20th April 2015 were agreed, subject to the addition of Cllr Rouse in the Present section and signed as a true record. Pages 140, 141, 142 and 143 refer.

3. MAYOR'S OPENING REMARKS

The Mayor welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked all the organisations for their attendance. This was an opportunity to go through all that the Council had achieved over the past year.

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

Sue Griffin, from Cambridge & Ely Child Contact Centres said that she was the last Chair of the bench at Ely Magistrates Court and asked if the main Courtroom would be open to the

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Presentation of Reports continued

public. The Mayor confirmed there are guided tours as part of the heritage weekends and school groups attend in conjunction with Ely Museum. It has also had music and theatre performances. She invited her to come and look round.

(ii) Personnel, Finance and Governance

No questions.

(iii) Planning

No questions.

(iv) Recreation & Cemetery

Kevin Evans, from Neighbourhood Watch said the cemetery was improving in its appearance. He had visited the chapel, but this seems hardly used. He asked if it could be promoted more to encourage its use. Cllr Pearson informed Mr Evans that the Council was hoping to establish a Friends of the Cemetery Chapel Group.

(v) Environment (including Ely in Bloom)

Mr Holden, from the City of Ely Allotments Association 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 Bond, from the City of Ely Allotments Association asked if the City of Ely Council had any input into Cambs County Council's Local Transport Plan. The Mayor said that councillors had recently had a seminar day and all had inputted into the consultation. A copy of this was available from the Council office, if he wished to see it. She also informed him that there was another pilot scheme called Total Transport, which was looking at all transport schemes, to try to make them work better. The Council will also have the opportunity to make comments on this.

Cllr Hobbs thanked the Horticultural Society for all the work they put into the flower bed in front of St Mary's Church. Cllr Arnold reiterated this and thanked all the volunteers who contributed to Ely in Bloom.

(vi) Christmas Lights

No questions.

(vii) Assets and Acquisitions

Liz Sayers, a parishioner asked why there had been an increase in the precept. The Mayor said this was largely due to the spending at the Maltings and Sessions House. It was anticipated that ADeC would be running the Maltings, but as this had not happened the expenditure had to be included within the precept. A full report explaining the reasons for the increase were available from the Council office or on the Council's website.

Mrs Holden, from the East Cambs Access Group asked what the Council's funding for the Shopmobility covered. The Clerk explained it covered the insurance, servicing and repair of the electric scooters and replacement if needed. Mrs Holden said that initially, local firms used to sponsor the scooters when they needed replacing. She suggested the Council enquire if they will do so again.

(viii) Youth Forum

No questions.

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Presentation of Reports continued

(ix) City Centre Forum

No questions.

(x) CCTV Partnership Steering Group

No questions.

(xi) Ely/Ribe Association

No questions.

(xii) Allotments

No questions.

(xiii) Representatives on Other Organisations

No questions.

5. GENERAL FORUM

No questions.

6. REPORTS FROM VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS

Cambridge and Ely Child Contact Centres

Sue Griffin said the organisation existed to support separated families. One fifth of children lose contact with one parent within three years, when the family is separated. This will have a negative impact on the children. When they are able to sustain a good relationship, they will strive and adapt. Their centres in Ely and Cambridge are a safe, friendly and neutral place to meet up in. It also enables parents to begin to communicate and rebuild trust with their children. They only provide short term help, usually six months. The Ely centre opens on two Saturdays per month. Most of the children who use the centre are usually very young. It is very unusual to have over 8/9 year olds. They have a fantastic team of volunteers, who offer support and a warm welcome. They had helped 46 children from 35 families in Ely during the last financial year. Some are referred by judges/magistrates in the court process and by solicitor recommendation and some refer themselves. They are accredited to the National Association of Child Contact Centres and are a member of this body. It costs them £9000 per year to run both centres. They do not charge for their services, as they are a charity, but do sometimes get donations. She said they were very grateful to the City of Ely Council for their financial support over the years. Contributions were vital to help cover their running costs and they would not be able to continue without this support.

Youth Ely Hub

Elaine Griffin-Singh said she was very pleased to speak about this group, especially as the concept came from the Ely Youth Forum at the City of Ely Council. They have been granted a five-year lease at Centre E, which started last May. This is large community building which they have taken over and will be delivering youth provision to young people. They have increased the use of the building, by renting to other organisations and renting out

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Reports from Voluntary Organisations continued

rooms for meetings. They have also completed refurbishment of the office space and have leased all of these, bar one. This will result in regular income to the Hub. Youth Ely Hub use the main large room, three nights per week for social activity. User groups are younger group, teenage group and over 20s. The first Friends meeting will be held in May. The kitchen also lends itself as a training/demonstration kitchen. She hopes to be able to market the building more and let out on a commercial basis etc. She said the grant from the City of Ely Council had allowed them to half fit out the kitchen and provide utensils etc. She very much appreciated the support given.

East Cambs Neighbourhood Watch Association

Kevin Evans said that the coordinators within this Association are the backbone of Neighbourhood Watch. They oversee the streets and are the eyes and ears of the Police. They are more and more important as cuts happen. East Cambridgeshire is one of the safest places to live. They have to work hard to push and get the number of coordinators up. Part of the role is to build a security spirit with communities. Neighbourhood watch was started in 1982, with a huge uptake, but this has dipped considerably over the years. In 2010 there were 97 coordinators in East Cambridgeshire. Last year there were 130 and this year 150. Ely has 37. There is a small charge to join Neighbourhood Watch, mainly for signs, which are £12 each. The grant from the Council funded 20 signs, which should give 10 more schemes. This was greatly appreciated.

Isle of Ely Arts Festival

Sheila Friend-Smith said the Festival committee had put in an application for a grant to help fund publicity for the Isle of Ely Festival. This was started five years ago and its objective is to bring all arts to the community. This year the theme will be Shakespeare, with the Festival from the 11th June to 10th July. She thanked the Council for their support.

Little Miracles

Justin Heron said that initially they were based in Soham, when the organisation was formed two years ago. They support 600 children in the local area, taking them to events like Cadbury World and Harry Potter. About a year ago they were approached by the Larkfield Centre, which is now their home. 75-90 people come to weekly sessions. They provide support and activities. They have been embraced by the local community. Parents come needing support initially, but then give back to other families. They have 35 volunteers. They have been focusing on the outside of the building and have a giant deckchair, sensory garden and play area. Lots of businesses also want to get involved. They see a lot of referrals from schools and the Local Authority. He thanked the Council for their support.

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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 said it was very humbling to have just listened to people speaking about the diverse volunteering that goes on in Ely. She confirmed that there would be £12,000 available through the grants system again this year.

She reminded those present that a beacon would be lit on the Market Place on the 21st April to mark the Queen's 90th birthday. This would commence at 7.50 pm, with the City of Ely Military Band playing; a 'cry' by the Town Crier and then the lighting of the beacon at 8.30 pm. She hoped everyone would be able to attend.

This was her last Council meeting before she stepped down as Mayor and Chairman. She thanked the Council staff, councillors and volunteers of the Council and community and thanked them for the support they had given her over the past two years,

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