



**CITY OF ELY COUNCIL  
SESSIONS HOUSE  
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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 2017**

**PRESENT:**

The Mayor, Cllr I Lindsay	Cllr A Arnold	Cllr J Yates
Cllr C Phillips	Cllr E Every	Cllr R Hobbs
Cllr M Lansall	Cllr M Rouse	Cllr S Friend-Smith
Cllr P Moakes	Cllr C Whelan	

*11 representatives of voluntary organisations*

*4 parishioners*

**1. APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received from Cllr A Whelan, Cllr Austen, Cllr Pearson and Cllr Warman.

**2. MINUTES OF THE LAST PARISH MEETING HELD ON THE 18TH APRIL 2016**

Minutes of the last Parish Meeting held on the 18th April 2016 were agreed and signed as a true record. Pages 144, 145, 146, 147 and 148 refer.

**3. MAYOR'S OPENING REMARKS**

The Mayor welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked all the organisations for their attendance. He explained how the meeting would work and that it was an opportunity for parishioners to ask questions of the Council. It would also detail what 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**

The Mayor thanked his fellow councillors for all their support and also thanked all the Council staff for their hard work, throughout the year.

No questions.

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

No questions.

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**Presentation of Reports continued .....**

**(iii) Planning**

Mark Welch, from Ely Wildspace asked what happens if the Council recommends refusal of a planning application. What is the consequence of this? The Mayor said that if the Council recommends refusal and ECDC do not agree with this, the Council does not have any recourse. If the application is considered at ECDC's Planning Committee this Council would have an opportunity to speak when this is being considered, giving reasons why the application should be refused. Cllr Rouse also explained how the process worked and that the Planning Officer would take account of all comments made when making a decision. An ECDC Councillor can be asked to call in an application to ECDC's Planning Committee, if there is a reason for doing so. As he sits on the ECDC Planning Committee, as a District Councillor he does not take part in the City of Ely Council's Planning Committee meetings, as he cannot have a predetermined or prejudicial opinion.

**(iv) Recreation & Cemetery**

No questions.

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

Cllr Lansall thanked all the volunteers and contractors for producing such wonderful floral displays last year.

Mark Welch, from Ely Wildspace said that the cutting of the Ely Meadow had been exceptional two years ago, but last year this had not been done very well and overcut.

Cllr Hobbs said that this was not the responsibility of this Council, but that of Cambs County Council. ECDC were their cutting contractor. He agreed to take this on board and report back at next year's meeting.

Vicki Holden, from East Cambs Access Group raised her concerns regarding the lighting at the top of The Chase on Witchford Road, at the point of the right of way to go across the cycle path. If there is a car with a trailer turning, there is not room. There is also no lighting along this cycle path. When you are turning into The Chase, in a vehicle, it is very difficult to see cycles, pedestrians or runners. Cllr Lansall said he had taken this up with the County Council and they had confirmed the road/cycle path layout had passed all the safety audits and risk assessments. The Mayor agreed to monitor the situation and will raise this again with the County Council. Cllr Rouse confirmed the County Council's scheme was driven by their cycling budget. Unfortunately, not all schemes work as well as planned. They are attempting to join up cycle ways and paths that are fragmented.

Graham Bond from the City of Ely Allotments Association asked what was meant by 100% levels to be retained, with regards to the streetlighting. Cllr Lansall explained that originally they were only running at 60%. King's Avenue still has columns with no lanterns. Cllr C Whelan said this was due to the road still being un-adopted. These should have been installed by the contractor.

Linda Adams, a parishioner stated that Victoria Street was now in total darkness. The Mayor confirmed he was continuing to work on the problems that had been created by the streetlighting upgrading programme.

**(vi) Christmas Lights**

No questions.

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**Presentation of Reports continued .....**

**(vii) Assets and Acquisitions**

Daniel Block, a parishioner asked what the Council's time frame for the Maltings Cottage was. Cllr Every said the Council was moving as quickly as it could. The legal work is now being undertaken to transfer the lease to Highfield School. They have been given a letter of intention, which will allow them to obtain funding for the work needed. He also asked if that was the intention for this to be the sole use of the building. Cllr Every confirmed it was. They hoped to have a pop-up café and work with other organisations. There would be toilet and changing facilities for disabled youngsters.

**(viii) Youth Forum**

No questions.

**(ix) City Centre Forum**

No questions.

**(x) CCTV Partnership Steering Group**

No questions.

**(xi) Ely/Ribe Association**

No questions.

**(xii) Allotments**

No questions. Cllr Hobbs said it was an honour to be the Council's representative on this organisation. He congratulated the Committee for all the work they do throughout the year and especially pleased that they had been able to provide water to some of the sites.

**(xiii) Working Groups**

No questions.

**(ix) Representatives on Other Organisations**

No questions.

**5. GENERAL FORUM**

Margaret Haynes, a parishioner said the Cambridge Road crossing was a godsend. Cllr Rouse said that credit was due to Cllr Anna Bailey, as she had put this forward as part of the Local Highway Initiative Scheme. He then explained what this was. The Mayor confirmed this had been funded by this Council. Margaret Haynes felt a crossing sign should be erected to warn motorists of its presence.

**6. REPORTS FROM VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS**

**Ely Wildspace**

Mark Welch said that Ely Wildspace was a voluntary organisation, with approximately 50 members. He said it was great to have the opportunity to thank the Council for their grant. This had been used exclusively for public engagement on bee hotels. Year 10 students from Ely College are involved in this project. They will also be involved in the International Earth Optimism Weekend at Kiln Lane, Ely, which will then lead on to tree planting at Springhead Lane.

**Camboccia**

John Wright and his daughter, Hayley Wright from Camboccia informed the meeting that they were an organisation that taught, coached and provided a Paralympic sport. It was designed for those with cerebral palsy, as they have to be seated to participate. The club is based at Witchford. If members are not physically able, they will assist them to throw the ball. They have been running for six years now and operate for 35 weeks of the year. Four to

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

ten people participate at each session. They can enter competitions and for three years running they have been in the top six for teams in this County. They also provide t-shirts and hoodies with names on, so they feel part of the team. He explained how the game worked and that a set of balls costs £300 and a ramp £750. He thanked the Council for their grant of £250.

#### **Ely Museum**

Elie Hughes said that they had now received a Stage 1 grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund, which is £159,300. This will allow them to develop their plans to expand and update the Museum. They will then go back and if successful obtain a further grant of £1.6 million to undertake the work. This will include redevelopment of the whole building, new educational facilities, new toilets, the provision of an activity programme and engagement with the community. It will be the Museum's 20th anniversary of opening, next week. She thanked the Council for their grant.

#### **Cruse Bereavement Care Cambridge**

Mary Foister said they provide a service which has sessions twice a month, for adults and young people. This year they have had 69 people use their service, 54 adults and 15 children. They were extremely grateful for the grant the Council gave them, as they would struggle without this. The service to date has cost £10,000. They hold a regular drop-in service, bereavement support and one to one sessions.

#### **Ely Youth Choir**

Jonathan Rogers said the Choir had been running since 2010. It allows 11-19 year olds to get access to singing. It is free and they do not have to audition to join. They currently have 16 members. He thanked the Council for their grant and said that half of this had been used to fund the Ely Youth Choir Festival. The remainder has gone towards a new keyboard.

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

The Mayor thanked everyone for coming and said it gave the Council an opportunity to talk to its electorate.

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