



CITY OF ELY COUNCIL
SESSIONS HOUSE
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**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING
HELD AT THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, EAST CAMBS DISTRICT COUNCIL, THE
GRANGE, NUTHOLT LANE, ELY
AT 7.30 PM ON MONDAY, 9TH APRIL 2018**

PRESENT:

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

7 representatives of voluntary organisations *4 parishioners*

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Cllr Austen and Cllr Lansell.

2. MINUTES OF THE LAST PARISH MEETING HELD ON THE 18TH APRIL 2017

Minutes of the last Parish Meeting held on the 18th April 2017 were agreed and signed as a true record. Pages 149, 150, 151 and 152 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

No questions.

(ii) Personnel, Finance and Governance

No questions.

(iii) Planning

No questions.

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Presentation of Reports continued

(iv) Recreation & Cemetery

A parishioner asked if any consideration had been given to replacing the fence between New Barns and the allotment site. Cllr Phillips agreed to add this to the next agenda for discussion.

(v) Environment (including Ely in Bloom)

A parishioner asked if there were any plans for traffic calming in Victoria Street. Cllr Friend-Smith informed the parishioner the Council has a list of areas within the parish that have traffic issues and she will ensure this request is added to that list. The Mayor thanked all the volunteers that spend so much time making the City so colourful with regards to Ely in Bloom and also all those that participate in the Council's litter picks.

(vi) Christmas Lights

No questions.

(vii) Assets and Acquisitions

No questions.

The Mayor thanked the Estates Team for the marvellous job they did when redecorating Sessions House.

(viii) Youth Forum

No questions.

(ix) CCTV Partnership Steering Group

No questions. The Mayor thanked all the volunteers that help provide this service. This service adds to the security and safety of residents of the City.

(x) Ely/Ribe Association

No questions. The Mayor thanked the Chairman, Mr McMillian for leading the Association so well over the last year. He looked forward to welcoming the Danish rowers.

(xi) Allotments

No questions. The Mayor confirmed that the new entrance to the Stuntney Causeway Allotments should be completed by late July/early August.

(xii) Working Groups

A parishioner asked when the new Leisure Centre will be opening. The Mayor confirmed this would be on the 12th May, with free sessions on the 13th May.

(xiii) Representatives on Other Organisations

Ely Museum – a parishioner asked if the grant from the City of Ely Council would still be paid to Ely Museum when they are closed for the work to be undertaken for the extension to their building. Cllr Every, in her capacity as the Chairman of Ely Museum informed the parishioner that the Council would still provide the annual grant. They will use other local museums to help provide some of their services.

Prickwillow Village Council – A parishioner informed members that the report for Prickwillow Village Council had an error, as it was the Middle Fen Drainage Board, not the Drainage Musuem with regards to the refurbishment of the village bench. However, they would be willing to help if needed. Another parishioner asked if the level crossing at Queen Adelaide will be closed. The Mayor clarified that wrong information had been given out with regards to this, but Network Rail have to find a solution before they can make any changes to this. He also encouraged parishioners to contact City Councillors if they had any problems or queries regarding this and they would assist them with these.

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5. GENERAL FORUM

There were no questions raised.

6. REPORTS FROM VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS

Deafblind UK

Shirley Scotcher said that the organisation was now in its 90th year and they had originally been called Sense. They were desperate to get their name out there and make people more aware of the high number of people that suffer from these conditions. There are approximately 24,000 people who cannot see or hear and approximately 400,000 who have some degree of deafness, blindness or suffer slightly from both. One in twenty, over 70 year olds are considered to be deaf or blind in the UK. By 2050 there could be 6 million people in the UK that are deaf or blind. Deafblind UK undertakes a lot of work with schools, building sites and football clubs. She thanked the Council for their grant for which they were very grateful. She had brought simulation glasses with her that show what it would be like if you had cataracts or tunnel vision and those present were invited to try these out at the end of the meeting.

Prickwillow Engine Trust

Paul Dunham said the Prickwillow Engine Trust had taken over the Ely Engine in 2010. This had gone through two phases of refurbishment, which had brought it back to life. The continued support from the Council was very much appreciated. The Trust has now purchased a trailer which has enabled them to take the Engine and display this at more sites, further afield. The Engine is a great asset to the Museum and the community, as they can publicise the area and advertise their Museum at the same time. He thanked the Council for their grant and confirmed they were happy to continue to preserve and look after this Engine, as it is a privilege for all to enjoy.

Babylon Arts

Caroline Cawley said that their organisation had been in operation for 22 years and had previously been called ADeC. She thanked the Council for the grant, which will be used for family art workshops this Summer. These will be promoted to those that do not normally come to or can afford these sorts of activities and will promote through the Food Bank. There will be lots of activities on offer. She also informed those present that the Summer Exhibition was now open. They are working closely with the Isle of Ely Arts Festival again this year. She thanked the Council for their support with the Ely Cinema and they were looking forward to working with the Tourism Service. The Mayor said the Council was pleased that numbers were rising with regards to the Ely Cinema, even with the new cinema at the Leisure Village. He wished them every success.

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Eddies

Deborah Nicholson thanked the Council for their grant which had been used for their family support scheme. This is for families with children, from birth to 19 years that have learning disabilities. Referrals are usually from specialist schools, such as Highfields, but can be from individuals, such as GPs etc. Eddies recruits and trains volunteers and then matches them with families. They spend a couple of hours, every fortnight where they take the child away from the home for this time and undertake an activity with them, which allows the family to have a break. Over the last twelve months they have helped 45 families, which 5 of the children attend Highfield School. She said it was hard to recruit volunteers. They have a lot from Cambridge, but Ely is more of a challenge. They are hoping to try and improve this.

7. MAYOR'S CLOSING REMARKS

The Mayor thanked everyone for coming and said the meeting had given a small flavour of how the Council works and the organisations that provide essential services within the parish. All councillors are volunteers and work hard to make the City a place for families to grow up.

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