



**CITY OF ELY COUNCIL
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**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING
HELD AT THE MALTINGS, SHIP LANE, ELY
AT 7.30 PM ON MONDAY, 15TH APRIL 2019**

PRESENT: Mrs T Coulson – Clerk to the Council
The Mayor, Cllr M Rouse
Cllr C Phillips
Cllr M Lansell
Cllr S Friend-Smith (arrived 7.35 pm)

Cllr A Arnold
Cllr E Every
Cllr P Moakes

Cllr R Hobbs
Cllr I Lindsay
Cllr C Whelan

6 representatives of voluntary organisations

4 parishioners

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Cllr Austen and Cllr A Whelan.

2. MINUTES OF THE LAST ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD ON THE 9TH APRIL 2018

Minutes of the last Annual Parish Meeting held on the 9th April 2018 were agreed and signed as a true record. Pages 153, 154, 155 and 156 refer.

3. MAYOR'S OPENING REMARKS

The Mayor welcomed everyone to the meeting, especially the organisations that had received support from the Council. This would be the final report from the present Council, as after four years, there would be full elections for all the seats on the 2nd May. However, one seat for the new Cathedral Ward was uncontested, so Cllr Lindsay will be returning to the new Council. Cllr Lansell, Cllr Moakes and long-serving, twice former Mayor, Sheila Friend-Smith were not seeking re-election, but the rest of the councillors were seeking resurrection after Easter. This meant that several of the council members were also prospective candidates and therefore subject to purdah. Due to the sad loss of Cllr John Yates, one of the most stalwart members and the resignation of Jo Pearson, this meant the Council would finish this term of office with only 13 members. 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.

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**THE MAYOR
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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

A parishioner asked that as the City of Ely Council was taking on more and more responsibility and although ECDC had not put their council tax up, had the Council been reimbursed for any of these extra responsibilities. The Mayor explained that the Council had received a parachute payment from ECDC for taking over the Tourism service and Oliver Cromwell House. The Council had worked very closely with ECDC and are of the opinion that if it is in Ely, then this Council should be responsible for it. The Council is very proud of the services it had taken over; eg the Maltings.

(iii) Planning

No questions.

(iv) Recreation & Cemetery

No questions.

(v) Environment (including Ely in Bloom)

A parishioner asked what the new speed signs will show; eg will it be the speed the car is travelling. Cllr Lindsay confirmed they will indicate the speed of the vehicle. Permission is being sought to erect these in different areas and they will be moved around on a periodic basis. Another parishioner asked if the Council was responsible for the emptying of dog bins. Cllr Lindsay confirmed ECDC Streetscene are responsible for the emptying of these across the whole district.

(vi) Christmas Lights

No questions.

(vii) Assets and Acquisitions

No questions.

(viii) Tourism and Town Centre

No questions. Cllr Hobbs requested that thanks be recorded to the Clerk for all her hard work to ensure the smooth transition in taking over this service, which was undertaken seamlessly.

(ix) Youth Forum

No questions.

(x) Ely/Ribe Association

No questions.

(xi) Allotments

No questions.

(xii) Working Groups

The Council wanted to record thanks to all the volunteers who work tirelessly for the Council and without whom, it would not be able to provide some of its services.

CIL Working Group – A parishioner thanked the Council for the provision of new streetlights in Chapel Street.

(xiii) Representatives on Other Organisations

No questions.

The Mayor informed those present that councillors represented the City on the Internal Drainage Boards within the parish. The IDBs do important work in protecting low lying land around Ely.

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5. GENERAL FORUM

There were no questions raised.

6. REPORTS FROM VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS

East Cambridgeshire Neighbourhood Watch Association

Kevin Evans, the Secretary for the East Cambridgeshire Neighbourhood Watch Association said the main aim of the Association was to reduce crime within a certain area and also build communities. They are bringing a little element of care in the community. They are operated solely by volunteers and have no income. They are very thankful for the grants they receive. The number of co-ordinators and schemes have more than doubled in the last ten years. Signs cost £30 each and most streets in the scheme have two signs. With the grant received from the Council, it was hoped to establish ten new schemes within Ely, six of which have already been put in place. There are currently 56 schemes within Ely. The Association was very thankful for the grant from the Council and it had already shown benefits.

Lighthouse

David Evans from the Lighthouse thanked the Council for the grant they had received from the Council. It had been used to provide bedding and plates for their community hub scheme, which provides free support to vulnerable people. Eight people have been helped over the past six months.

EARTH

Granville Hawkes thanked the Council for their grant and their continued support each year. He joined as the Treasurer four years ago. EARTH provides horticultural experience for people with learning difficulties and they have a poly tunnel at the Larkfield Centre. Goods that are produced are sold to the public from this site. They try to link themes according to the month. The charity is like a community within a community. Carers and parents get great benefit from being able to talk to each other. A small fee is charged per session, which offsets the insurance costs.

Helping Hands Project

Granville Hawkes thanked the Council for their grant for this project. They are a team of volunteers who look after gardens of those that are unable to do so themselves, due to being elderly or infirm. They undertake about 300 per year, with 120 of these being in Ely. The cost of the project is £30,000 per annum, with half of this being raised through donations. They also operate a car scheme, which has 25 volunteer drivers. The demand for this service is increasing and they require more drivers. 70% of the journeys undertaken are health related. Drivers are paid 5p per mile to cover their costs.

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7. MAYOR’S CLOSING REMARKS

The Mayor reminded those present of the events on the 4 May - Eel Day; 5-6 May - Food and Drink Festival; 11 May - the Heligoland 39 charity film show and, on the 13 May, the Annual Council Meeting and Mayor Making.

He hoped that due to all the information provided in the Annual Report, that people realised the extent and scope of what the Council actually does. He was disappointed that there were not more members of the public present at the meeting. He felt the work the Council does is taken for granted by members of the public. He was grateful to the councillors, for the time they give to the City and to the staff for ensuring the Council is well run and efficient.

He also thanked those councillors that would not be standing in the upcoming elections, especially Cllr Sheila Friend-Smith, who has provided a long and distinguished service to the City. He also wished those councillors well, who were standing for re-election.

He thanked everyone for their attendance at the Annual Parish Meeting.

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