



**CITY OF ELY COUNCIL
SESSIONS HOUSE
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**MINUTES OF A VIRTUAL MEETING OF THE CITY OF ELY COUNCIL HELD AT 7.00 PM ON
MONDAY, 19TH OCTOBER 2020**

PRESENT: Mrs T Coulson - Clerk to the Council

Cllr S Austen, Mayor

Cllr S Bellow

Cllr I Lindsay

Cllr A Whelan

Cllr M Rouse

Cllr A Arnold

Cllr R Morgan

Cllr K Wilkins

Cllr E Every

Cllr M Downey

Cllr C Whelan

Cllr C Phillips

Cllr D Warman

Cllr E Carlsson Browne

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Cllr R Denness.

2. COUNCILLOR REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATIONS

There were no requests for dispensations.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

There were no declarations of interests.

4. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING HELD ON THE 7TH SEPTEMBER 2020 AND MATTERS ARISING

Minutes of the last meeting held on the 7th September 2020 were agreed and will be signed as a true record. Pages 1860, 1861, 1862, 1863, 1864, 1865, 1866 and 1867 refer. There were no matters arising.

5. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no announcements.

6. QUESTION TIME

There were no members of the public present, so no questions were raised.

7. REPORTS FROM COUNTY COUNCILLORS AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

County Cllr Bailey had given her apologies. No reports were received.

8. MAYOR'S ENGAGEMENTS & REPORT

The Mayor had laid a wreath at the war memorial for Battle of Britain Day; attended Ely Cemetery open day; attended the Mayor of Wisbech's garden party; judged children's decorated potatoes and attended Apple Day events at Oliver Cromwell House.

9. PLANNING

A report of the Planning Committee meeting, immediately prior to this meeting was received.

10. INFORMATION ONLY ITEMS

The following information only items were received:-

Street Naming and Numbering:- 107B St Mary’s Street, Ely; Paragon House, 117 Lynn Road, Ely; The Burrows, 95 Brooke Grove, Ely; 32B & 32C West Fen Road, Ely; 58C Cambridge Road, Ely

Notification of Road Closures:- Mile End Road Level Crossing, Prickwillow – 9 – 12.10.20 and 31.10 – 2.11.20; Branch Bank, Prickwillow, Ely – 9-12.10.20; B1382 Prickwillow Road Level Crossing, Queen Adelaide – 31.10 – 2.11.20; Victoria Street, Ely – 9 – 11.11.20; Bell Holt, Upherds Lane, St Catherines & New Barns Avenue, Ely – 1.12 – 18.12.20

11. COMMITTEE REPORTS

(i) PERSONNEL, FINANCE AND GOVERNANCE – Cllr A Whelan presented a report of a meeting held on the 7th September, which was approved. Members noted the updated report detailing the financial losses to the Council during the period of lockdown and since then, in relation to Covid-19. Current losses were approximately £146,000. Updates regarding the general power of competence, from the Governance Working Group and regarding the Council’s Strategic Plan were noted. Cllr A Whelan proposed members approved the recommendations for Phase I of the grant applications. This was seconded by Cllr Every and unanimously approved.

(ii) CLIMATE AND ENVIRONMENT – Cllr Lindsay presented a report of a meeting held on the 21st September, which was approved. It was unanimously agreed that when the invitation for quotes is sent out shortly for the floral displays, contractors will be requested to quote for a three-year contract. With regard to the local Electricity Bill, members agreed that a letter of support to the local MP and to the organisers of the campaign for the bill, by the Chairman of the Council or the Clerk should be sent. Two projects under the LHI Scheme will be submitted by the Council. These will be for speed reduction from Thistle Corner to the Lisle Lane roundabout and speed reduction in Prickwillow. Other initiatives will be costed and considered for possible self-funding this year. The update from the CCTV Working Group was noted.

(iii) ASSETS – Cllr Morgan presented a report of a meeting held on the 5th October, which was approved. Cllr Arnold gave an update on the ‘Friends of Ely Cemetery’ Open Day, which had been very successful.

(iv) TOURISM AND TOWN CENTRE COMMITTEE – Cllr Warman presented a report of a meeting held on the 28th September, which was approved. Members noted the update from the Tourism and Town Centre Manager on the service and the Town Centre. She had organised extra events for half-term week and was putting on more tours, which were proving very popular. Proposals for the Eel Weekend and the Food and Drink Festival for 2021 were reliant on the pandemic and whether there would be time to organise these for next year, if the situation did not improve, as six months would be needed to plan these properly. It was however, agreed that these should be run as two separate events and not as one big weekend. It was agreed that the role of City Centre Ranger would not be filled at this time, but would be re-evaluated in the future. Members had unanimously approved the appointment of Ms Reddick to the temporary, part-time position of Business Liaison Assistant. This will ensure the link between the traders in the City Centre and Visit Ely continues. Funding had been awarded from the UK Recovery Heritage Lottery Funding. This would be used to improve the audio content for the tour of Oliver Cromwell House and to also enhance the visitor experience.

12. WORKING GROUP REPORTS

The Clerk clarified to members the role of a Working Group. A Working Group can discuss, explore and develop ideas, as instructed. It must then report back to the Committee, to which it is responsible to or Full Council, with recommendations. It does not have any decision-making powers, so cannot make any decisions on behalf of the Council.

Outdoor Sport and Leisure Facilities in Ely Working Group – notes of a meeting held on the 1st October were noted. It was agreed this Working Group would come under the remit of the Climate & Environment Committee.

13. REPORTS FROM EXTERNAL MEETINGS

City of Ely Allotments & Gardens Association – members noted the notes of a meeting held on the 19 August 2020. The Council’s representative on the Association, Cllr Wilkins informed members of a meeting he had attended with representatives of the Association and ECDC Officers regarding the allotments on the new development in the North of Ely. He agreed to obtain more information regarding some of the Committee members standing down, as he would be attending the next meeting on the 21st October.

Prickwillow Village Council – members noted the notes of a meeting held on the 27 January 2020.

Ely Museum – Cllr Every gave a verbal update, as Chairman of the Board of Trustees of Ely Museum. Things were progressing well and it was hoped to reopen in January 2021.

Stuntney Village Council – Cllr Lindsay, the Council’s representative on this organisation, informed members the renaming of the bypass was moving forward.

14. TO MAKE COMMENTS ON NETWORK RAIL’S CONSULTATION REGARDING ELY AREA CAPACITY ENHANCEMENT PROGRAMME

Members were very concerned that any solutions cannot have a detrimental effect on the villages of Queen Adelaide and Prickwillow. The protection of these communities must be at the forefront. It was agreed Cllr Every would draft a response from the Council.

15. TO MAKE COMMENTS ON ECDC’S EQUALITY, DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION POLICY

Members agreed the Inclusivity Working Group would look at this document and make comments on behalf of the Council.

16. TO DISCUSS THE ACCEPTANCE OF TAKING OVER THE PROPOSED COMMUNITY FACILITY IN THE NORTH OF ELY

Following a lengthy discussion, Cllr Rouse proposed the Council take on this community facility on a 99-year lease from Ely North LLP and to set up a Working Group, which will consider the best options for the management of the facility and oversee the building of the asset to completion and hand over. This was seconded by Cllr Every and a vote undertaken, with all 14 members present, voting in favour of this proposal. Members therefore unanimously agreed to this proposal under the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 s.19. Members appointed to this Working Group were Cllrs Every, Carlsson Browne, Rouse, Bellow and Austen. The Working Group will come under the remit of the Assets Committee.

17. TO MAKE COMMENTS ON ECDC’S DRAFT SPD WHICH SETS OUT ECDC’S ADDITIONAL GUIDANCE IN RESPECT OF CLIMATE CHANGE

It was unanimously agreed that Cllr Lindsay would draft a response on behalf of the Council.

Cllr Austen proposed that in view of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted, regarding item 18 of these minutes, that this be considered in private and that the power of exclusion of the public, under Section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admissions to Meetings) Act 1960 be exercised. This was seconded by Cllr Morgan and members agreed to go into Committee at the end of the meeting. Members went into Committee at 8.18 pm.

18. MOTION CALLED IN BY ASSETS COMMITTEE REGARDING THE MALTINGS RESTAURANT DECISION ON THE 24TH AUGUST AND FULL COUNCIL ON THE 7TH SEPTEMBER

This was discussed in Committee at the end of the meeting, due to the confidential nature of this item. Members agreed due to the current circumstances with the pandemic, that the Council should support its tenant and agreed to request formal approval from ECDC until the 31st December 2021.

Cllr C Whelan left the meeting at 8.24 pm during the discussion of this item.

19. FINANCE

Members approved the following payments:-

Direct debit payments and BACS payments

Lex Autolease	695.29	Paid by direct debit
Lex Autolease	383.70	Paid by direct debit
Total Gas & Power	41.10	Paid by direct debit
Total Gas & Power	141.56	Paid by direct debit
Total Gas & Power	1371.04	Paid by direct debit
Total Gas & Power	143.22	Paid by direct debit
Total Gas & Power	41.04	Paid by direct debit
Total Gas & Power	142.21	Paid by direct debit
Total Gas & Power	1336.08	Paid by direct debit
Total Gas & Power	143.86	Paid by direct debit
Worldpay	93.71	Paid by direct debit
Worldpay	265.21	Paid by direct debit
Chess ICT Ltd	220.08	Paid by direct debit
ESPO	66.13	Paid by direct debit
ESPO	140.48	Paid by direct debit
ESPO	128.76	Paid by direct debit
ESPO	47.74	Paid by direct debit
British Telecommunications	257.81	Paid by direct debit
Barclaycard	1160.26	Paid by direct debit
ECDC	948.00	Paid by direct debit
ECDC	923.00	Paid by direct debit
ECDC	499.00	Paid by direct debit
ECDC	1821.00	Paid by direct debit
ECDC	279.00	Paid by direct debit
Virgin Media	62.40	Paid by direct debit
Virgin Media	62.40	Paid by direct debit
Plan Communications Ltd	117.76	Paid by direct debit
FuelGenie	200.67	Paid by direct debit
Cybertill Ltd	62.93	Paid by direct debit
Haven Power Ltd	34.54	Paid by direct debit
British Telecommunications	48.16	Paid by direct debit
Barclays	93.50	Paid by direct debit
Shire Leasing	242.70	Paid by direct debit
British Telecommunications	333.73	Paid by direct debit
Lemon Tree Deli Café	25.50	Paid by BACS
Standen Engineering Ltd	190.00	Paid by BACS
Zurich Municipal	483.82	Paid by BACS
CamAlarms Ltd	9387.60	Paid by BACS
Mrs L Thirkettle	110.00	Paid by BACS
Pos+Ability	50.00	Paid by BACS
CamAlarms Ltd	546.23	Paid by BACS
Cheffins	152.78	Paid by BACS
S Slezacek	2087.00	Paid by BACS
D Holt	50.00	Paid by BACS

19. FINANCE CONTINUED

The following invoices had been paid prior to the Full Council, due to due date of payment with the approval of the Chairman

ATS Heritage Ltd	300.00	113406
CAPALC Ltd	400.00	113407
Jewson Ltd	20.09	113410
The Cromwell Museum Trust	105.00	113411
Grocer's Brokers Ltd	545.84	113412
Trade UK	53.14	113413
A G Hobbs	76.80	113414
Verve Digital Ltd	720.00	113415
Ely Tool Hire	42.00	113416
NALC	17.00	113417
Amazon Payments UK Ltd	132.02	113423
Amazon Payments UK Ltd	33.98	113424
Sigma Embroidery & Printing Ltd	217.80	113419
Mr M Smith	195.00	113418
K Churchard	252.00	113421
Poets House	497.00	113422
Local Media Publishing Ltd	210.00	113408
Zurich Municipal	203.29	113420

The following invoices had not been paid prior to the meeting

ESPO	56.50	113425
G & J Peck Ltd	75.99	113426
Cooleraid Ltd	50.16	113427
Savills	286.25	113428
Allen's Skip Hire Ltd	120.00	113429
A Bennett	53.29	113430
Nisbets	72.10	113431
Gordon Harrison	303.20	113432
Trade UK	264.89	113433
Total Gas & Power	19.57	113434
Jewson Ltd	214.66	113435
Ensign Solutions Ltd	482.40	113436
ATS Heritage Ltd	300.00	113437
ECDC	9660.86	113487
Verve Digial Ltd	120.00	113439
Cambs County Council	2163.99	113441
HEY Bendalls	1120.00	113442
Securitas Security Services	54.65	113443
Konica Minolta Bus Sols (UK) Ltd	85.28	113444
Soham Pest Control	99.00	113445
Millennium Pest Control Ltd	66.00	113446
Amazon Payments UK Ltd	306.52	113447
Amazon Payments UK Ltd	49.59	113448
P Fox	144.00	113449
One Stop Promotions	168.60	113450
Francotyp Postalia	72.00	Paid by direct debit
Pymoor Taxis	100.00	Paid by BACS
Amazon Payments UK Ltd	122.05	113451
Zurich Municipal	134.40	113452
Martindales Ltd	250.00	Paid by BACS
Elliotts Engineering	26.34	113453

19. FINANCE CONTINUED

Payments relating to staff since meeting on the 7th September 2020

Salaries and wages	£29,287.01 (Sept)	£25,695.37 (Oct)
Inland Revenue (tax & NI)	£7,736.52 (Sept)	£7,295.55 (Oct)
Pension fund payments	£9,070.68 (Sept)	£8,234.97 (Oct)

Members noted and approved the bank reconciliation against the accounts for the period ending 31st August and 30th September 2020

The meeting closed at 8.31 pm.

Due to enforced social distancing caused by the Coronavirus, this meeting took place by video communication, accessed by the Zoom meetings facility.