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**CITY OF ELY COUNCIL**  
**CLIMATE & ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE**

**MINUTES OF A VIRTUAL MEETING HELD AT 7.00 PM**  
**ON MONDAY 14<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 2020**

**PRESENT;**

Cllr I Lindsay Cllr R Denness Cllr R Morgan Cllr E Every Cllr S Bellow Cllr M Downey  
Cllr E Carlsson Browne Cllr S Austen.

**1. APOLOGIES**

There were no apologies received.

**2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST** *to receive declarations of interests from Councillors.*

No declarations of interest were received.

**3. MINUTES OF THE LAST CLIMATE & ENVIRONMENT MEETING, 2<sup>ND</sup> NOVEMBER 2020 & MATTERS ARISING**

The minutes of the last meeting held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2020 were agreed and signed as a true record. Pages C&E 5, 6 and 7 refer. There were no matters arising.

**4. BUDGET UPDATE & BUDGET SETTING FOR 2021/2022**

Members noted the budget updates, dated 7<sup>th</sup> December 2020. There were no significant variances. Cllr Lindsay reported that the Tree Works budget will be moving to Climate and Environment as this is now the responsibility of this Committee. The budget requested for 2021/2022 has been amended slightly by the Personnel, Finance & Governance Committee. There will be a new budget of £6,000 for Lines and Signs but there will be access to a further £6,000 from Earmarked Reserves, if needed. ECDC has successfully bid for funding from the Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Combined Authority to improve the appearance of the city to assist with the post-COVID recovery. It is hoped that new and improved facilities will be introduced that will significantly smarten up the city centre.

**5. REVIEW OF DECISIONS LIST**

The decisions list was reviewed.

**6. HEALTH & SAFETY ISSUES**

As a result of correspondence received from a flagpole inspection company, Cllr Lindsay has done some preliminary research as to whether flagpoles are subject to Lifting Operations & Lifting Equipment Regulations 1998 (LOLER). Cllr Lindsay could find no definite reference to flagpoles so it was agreed that further enquiries would be made before any external inspection would be carried out. In the meantime, the Estates Team would be asked to inspect the flagpole.

**7. FLORAL DISPLAYS**

After much delay, the vehicle that has been fitted with a watering system to enable the Estates Team to water the hanging baskets in the summer, has now been delivered.

## **8. HIGHWAYS**

Cllrs Every and Bellow reported that they have not received feedback concerning the two bids submitted for LMI funding yet. Cllr Lindsay is trying to find a way to get Highways involved to advise on how we resolve some of the issues that have been raised by the public. Cllr Denness is working on producing a system as to how best to document requests/issues that are received.

A complaint about the safety of Cromwell Road has been received due to parking in such a narrow road and a further complaint about the unsafe junction at Orchard Estate (Lynn Road)/Kings Avenue. These will be added to the list for consideration.

The various requests for double yellow lines were discussed and the consequences of introducing them to an area. Cllr Every informed the meeting that County Council are responsible for re-painting lines that have faded but will not consider new double yellow lines unless they are part of a LHI bid. Cllr Every suggested that a meeting could be requested with Les Middleton, Highways Officer in order to get his opinion on how to develop a plan for dealing with the requests.

Speedwatch is still not operating in Ely but the coordinator has started to retrieve data from the MVAs. It is hoped that a regular data retrieval schedule can be devised for analysis. Unfortunately, Speedwatch volunteers have been experiencing threatening, anti-social behaviour in Prickwillow. Cllr Every suggested that the Community Safety Officer at ECDC should be contacted for advice. Cllr Bellow agreed to do this.

## **9. TREEWORKS**

The tree inspection reports have now been received and work has been identified. Local tree surgeons have been contacted and asked to provide quotes for the work. The Trees Officer at ECDC will be contacted for advice on how to apply for consent for trees in the conservation area.

## **10. UPDATE FROM THE CLIMATE CHANGE WORKING GROUP**

The Working Group has still not met however, members will be attending an event on the 12<sup>th</sup> January 2021, led by the Centre for Energy and the Environment at the University of Exeter. The on-line event will focus on the development of a parish-level carbon footprint tool.

## **11. UPDATE FROM THE CCTV WORKING GROUP**

There is nothing new to add to the update received at the last meeting. The Clerk is still waiting to receive information regarding potential costs.

## **12. UPDATE FROM THE OUTDOOR SPORT & LEISURE FACILITIES IN ELY WORKING GROUP.**

A meeting to discuss the Splash Pad has taken place. An action plan has been drawn up and the options of siting it around the Paradise paly area are being explored. Unfortunately, fund raising cannot begin until a site has been secured.

## **13. UPDATE FROM THE ELY ALLOTMENTS ASSOCIATION.**

There was no update provided.

## **14. ACTION PLAN**

Cllr Lindsay will update the Action Plan and circulate.

## **15. A.O.B.**

On behalf of a parishioner, Cllr Bellow requested that a further dog waste bin be sited on the Ely by-pass walk. A new bin was installed in this area earlier in the year. Due to the expense of the cost of the bins and the emptying of them, it was not certain if a second bin was necessary. Cllr Bellow agreed to monitor the situation and report back before a decision was made.

Cllr Carlsson Browne also suggested that there is a lack of dog waste bins in the north of Ely. Cllr Lindsay informed members that it had been agreed that the Committee would wait to see what the demand was, once the housing developments were completed, rather than install on an ad-hoc basis.

The bus shelter in Queen Adelaide has been damaged by a truck. A quote for the cost of the repair is being sourced.

Cllr Every reported that ECDC will be bidding for funding from the post-Covid recovery fund for the installation of digital sign posting, in the hope that it will improve connectivity across the city centre.

Cllr Lindsay informed the meeting of the likelihood of the Committee members being increased to 6 Councillors. The process of how this will happen is not known yet.

**16. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting is scheduled for 25<sup>th</sup> January 2021.

*Due to enforced social distancing caused by the Coronavirus, this meeting took place by video communication, accessed by the Zoom meetings facility. The meeting closed at 8.20pm.*