



**CITY OF ELY COUNCIL
SESSIONS HOUSE
LYNN ROAD
ELY CB7 4EG**

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**MINUTES OF THE VIRTUAL ANNUAL PARISH MEETING
HELD AT 7.30 PM ON MONDAY, 27TH MAY 2020**

PRESENT: Mrs T Coulson – Clerk to the Council

The Mayor, Cllr M Rouse

Cllr R Morgan

Cllr K Wilkins

Cllr C Phillips

Cllr E Every

Cllr I Lindsay

Cllr A Whelan

Cllr S Bellow

Cllr C Whelan

Cllr E Carlsson Browne

Cllr S Austen (arrived 6.50 pm)

2 representatives of City of Ely Allotments and Gardens Association

1 District Councillor

1 member of the public

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Cllr Arnold.

2. MINUTES OF THE LAST ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD ON THE 15TH APRIL 2019

Minutes of the last Annual Parish Meeting held on the 15th April 2019 were agreed and signed as a true record. Pages 157, 158, 159 and 160 refer.

3. MAYOR'S OPENING REMARKS

The Mayor welcomed everyone to the meeting. He explained why the meeting was being held virtually this year, which was due to the Covid-19 pandemic and the need for the Council to operate within Government guidelines and safely. He hoped that by next year's meeting it would have returned to normal and could be in person again.

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. The Mayor thanked Cllr A Whelan for steering the Council through the Strategic Plan process.

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**THE MAYOR
29TH MARCH 2021**

4. PRESENTATION OF REPORTS CONTINUED

(iii) Planning

A member of the public informed Councillors that the East Cambridgeshire Access Group were still submitting comments for planning applications, as a consultee, as they were still continuing to work normally during lockdown.

(iv) Recreation & Cemetery (including Friends of Ely Cemetery)

No questions. Cllr A Whelan informed Councillors that although the Council had closed all its play areas, MUGAs, skatepark and outside fitness equipment, as per the Government's guidance, members of the public had started to use these. The Clerk confirmed that all areas had been closed and that the public should not be accessing them. All sites had notices explaining why they were closed.

(v) Environment

No questions. Cllr Lindsay thanked Cllr Every for all the work she puts into the Council's LHI scheme bids and Mrs Pickering, the Clerk for the Committee, for all her hard work.

(vi) Christmas Lights

No questions.

(vii) Assets and Acquisitions

No questions. Cllr Morgan thanked Mrs Jay, the Clerk for the Committee for all her assistance and hard work.

(viii) Tourism and Town Centre

No questions. Cllr Warman thanked the team at Oliver Cromwell's House for all their hard work during the year.

(ix) Youth Forum

No questions.

(x) Ely/Ribe Association

No questions.

(xi) Allotments

No questions. The Mayor thanked the Association for the huge amount of work they do in running the allotment sites on behalf of the Council. This was very much appreciated by the Council.

(xii) Working Groups

No questions. The Mayor thanked all the volunteers that undertake work for the Council, which they do tirelessly and professionally. Cllr Carlsson Browne asked if the No 9 bus service had been affected by Covid-19. Cllr Every reported that it was anticipated that 80% of services will be running from the 15th June, in line with shops reopening, which will include the No 9 service.

(xiii) Representatives on Other Organisations

No questions.

The Mayor thanked Mrs Holden for all her work over the years in relation to the East Cambridgeshire Access Group. Thanks, were also given to Mr J Wakefield for all the hard work he puts in, with regards to Prickwillow Village Council.

5. GENERAL FORUM

There were no questions raised from those present.

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THE MAYOR
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6. MAYOR’S CLOSING REMARKS

The Mayor hoped that the Annual Report and meeting had reflected how active the Council and its members were. The Council is looking to move forward, with the development of a new Strategic Plan. It is hoped that this will involve every member in the business of the Council, so they feel being a councillor is worthwhile. He thanked all those for producing their reports and for the work they have undertaken this year and the work to be done next year. He also thanked the Clerk for all her support and hard work.

Although, Ely is a strong community, it needs to be even stronger to rebuild the community and businesses coming out of the pandemic. The Council needs to lead on this and set an example.

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

The meeting closed at 7.40 pm.

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

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THE MAYOR
29TH MARCH 2021