



CITY OF ELY COUNCIL
ASSETS COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF A MEETING

HELD ON MONDAY 20TH SEPTEMBER 2021 AT 7.00 PM AT THE MALTINGS, SHIP LANE, ELY

PRESENT: Mrs S Jay– Deputy Clerk to the Council

Cllr R Morgan

Cllr A Arnold

Cllr M Rouse

Cllr V Ganivet

Cllr R Denness

Cllr C Phillips

Cllr I Lindsay

Bold font indicates voting member of committee

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Cllr Austen.

2. To receive declarations of interests

There were no declarations of interests received.

3. To approve the minutes of the last meeting held on the 21st June 2021 and matters arising.

The minutes of the last meeting held on 21st June 2021 were agreed by members after Cllr Phillips had been noted as present. The minutes were then signed by the Chairman. Pages A21, A22 & A23 refer.

There were no matters arising.

4. Recreation & Cemetery –

(i) To receive report from Lead Member

Cllr Phillips advised members, the Bier is on order and that the Rose Appleyard Sensory Garden is a work in progress.

5. Recreation Areas

(i) To note the budget update, dated 10th September 2021

Members noted the budget update dated the 10th September 2021, there were no significant variances.

(ii) To receive an update on the quotations for the Park Play area.

The Deputy Clerk had met with 3 suppliers of play equipment and received 3 quotations. Cllr Philips proposed the quotation for £16900 plus VAT from Kompan be accepted as this was the most desirable equipment and the cheapest quotation received. This proposal was seconded by Cllr Rouse and unanimously approved by members.

(iii) To note Zurich inspection report (various items of equipment) dated 2nd July 2021, no major faults reported with the exception of a swing at Paradise which was fixed on the day of the inspection. Minor faults are being repaired.

The Zurich inspection reports were noted by members.

6. Cemetery

(i) To note the budget update, dated 10th September 2021

Members noted the budget update dated the 10th September 2021, there were no significant variances.

(ii) Update from Friends of Ely Cemetery

Cllr Arnold reported on the recent open day at the cemetery. This went extremely well with 28 very interested people attending. He said the volunteers found it a pleasure to help people. He thanked Cllr Phillips for doing the tours, the Mayor for attending the event and the Estates Team for their work. He said that comments had been received on how good the information boards look.

Cllr Arnold also reported that the Wildlife Trust had visited, which had been a very successful visit and that he would forward their full report to the Deputy Clerk should anyone like to read it. Members noted and thanked

Cllr Arnold for his report on the Friends of Ely Cemetery and thanks were asked to be conveyed to the Friends of Ely Cemetery's secretary, for her informative report on the meeting held with the Wildlife Trust. Both these reports are attached to and form part of these minutes

7. Christmas Lights –

(i) To note the budget update, dated 10th September 2021

Members noted the budget update dated the 10th September 2021, there were no significant variances.

(ii) To note minutes of the Christmas Lights Sub Committee meetings held on the 14th July 2021 and 25th August 2021

Members noted the minutes of the meetings held on the 14th July 2021 and 25th August 2021. The Deputy Clerk reported that new lights had been ordered and were due to be delivered shortly. The Christmas Lights Switch On event had been cancelled due to the uncertainty with Covid-19. Although there will be no actual countdown to the switching on of the lights, there will be a Christmas shopping evening where they can be appreciated. Cllr Rouse said that the Switch On event is a City Council event and that the Council will need to plan early to decide how it wants to provide this in future years.

8. Local Need Housing Scheme issues and to note budget update dated 10th September 2021

There were no issues to report. Members noted the budget update dated 10th September 2021, there were no significant variances.

9. Sessions House

(i) To note budget update dated 10th September 2021

Members noted the budget update dated the 10th September 2021, there were no significant variances. Cllr Rouse reported the Heritage Open Day had been successful.

10. The Maltings Complex -to receive updates on:

(i) Maltings

(i.i) To receive an update for the procurement of seating

The Deputy Clerk reported the Request for Quotations (RFQ) document has been issued. She requested 3 members to evaluate the tenders. This will be done the week commencing the 11th October. Cllrs Denness, Arnold and Morgan agreed to do this.

(i.ii) To receive an update on report regarding the improvements required at the Maltings including the lighting

The Deputy Clerk presented a detailed report on the plan for addressing many of the improvements that are required at the Maltings. She explained that various quotes are currently being obtained. Members agreed to the purchase of replacement curtains and a new microphone system which can both be paid for from the Covid restart grant. The lighting in the hall and the foyer both need replacing. A quote for the hall is expected shortly. Members agreed to obtain quotes for a modern, brighter, and more efficient new lighting scheme in the foyer. This will result in redundant lights and holes in the existing ceiling which will then be over boarded with plasterboard and skimmed. This will give a much brighter welcome to the Maltings.

It was agreed to investigate the bar area being used as a gallery for local artists to sell their work with the Maltings taking a small commission. The Deputy Clerk will work on this idea with the Venue Manager. Cllr Morgan requested ADeC be approached to donate to the new lighting desk that had been purchased.

Cllr Rouse thanked the Deputy Clerk for her work in providing a thorough report.

Cllr Lindsay advised there may be an opportunity to apply CIL monies towards some of the work that is required.

(i.iii) To note Zurich inspection report dated 2nd July 2021 – Pressurisation unit – no faults reported

The Zurich inspection report was noted by members.

(ii) To note budget updates dated 10th September 2021 for the Maltings, restaurant & cottage

Members noted the budget updates dated 10th September 2021, there were no significant variances.

(iii) Maltings Cottage

To view initial drawings

Members discussed the Architect's drawings that had been circulated with the agenda. It was agreed to proceed with the idea of the conversion of the cottage into 2 residential units, as these suited the demographic of the area, in terms of maximising rental opportunities. A request to ECDC will be made to see if this idea is acceptable.

(iv) Maltings Restaurant

The Deputy Clerk gave a brief update on the restaurant.

11.To decide if the Council would like to purchase an RBL Tommy Statue and where it could be placed.

Members agreed to consult the local branch of the RBL regarding the purchase of a statue to see if they would like another in the city as there are currently 2 on the War Memorial

12. Any other business

There was no any other business to report.

13. Date of next meeting:

Monday 1st November 2021 at 6.30pm

The meeting closed at 8.30pm

Notes FoEC

Richard Delahaye, Wildlife Trust Officer (Lucy Wilson) & Alison Arnold Site Visit of Ely Cemetery 16/09/2021

Background -

Cambridgeshire Habitat Framework Survey was undertaken in 1992 and 1997 to update and adopt a Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) to East Cambs District Council (ECDC) Local Development Framework (LDF) although updated over the years, ECDC (Policy 56 Wildlife Protection was updated, it is now replaced by Policy C26 Environment, and Policy EN6 Biodiversity and Geology which forms part of the planning process. Also climate change (which can adversely affect flora and fauna) was addressed and a further supplementary planning document (SPD) was adopted in February 2021 within its framework of planning.

The list for all current approved CWS are prepared and maintained by the Bedfordshire Cambridgeshire and Northamptonshire Wildlife Trust which is then shared with the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Biological Records Centre (CPBRC) in conjunction with CWS panel members.

As far as we know, in 2005 was when Ely cemetery at Beech Lane met the qualifying criteria as a County Wildlife Site (CWS). The grassland represents some of the best unimproved and semi-natural grassland in the area. The 2005 survey map by the Wildlife Trust depicts areas of interest (the 2005 map of the North side of the chapel have now been withdrawn) But the South side of the chapel with mound are still of interest and is envisaged to enlarge shown on the now 2021 WLT map within the CWS site. Obviously this is only a recommendation by The Wildlife officer - The whole of the extension to this area would be in fact bigger than the previous 4 sections put together on the 2005 map. Being away from the main burial sites will have its advantages as these areas could have mowed paths with areas of natural flora left (on a rotational basis of cut times) so people can still walk around the cemetery when visiting loved ones, Ancestry purposes, Contemplation or to take in the natural flora and fauna which makes this a CWS. The mound will be left for quiet sitting and also is a vantage point to see all over the cemetery area. Also plaques of interest to educate why these areas have been left 'wild' in this part of the cemetery (perhaps something that FoEC could help with) or the now new notice boards could also be used for this information and for the cemetery's CWS status. Bat and Owl boxes were mused but needs to be examined more closely with the FoEC committee, estates manager and City of Ely Council. The CWS status at the cemetery is an (honorary badge) that also recognizes the City of Ely Councils Estates Team of the management of this cemetery site. Since 2010 the cemetery site has gained 17 new plant species; a full flora list has been provided by Jonathan Shaklin-County Botanical Recorder.

It also should be noted and remembered that Ely Cemetery is not a nature reserve site but foremost a working cemetery, but with guidance and management there is no reason why natural flora and fauna can not be helped to co-exist within this working environment.

There are other resources out there and the Wildlife Trust hosts other award schemes for churchyard management, should FoEC, Estates Team and City of Ely Council wish to take or further this course of action.

Resources :- <https://www.wildlifebcn.org/about-us/advice-landowners/churchyards>
<https://wildlifebcn.org/news/wild-churchyards-are-us>
<https://www.caringforgodsacre.org.uk>
<https://www.cperc.org.uk/downloads/churchyard%20report1.pdf>

Friends of Ely Cemetery

Update for Assets meeting on Monday 20th September.

Heritage Open Day 11th September.

The above Open day went very well. In total we had around 28 people attending during the day. While numbers were down on the previous one, we did get to meet some very interesting people and we have two or three people that are keen to get involved.

The two tours went down well, with 6 attending in the morning and 7 in the afternoon. Feedback on the tours from Cllr Phillips was very positive as he felt with the smaller numbers the people were opening up and had some very interesting stories of their own to tell.

One young lady on the first tour enquired if she could have some help to find three headstones that she would like to locate. Cllr Phillips took up the challenge and managed to locate two of these for her and she was very grateful for the help. Well done Chris!

This is just one reason that we enjoy putting on the open days. Not only to show off our wonderful cemetery, but we get to meet and help some wonderful people.

I would like to thank the Mayor of Ely for attending, her presence on these days are much appreciated. Big thanks to Cllr Phillips for all his help and to all the committee members for helping to put on these days. Thanks to Richard and the estates team who work really hard in maintaining the cemetery. We always receive positive comments on how well kept it is.

Forgotten Headstones

A few more headstones have been uncovered during some clearing works and these will be located along with the others at the edge of the cemetery.

On a recent visit I discovered that someone had taken the time to lay some flowers and a painted stone onto some of the forgotten headstones. What a lovely gesture!

Wildlife Trust Visit. Thursday 16th September.

As discussed and agreed, Lucy Wilson from the trust made a visit and met with FoEC Secretary Mrs A Arnold and Estates manager Richard. Reports from this meeting will be sent and discussed separately.

Cllr A Arnold
Chair of FoEC