



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

MINUTES OF THE VIRTUAL ANNUAL COUNCIL MEETING & MAYOR MAKING
HELD AT 7.00 PM ON MONDAY, 4TH MAY 2021

PRESENT:

The Mayor, Cllr S Austen	Cllr M Rouse	Cllr I Lindsay
Cllr C Phillips	Cllr A Arnold	Cllr D Warman
Cllr E Every	Cllr S Bellow	Cllr R Morgan
Cllr C Whelan	Cllr A Whelan	Cllr K Wilkins
Cllr R Denness		

7 invited guests and dignitaries

The Mayor thanked everyone for attending the second virtual Annual Council Meeting, which was also being streamed live on the Council's Facebook, You Tube and Spotted in Ely. Due to the Covid-19 pandemic all Councillors would be observing the Government's guidelines. The Mayor asked the Clerk to take a register of Councillors present.

The Mayor changed the agenda so item 1 would be taken immediately before item 5.

1. Election of the Chairman who shall thereupon, in accordance with the Local Government Act of 1972, become the Right Worshipful the Mayor of the City of Ely for the ensuing year 2021/2022

Cllr E Every proposed Councillor S Austen to the position of The Right Worshipful the Mayor of the City of Ely.

As had been outlined by Cllr Austen, this year had been extraordinary and unlike any year a Mayor might expect to carry out the Civic and first citizen roles. It therefore gave her great pleasure to nominate Cllr Sue Austen as Mayor of the City of Ely for the year 2021 to 2022, her second term. She knew that Cllr Austen would diligently carry out all the duties for the forthcoming year, that it would be possible to do in these changing times. She gave her best wishes for this second term.

Cllr C Phillips seconded Cllr Every's proposal. There being no other nominations, Councillors unanimously approved the election of Cllr Austen to be Chairman and Mayor of the City of Ely for 2021/2022.

Cllr Austen left the room and entered the robing room. Cllr Austen was invested with the robes and the Chain of Office. The Town Crier undertook a cry for the new Mayor and Cllr Austen re-entered the room.

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THE MAYOR
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2. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Cllr K French, Mayor of March Town Council, Cllr A Bradnam, Vice-Chairman of South Cambs District Council, M Brownlow, Cllr Mac MacGuire, Chairman of Cambs County Council, V Hearne-Casapieri, E Rich and Cllr A Rich, Chairman of East Cambs District Council.

3. Out Going Mayor's Report for 2020/2021

Cllr Austen said it had been a great honour and privilege to have been elected to be Mayor and Chair of the Council for 2020/2021. This year has not been as expected or hoped for. She had very few engagements, but those that she had attended she had enjoyed. She did manage two panto performances, one in the Dean's garden was in the rain, but that did not spoil the fun. We are very lucky to have such talent in our midst. Her final engagement was attending the Choral Evensong in memory of HRH Prince Philip, the Duke of Edinburgh, in the beautiful Cathedral. She had met some very interesting people - some face to face and some on zoom. Sadly, with no fund-raising events this year she had been unable to give grants to any Community Groups. She thanked her Consort, Cllr Arnie Arnold, for his support, the Clerks, Tracey, Sarah and Marianne. Without their help her job would have been a lot harder. She also thanked Father Paul Andrews, her Chaplain, and her colleagues, who trusted that she was a suitable candidate for the task.

4. Vote of Thanks to the Retiring Mayor

Cllr Morgan said that at the time of her election in July 2020, Cllr Austen had completed 5 years as a City Councillor for the West Ward in Ely. Well, what a strange 12 months this has been! Our vocabulary has been enlarged to include lockdown, social-distancing, furlough, self-isolating, shielding and bubble! The council had continued to meet through this adversity, and we pay our tribute to those who have cared for others during this pandemic and our thoughts and prayers are with those families who have lost someone close. The Mayor had been a model of determination, grit and community spirit in her civic work and had also presided over some key decisions being made at Full Council meetings, all of which had been using the Zoom Video Platform. The Mayor's workload and achievements over her mayoral year would not have been possible without the dedication and commitment of her consort, Cllr Arnold. He proposed a vote of thanks for the work of the retiring Mayor, Cllr Austen, for the municipal year 2020/2021.

5. Reading and Signing of the Declaration of Office and Swearing the Oath of Allegiance by the Right Worshipful the Mayor of the City of Ely

Cllr Austen read and signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office. She then swore the Oath of Allegiance.

6. Statement of Acceptance of Office by the Newly Elected the Right Worshipful Mayor of the City of Ely

The newly elected Mayor said it was an honour to be elected as Mayor to serve for another term. She was hopeful that things will ease and there will be plenty of engagements this year. She is passionate about Ely and looked forward to having the opportunity of promoting the City of Ely Council and engaging with the Parishioners. She thanked her fellow councillors for placing their trust in her.

The Consort, Cllr Arnie Arnold was presented with the Chain of Office.

The Mayor asked her Chaplain to lead the Council in prayer for the upcoming year. Father Andrews did so.

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7. Election of the Vice-Chairman who shall become the Deputy Mayor of the City of Ely

Cllr Lindsay proposed Cllr Richard Morgan as the Vice-Chairman and Deputy Mayor for the City of Ely. It gave him great pleasure to propose Cllr Richard Morgan for Deputy Mayor. He is a hard-working Councillor and has shown this through the work undertaken as the Chairman of the Assets Committee. He is a very nice chap and will be of great support and assistance to the Chairman.

Cllr Denness said she was delighted to second Cllr Morgan’s nomination for Deputy Mayor. She had met Cllr Morgan when she became a Councillor two years ago, and they had shared membership of Committees. Cllr Morgan gets on top of his brief and is assiduous. In Committee discussions, he will make perceptive points, offering helpful alternative perspectives. He researches and had been good enough to share his research with her, when she had shared an interest. Cllr Morgan is very committed indeed to the work of the Council. This last year’s extraordinary circumstances had meant Cllr Morgan did not have the opportunity to fully embrace the role of Deputy Mayor and she very much hoped he would this year. It was her pleasure to second Cllr Morgan’s nomination for the municipal year 2021/22.

There being no other nominations and by unanimous agreement, Cllr Morgan was duly elected as Vice-Chairman and Deputy Mayor. He read and signed the Declaration of Office and was presented with the Chain of Office.

Cllr Morgan then presented his Deputy Mayoress, Mrs Jane Morgan, with the Beckett Brooch.

8. Committees and representatives to other organisations

Appointments as detailed separately, were proposed by Cllr Every and seconded by Cllr Lindsay and were unanimously approved.

9. Authorisation of Signatories

Signatories as detailed below, were proposed by Cllr Arnold and seconded by Cllr Rouse and were unanimously approved.

Barclays Bank account – any two of the Mayor, Cllr R Morgan and Cllr Every.

Cambridge Building Society accounts – any two of the Mayor, Deputy Mayor, Cllr Lindsay and Cllr Every.

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

The meeting closed at 7.45 pm.

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THE MAYOR
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