



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

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL COUNCIL MEETING & MAYOR MAKING
HELD AT 7.00 PM ON MONDAY, 16TH MAY 2022 AT THE MALTINGS, SHIP LANE, ELY**

PRESENT:

The Mayor, Cllr S Austen	Cllr I Lindsay	Cllr C Phillips
Cllr V Ganivet	Cllr D Warman	Cllr R Denness
Cllr E Every	Cllr R Morgan	Cllr C Whelan
Cllr A Whelan	Cllr K Wilkins	Cllr P Harris

Invited guests and dignitaries were also present

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 2022/2023

Cllr Lindsay proposed Councillor Richard Morgan to the position of The Right Worshipful the Mayor of the City of Ely. He said it gave him great pleasure to propose Cllr Richard Morgan as the Chairman and the Right Worshipful Mayor of the City of Ely for 2022-2023. This will make him the 48th Mayor since the Local Government reorganisation of 1974 created our Parish Council and HM Queen Elizabeth created our city status in the same year. In more normal times he would have been the 47th post-holder but for covid 19 and the effects of lockdown resulting in his predecessor serving two consecutive terms in office. On the other hand, he has had 2 years of practice as Deputy Mayor. An apprenticeship that will stand him in good stead in the year ahead as a primum inter pares on the Council, our leading citizen and advocate, and the representative of the people of Ely. An alumnus of the Kings School, he joined the Council by election in 2019. He had played his full part in our corporate affairs as a diligent attendee at Full Council, at many of our committee meetings, as a member of one of the Planning Committees and, for the last two years, as Chair of the Assets Committee. Through persistence and doggedness of spirit he has led us to the point where we have embarked on an ambitious plan to renovate this very building. We are already benefiting from improved lighting, will have an improved pa system and the moveable seating will be replaced towards the end of the year. He will be handing on a vibrant Committee with much work still to be done, but in the role of Chairman of our Full Council he will bring energy and direction in the challenging year ahead. He commended his nomination to those present.

.....
THE MAYOR
24TH MAY 2022

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 continued

Cllr Denness said she was delighted to second Cllr Morgan's nomination. Richard and herself were both elected to the Council for the first time, 3 years ago in 2019. In the past year their paths had crossed on the Assets Committee, which Richard chaired with discipline and good judgement. A year ago, she had been pleased to second Richard's nomination for Deputy Mayor, a role that Richard had discharged with diligence. She looked forward to the coming year with Richard as Chairman of the Council and Mayor of Ely.

There being no other nominations and by unanimous agreement, Cllr Morgan was duly elected as the Chairman and Mayor.

2. 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 Morgan read and signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office. He then swore the Oath of Allegiance.

The Mayor's Chaplain, The Very Reverend Mark Bonney lead the Council in prayer for the upcoming Mayoral year.

3. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Lord Lieutenant; Cllr M Rouse; Cllr S Bellow; Revd C Hill; K Morgan; D Frost; Mayor of Sandy; Mayor of Peterborough; Mr R Bradney; E Weatherhead; Mayor of March; Mayor of Downham Market; S Cooke; N & S Morgan; Mr & Mrs Friend-Smith; A Pickersgill; Mr P Sindall; G Perry; Mayor of Thetford; Mr & Mrs Pugh; Mr B Hallam; Mr & Mrs Hodge; Chairman of Cambs County Council; Chairman of South Holland District Council; J Young; Chairman of South Cambs District Council; High Sheriff of Cambridgeshire; RAF Mildenhall; Mayor of Chatteris, J Cave; J Wibberley; Mr D Godsmark; Mr G Smith; Mr D Martin; Mayor of Huntingdon; Reverend R Mackley

4. Out Going Mayor's Report for 2021/2022

Cllr Austen said it had been a great honour to be Mayor for the last two years and she wished to thank everyone for their support. It had been a very odd time with Covid, so she had not been able to do as much as she would have liked. It had been a pleasure to meet with so many children with whom she had her photograph taken many times with them, although several little ones thought she was Father Christmas. She had attended the Cemetery open days, attended lovely services and concerts in the Cathedral, attended the Ely Band Concerts, and the wonderful KD Theatre pantomimes. She had attended events at Mildenhall and Lakenheath, as the Council has strong links with them, particularly as volunteers come from there to help put up our lovely Christmas Lights and of course wreath laying. She went to the super Christmas Fair outside Oliver Cromwell's House which was enjoyed by all, although it was very cold. She opened the Ouse Life exhibition at the Cathedral which was extremely good. She had been invited to the breaking of the fast, Ramadan by the city's Islamic community, who were so welcoming and generous with the food. She gave donations to The Rich Tea Club, the City of Ely Band, Christians Against Poverty (CAP) and VAEC for projects. Earth had already received the takings for the raffle raised at her Quiz Night and The Friends of Jubilee Gardens received a cheque which she presented at their meeting. She thanked the Clerks, Tracey, Sarah and Marianne, who had supported her and kept her on track. They had kept the Council operating normally during the Pandemic. Thanks also went to Anna and her team at Oliver Cromwell's House.

.....
THE MAYOR
24TH MAY 2022

4. Out Going Mayor's Report for 2021/2022 continued

Lola and her team at the Maltings and Richard and the Estates Team. She said the Council were very lucky to have these employees.

She said that sadly the Freedom of the City, to two former Councillors and the Army and Air Cadets were still outstanding and as life is now returning to normal, she hoped that this will be achieved soon. Her husband deserved thanks as she is his carer and he had not had her presence as much as he would have liked. He had supported her and not complained too much. Her granddaughters had attended fun things with her and she thanked them too. They had learnt a lot about the Council. She gave thanks to Father Paul Andrews her Chaplain and wished him well in his retirement. Lastly but not least she gave thanks to Cllr Arnie Arnold, who sadly could not finish his term as her Consort. It had been a massive shock when he died. He had been a tremendous support to her and is greatly missed. She thanked his wife Alison, who bravely stood in his memory to finish the last few weeks with her. She hoped she had made some difference during her two terms of office, as she had tried to.

5. Vote of Thanks to the Retiring Mayor

Cllr Every said it was an honour and pleasure to give the vote of thanks to Cllr Sue Austen, the retiring Mayor, who had served the City of Ely so admirably for the last 2 years. March 2020 changed everything for the Council when we went into lockdown and the previous Mayor, Cllr Mike Rouse, presided over the last few months of his term, moving from the normal face to face Council to one that operated remotely and we all learnt how to use zoom. Indeed, Sue's Mayor Making in May 2020 was the first attempt at a remote civic event. It was to Sue's credit that she embraced this new way of working and continued as Chair of the Council to oversee the work of the Council from home. Sadly, however, we know that because of the pandemic Sue was unable to undertake her duties as civic leader and first citizen in the way that she would have wished, but she used any opportunity that she could to support the local community.

The year was challenging for all of us but we were delighted that Sue was nominated to serve a second term when hopefully things would return to some semblance of normality. This was not to happen quickly but we were so pleased that in the last few months Sue had been able to fulfil her mayoral duties fully and our residents and local organisations had been really delighted by her continuing support.

Despite being such a challenging time and having to overcome her own health issues, Sue has remained positive and dedicated to the role putting her energies and experience into every aspect as circumstances have allowed.

She wished her the very best for the future and thanked her sincerely for being the Mayor for the last 2 years.

Cllr Morgan, Cllr Austen and the Clerk left the hall and entered the robing room. Cllr Morgan was invested with the robes and the Chain of Office. The Town Crier then announced the new Mayor and Cllr Morgan, Cllr Austen and the Clerk re-entered the hall.

.....
THE MAYOR
24TH MAY 2022

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

The newly elected Mayor said this is a solemn and most momentous occasion, and yet in the history of our nation it is a commonplace occurrence. The orderly transfer of leadership from one councillor to another as called for in the Constitution routinely takes place, as it has here for almost half a century, and few of us stop to think how unique we really are. In the eyes of many in the world this annual ceremony we accept as normal is nothing less than a miracle.

He began by thanking his fellow councillors, especially Cllr Lindsay and Cllr Denness for nominating him and the clerks for their continued support; his wife, who he believed would make one of the finest Mayoress's this city has ever had; his mother; his brothers, relatives and friends of a lifetime who were either gathered here or watching online and those who were looking forward to being here with us but God had other plans but I know they are looking down on this ceremony and they are awfully happy! He thanked his Chaplain, The Very Reverend Mark Bonney, for his invocation.

On behalf of the city, he saluted his predecessor, Cllr Austen, for her many years of service to Ely. He thanked the hundreds of men and women whose steadfastness and sacrifice triumphed over the Covid crisis whilst bringing relief and solace and happiness to so many. A telephone call, a knock at the door, shopping for a neighbour, or even a child reading to their grandparent through an open window.

When Frederick Tucker first took the oath, he had just sworn to uphold, news travelled slowly across Ely. Now, the sights and sounds of this ceremony can be broadcast instantaneously to billions around the world.

Just over 40 years ago, he arrived in this city to begin a new chapter in his life so he felt very humble that such responsibility had been placed on his shoulders to be the Mayor of this the second smallest city in England. But he did not shrink from this, he welcomed it!

Some years ago, he had been given an assignment. It was to write a letter to be opened one hundred years later. As he was driving along the A10 from Stretham he could see the cathedral loom into view like a shining city atop a hill. Alan of Walsingham would have no idea that 200 years after he had built the Octagon that a tyrannical king would destroy the Shrine of St Etheldreda and 100 years after that a local Puritan soldier would order the execution of another king, stable his horses in the cathedral and cancel Christmas! Our descendants will know everything about us, we know nothing about them

So now we must start thinking about tomorrow – he was sure there is a song there!

Three months ago, the Babylon Art Gallery held its 13th annual East Cambs Schools' Art Exhibition – that is 18 schools all exhibiting here in Ely. He said the Council needed to keep supporting this and the other areas of culture including the cinema here in The Maltings. He was grateful to Claire Somerville and her team who are putting together a bid in the hope of securing regular funding from Arts Council England. Tomorrow the Museum celebrates its first anniversary since it re-opened in its re-ordered building. He was much obliged to Elie Hughes for all that she has done in bringing the museum forward.

He continued to be in awe by the work of OuseLife – the skills of Cary Outis, Caroline Forward, Steven Bramble and others - and that old phone box in Prickwillow has probably had more use in the past two years as an art gallery and shop than it had when BT owned it!

.....
THE MAYOR
24TH MAY 2022

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

One area of the Council’s work which was in its infancy 50 years ago was tourism but this is now a major industry and he much appreciated the work of Cllr Warman and Anna Bennett for all they do in promoting this city. There was a real downturn during the pandemic but he was pleased to report that tourism is back!

This building where we are gathered was built in 1868 for the brewery of W E Harlock. Under the ‘motivational’ management of Lola Howell – who recently won Ely Hero Award - this building is highly sought after for conferences, weddings, gala dinners, blood donor sessions, etc. New lighting and new stage curtains had recently been installed. When you come here next year, there will be new retractable tiered seating. All of this had been helped by using money raised from the Community Infrastructure Levy. The Council is investing in Ely’s future! To counter Shakin’ Stevens 1980s ballad, this ole house is not getting ready to meet with the saints!

One of his predecessors, Lieutenant Colonel John Beckett, served in the Cambridgeshire Regiment in World War II in the Far East. As a prisoner of war, he had a small radio receiver hidden in his hot water bottle and he also produced an illicit newspaper to spread news of the war. This was a morale booster for the men, but he would have been executed if the Japanese had found out.

The thoughts of home, of Ely and the Cathedral lantern and whether they would ever see them again must have played heavily on his and his men’s minds. In Welsh this feeling is called “hiraeth” – a longing. As we know, Colonel Beckett did come home and spent his remaining years in public life but he was not so sure he would have been impressed to see cars now parked across the city war memorial. He felt something must be done about that. The Council will work with the other agencies but cannot allow drivers to park their cars across that memorial which remembers the few who gave their lives for so many.

He announced the Mayor’s Charities for this coming year will be for MAGPAS – which is the air ambulance which is seen fairly frequently up above our heads here. A few weeks ago, he spent some time up at RAF Wyton where he was shown around by their Director of Fundraising, Lucy Chapman. It is more than an ambulance in fact it is almost an operating theatre – and travelling at 160mph they can get to a patient in 10 minutes. They receive no funding from central government but he believed they were an essential service for everyone out here in the Fens. The most common call outs include bank holiday DIY – so he had given that up! During the pandemic they also had to attend suicides which went up by 25%. This lead him on to his second charity: MIND. He was sure that many of those present had known someone who felt that that their life was not worth living but they felt unable to reach out for help. This charity offers information and advice to people with mental health problems and lobbies government and local authorities on their behalf. It also works to raise public awareness and understanding of issues relating to mental health. He asked if people would help him in this endeavour.

To assist in raising funds for these two charities he would be holding a Dinner Dance at the Maltings on the 12th August and a Golfing Day at Ely Golf Club on the 2nd September. Tickets for these would be on sale shortly. But he also challenged people to come up with ideas to help him raise these much-needed funds whether it be a Park Run, a sponsored cycle ride or swimming event.

In the next few weeks, we shall be celebrating Her Majesty’s Platinum Jubilee with a special service of thanksgiving in the cathedral, the lighting of the beacon, and many other things besides. Just a few

.....
THE MAYOR
24TH MAY 2022

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

weeks ago, Patricia and Edward Rice hosted an afternoon of tree planting on land in Prickwillow for the Queen’s Green Canopy Project; and 15 trees have been planted in the cemetery.

He wanted everyone to begin with energy and hope, with faith and discipline, and work until our work is done. The scripture says, “And let us not be weary in well doing, for in due season, we shall reap, if we faint not.” To this work he would now turn, with all the authority of his office. He thanked everyone for attending.

The Mayoress, Mrs Jane Morgan was presented with the Chain of Office.

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

Cllr Christine Whelan proposed Cllr Christopher Phillips as the Vice-Chairman and Deputy Mayor for the City of Ely. She said it was a pleasure to nominate him and it had also been a pleasure to work with Chris over the last seven years that she had been on the Council, both on committees and on various working groups. She felt he worked hard for the Council, with integrity and honesty. His work on the Inclusivity Working Group had been at the forefront of engaging local communities in Ely and he would make a superb ambassador as Vice-Chairman and Deputy Mayor for the community, by his continued engagement with all the city residents. She commended his nomination.

Cllr Alison Whelan said it gave her great pleasure to second Cllr Phillips’ nomination for Deputy Mayor. She had known him for some time and had enjoyed working with him, especially with regard to the Inclusivity Working Group. He had worked hard to make improvements to the recreation areas and the cemetery, which were a great credit to him and the Council. She looked forward to continuing to work with him.

There being no other nominations and by unanimous agreement, Cllr Phillips 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 Phillips said he was very honoured to take up the role of Deputy Mayor of the City of Ely and he thanked his fellow councillors for the trust they had placed in him.

His first duty would be to support Cllr Morgan in his year of office and to 'gather up the crumbs under his table' so far as mayoral duties were concerned! The new Deputy Mayoress and himself had already booked several engagements in their civic diary and were both looking forward to representing the City and the Council in the weeks ahead.

He holds the community in high esteem. Ely is a good place to live, work, bring up a family, visit, explore and singing the city's praises were easy. He saw it also as a welcoming town, diverse, inclusive, creative and he wanted it to grow in all those directions so that those fine words become a reality for all who make their homes here.

He thanked everyone again and said he would do his best to live up to the trust that had been placed in him.

Mrs Morgan presented the Deputy Mayoress, Mrs Mary Rone, with the Beckett Brooch.

.....
THE MAYOR
24TH MAY 2022

8. Committees and representatives to other organisations

Appointments as detailed separately, were proposed by Cllr C Whelan and seconded by Cllr Ganivet and were unanimously approved.

9. Authorisation of Signatories

Signatories as detailed below, were proposed by Cllr A Whelan and seconded by Cllr Ganivet and were unanimously approved.

Barclays Bank account – any two of the Mayor, Cllr C Phillips and Cllr Every.

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

The meeting closed at 7.40 pm.

.....
THE MAYOR
24TH MAY 2022