



---

**MINUTES OF MEETING OF THE CITY OF ELY COUNCIL HELD AT 7.00 PM ON MONDAY,  
27TH SEPTEMBER 2022 AT THE MALTINGS, SHIP LANE, ELY**

**PRESENT:** Mrs T Coulson – Clerk to the Council

Cllr R Morgan, Mayor

Cllr R Denness

Cllr V Ganivet

Cllr D Warman

County Cllr P Coutts

Elie Hughes, Ely Museum

1 Parishioner

Cllr C Phillips

Cllr I Lindsay

Cllr P Harris

Cllr R Pitt

Cllr C Whelan

Cllr D Edge

Cllr S Austen

Cllr M Wade

*As this had been the first meeting of the Council, since the passing of Queen Elizabeth II on the 8th September, the Chairman held a one minute silence in recognition of her service and dedication.*

**1. APOLOGIES AND REASONS FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received from Cllr A Whelan, Cllr Every and Cllr Bellow and their reasons were accepted.

**2. COUNCILLOR REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATIONS**

There were no requests for dispensations.

**3. DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS**

There were no declarations of interest.

**4. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING HELD ON THE 15TH AUGUST 2022 AND MATTERS ARISING**

Minutes of the last meeting held on the 15th August 2022 were agreed and signed as a true record, subject to the addition of Cllrs Austen and Warman in the present list. They were signed by the Chairman. Pages 1980, 1981, 1982, 1983, 1984, 1985, 1986 and 1987 refer. There were no matters arising.

**5. UPDATE ON ANNUAL GRANT GIVEN TO ELY MUSEUM BY THE COUNCIL FROM ELIE HUGHES, CURATOR OF ELY MUSEUM**

Elie Hughes thanked the Council for their continued support with the annual grant and explained what this was spent on as outlined in the Service Level Agreement. She gave an overview of the Museum's current financial situation. She offered to show any councillors around the Museum who had not yet visited. She informed councillors she had three funding bids being submitted this week. They were focusing on marketing to get as many visitors as possible. She also circulated some artefacts from the Museum for councillors to inspect. The Chairman thanked her for the update.

## **6. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Chairman said that since the Council had last met there was now a new King and a new Prime Minister. He thanked all those who were involved in the arrangements, behind the scenes, here in Ely with regard to the passing of Queen Elizabeth of Blessed and Glorious Memory and the accession of King Charles III as our lawful and rightful Liege Lord. He thanked the Clerk and also the butchers, David Bent and Adrian Cornwell, who as well as running a shop on the Market Place, have also been very busy flying and lowering the Union flag over the mourning period.

## **7. QUESTION TIME**

A parishioner raised the question as to how the Council undertakes better communication with regards to what the Council is doing. They had raised this at previous meetings and were awaiting a response from the Communications & PR Working Group. Cllr C Whelan informed the parishioner that the Working Group had met and discussed this. They had agreed that a paper newsletter was cost prohibitive and did not have a delivery network to distribute to the whole parish. Most of the Council's communication is either on-line through the website or the Council's Facebook page. It was agreed the Clerk would put dates of meetings in the Elyi. It was suggested that there could be a noticeboard near the Maltings so hard copies of agendas could be displayed in here as well as at the Council offices at Lynn Road. It was agreed the Communications & PR Working Group would discuss this further at their next meeting.

## **8. REPORTS FROM COUNTY COUNCILLORS AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS**

A written report was received from County Cllrs Coutts and A Whelan. A copy of which will be attached to the minutes. There were no reports from District Councillors as the planned meetings had been rescheduled.

*County Cllr Coutts and Elie Hughes left the meeting at 7.41 pm.*

## **9. MAYOR'S ENGAGEMENTS & REPORT**

The Mayor had presented prizes to the winners of the Young Person's Photography Competition; arranged for the Red Ensign flag to be flown for Merchant Navy Day; read out aloud the Proclamation of King Charles III as Sovereign outside the Cathedral West door; read the lesson at Choral Evensong following the Proclamation; attended an Act of Remembrance for the late Queen in Ely Cathedral; attended a National Moment of Reflection at the War Memorial arranged by the Royal British Legion; attended the Collation of the Ven. Richard Harlow as new Archdeacon of Huntingdon and Wisbech at the parish church of St Peter & St Paul, Wisbech and attended Ely Photographic Club's annual exhibition at Babylon Gallery. The Deputy Mayor had attended EARTH's open day; the Ely Ribe Association's buffet lunch; March's Armed Forces Fayre and Ely Library to present the Summer Reading Programme Rewards.

## **10. PLANNING**

Cllr Lindsay gave a report on the last planning meeting.

## **11. INFORMATION ONLY ITEMS**

The following information only items were received and noted:-

Notification of Road Closures:- Gas Lane, Ely – 8-10.11.22

Notification of Street Naming and Numbering:- Field Gate House, 26 Witchford Road, Ely

## 12. COMMITTEE REPORTS

(i) PERSONNEL, FINANCE & GOVERNANCE – Cllr C Whelan presented a report of a meeting held on the 30th August, which was approved. It was unanimously agreed to move the funds from the Hallmark Account into the Deposit Account. The CIL expenditure analysis was noted. It was also agreed there would be a page on the Council’s website which would give information regarding CIL, including approved projects over £50,000. This would help the Council with engaging in consultation with its parishioners. Grant application recommendations were recommended for approval by Cllr C Whelan. Cllr Austen seconded this and this was unanimously approved. It was agreed to award £1000 to EARTH as they had produced up to date accounts. No award will be made to Temper Theatre as a response had not been received by the Clerk for further information. Additional funding will be considered for the Ely Ribe Association for a twinning event in 2023/24, when the budget is being prepared. It was agreed to amend some wording on the Council’s ‘About’ page.

(ii) CLIMATE AND ENVIRONMENT – Cllr Denness presented a report of a meeting held on the 22nd August 2022, which was approved. Cllr Denness reported the Green Fair to be held on Cross Green on the 10th September had been cancelled. Councillors had agreed to recommend to the next Full Council that at a request of East Cambs CAN the Council signs up to the 5 climate change promises as part of the Friends of the Earth initiative to encourage parish councils to tackle the threat. Cllr Denness will arrange to meet with the Mayor of the Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Combined Authority to discuss the local transport plan as the Council is concerned about how slowly the highways issues are being dealt with. The Council will look into the County Council proposals for 20 mph zones in Ely as part of the DTSA programme. Cllr Coutts’ request for the installation of a pedestrian crossing at the railway station were discussed. County Cllr Coutts will be attending the next meeting to discuss this matter further. A request from a parishioner to act as a tree warden for the Council is being considered. Additional planting will be undertaken in the planters on the High Street as there had been complaints about how scruffy these looked. The Splash pad and skate park groups have decided to look again at the Hive Leisure Centre as a potential location for both amenities. Cllr Ganivet proposed a memorial bench for the late Cllr Mike Rouse should be installed at Sessions House. This was seconded by Cllr Lindsay and unanimously agreed in principle.

(iii) ASSETS – Cllr Phillips presented a report of a meeting held on the 6th September 2022, which was approved. The Chapel floor cannot be professionally cleaned due to the condition of the underlay and foundations. This will now just be cleaned normally and repaired where possible. It is still hoped there will be further improvements in the Chapel in the coming year. CIL funding will be requested for a decarbonisation strategic plan for the Council’s buildings at a cost in the region of £18,800. Regular meetings with the riverside residents are continuing. The Use of the Maltings Green Policy has been amended to include a clause which does not permit the hirer of the green to sublet any areas. It had been agreed not to proceed with a sound assessment of the Maltings at this time. The second applicant had expressed an interest in the Maltings Cottage and would be putting forward a proposal for consideration by the Committee. Cllr Phillips reported that the Cemetery had been part of the Heritage Open Day weekend and he had undertaken 2 tours of the cemetery. These had been very well attended and he had received very positive comments, including ‘this was the best kept cemetery they had ever visited’. Cllr Lindsay had undertaken 2 tours of Sessions House, as part of this weekend. A further tour had been undertaken by a OCH Guide. These had also been well attended. He felt the content of the tours needed to be considered for next year, as he had talked about the building’s history and the Guide had concentrated on the crime and punishment aspect. Cllr Phillips informed councillors 3 quotes had been obtained for further surfacing at the Paradise play area. He proposed the cheapest quote from Online Playgrounds at a cost of £2061 be approved. This was seconded by Cllr Lindsay and unanimously approved.

**12. COMMITTEE REPORTS CONTINUED .....**

(iv) TOURISM AND TOWN CENTRE – Cllr Warman presented a report of the meeting held on the 5th September 2022 which was approved. The report from the Tourism and Town Centre Manager was noted. The Harvest and Apple Fayre will be on the 8th October. A press release will be given very shortly on the Christmas Fayre planned for the 27th November. The update on the website development digital signal project was noted. Further discussions will take place on the signing of the Armed Forces Covenant and the outstanding Freedoms of the City.

*The parishioner left the meeting at 8.06 pm.*

**13. REPORTS FROM EXTERNAL MEETINGS**

City of Ely Allotments and Gardens Association – minutes of meetings held on the 20th July 2022 were noted.

Executive Review Group – notes of a meeting held on the 20th September 2022 were noted.

Ely Trinity Dole – Cllr Phillips informed councillors he had attended a meeting of Ely Trinity Dole and the formal recommendation to amalgamate the charity with the Needham’s Foundation had been agreed. He will continue to be a trustee on the newly formed charity, representing Trinity Dole. The first meeting will be at the end of October.

**14. TO NOTE THE COMPLETION OF THE ANNUAL GOVERNANCE & ACCOUNTABILITY RETURN FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2022 FROM PKF LITTLEJOHN LLP**

Councillors noted the completion of the Annual Governance & Accountability Return for the year ended 31st March 2022. The report stated that the AGAR was not accurately completed before submission for review as the smaller authority had not restated the 2020/21 figure when revaluing assets in Section 2, Box 9. Please note that the Practitioners’ Guide allows smaller authorities to use any reasonable valuation method, provided that the prior year figure is restated for consistency and comparability. The Clerk explained the reason for this error, which was noted and accepted. No other matters had come to their attention giving cause for concern that relevant legislation and regulatory requirements had not been met.

**15. TO MAKE COMMENTS ON THE CAMBS COUNTY COUNCIL’S TRANSPORT STRATEGIES STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT 2022 REPORT**

Councillors agreed it was more appropriate for councillors to respond as individuals on this consultation.

**16. TO FORMALLY APPROVE THE RECOMMENDATION FROM THE CLIMATE & ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON THE 22ND AUGUST 2022 TO SIGN UP TO THE FIVE CLIMATE CHANGE PROMISES AS PART OF THE FRIENDS OF THE EARTH INITIATIVE TO ENCOURAGE PARISH COUNCILS TO TACKLE THE THREAT**

Cllr Lindsay proposed these five climate change promises be adopted. This was seconded by Cllr Denness and unanimously approved.

## 17. FINANCE

Cllr Morgan proposed these all be approved, which was seconded by Cllr Phillips and unanimously approved.

To approve the following for payment:

*Direct debit payments and BACS payments*

ECDC	948.00	Paid by direct debit
ECDC	279.00	Paid by direct debit
ECDC	1821.00	Paid by direct debit
ECDC	923.00	Paid by direct debit
ECDC	499.00	Paid by direct debit
ECDC	948.00	Paid by direct debit
ECDC	279.00	Paid by direct debit
ECDC	1821.00	Paid by direct debit
ECDC	923.00	Paid by direct debit
ECDC	499.00	Paid by direct debit
FuelGenie	407.29	Paid by direct debit
Barclays	232.94	Paid by direct debit
Greene King Brewing & Retail Ltd	523.95	Paid by direct debit
Greene King Brewing & Retail Ltd	1321.91	Paid by direct debit
Greene King Brewing & Retail Ltd	1479.06	Paid by direct debit
Drax Energy Solutions Ltd	35.69	Paid by direct debit
Drax Energy Solutions Ltd	34.57	Paid by direct debit
ESPO	105.14	Paid by direct debit
ESPO	229.71	Paid by direct debit
ESPO	119.64	Paid by direct debit
Greene King Brewing & Retail Ltd	836.43	Paid by direct debit
Greene King Brewing & Retail Ltd	1301.32	Paid by direct debit
Greene King Brewing & Retail Ltd	1387.74	Paid by direct debit
Greene King Brewing & Retail Ltd	259.49	Paid by direct debit
Drax Energy Solutions Ltd	35.69	Paid by direct debit
Drax Energy Solutions Ltd	35.69	Paid by direct debit
Liquidline Ltd	202.37	Paid by direct debit
Francotyp Postalia Ltd	250.00	Paid by direct debit
Lex Autolease	383.70	Paid by direct debit
Lex Autolease	352.06	Paid by direct debit
Lex Autolease	352.06	Paid by direct debit
Virgin Media	62.40	Paid by direct debit
Virgin Media	62.40	Paid by direct debit
Worldpay	353.30	Paid by direct debit
Worldpay	613.75	Paid by direct debit
British Telecommunications	42.54	Paid by direct debit
British Telecommunications	107.08	Paid by direct debit
British Telecommunications	78.66	Paid by direct debit
Cybertill Ltd	120.08	Paid by direct debit
TotalEnergies Gas & Power	74.28	Paid by direct debit
TotalEnergies Gas & Power	426.39	Paid by direct debit
TotalEnergies Gas & Power	4059.40	Paid by direct debit
TotalEnergies Gas & Power	11.91	Paid by direct debit
TotalEnergies Gas & Power	84.81	Paid by direct debit

**17. FINANCE CONTINUED .....**

TotalEnergies Gas & Power	109.73	Paid by direct debit
TotalEnergies Gas & Power	181.51	Paid by direct debit
TotalEnergies Gas & Power	3954.89	Paid by direct debit
TotalEnergies Gas & Power	13.30	Paid by direct debit
TotalEnergies Gas & Power	49.98	Paid by direct debit
Barclaycard	959.83	Paid by direct debit
Barclaycard	1110.30	Paid by direct debit
Morelock Signs Ltd	157.20	Paid by BACS
M Routledge	850.00	Paid by BACS
Mile Tree Brewery Ltd	297.07	Paid by BACS
D Gray	250.00	Paid by BACS
Thomas Ridley & Son Ltd	404.50	Paid by BACS
Shefs	616.20	Paid by BACS
E Robertson	600.00	Paid by BACS
Kevin Robinson	148.20	Paid by BACS
Shefs	1776.60	Paid by BACS
Studio Nova	10755.00	Paid by BACS
ATS Heritage	234.00	Paid by BACS
H C Electrical	2596.24	Paid by BACS
Mrs N Booth	311.15	Paid by BACS
D Holt	75.00	Paid by BACS
Shefs	1008.00	Paid by BACS
RGP Security Services Ltd	412.80	Paid by BACS
P Sadgrove	40.00	Paid by BACS
S Scott	80.00	Paid by BACS
Amazon Payments UK Ltd	147.26	Paid by BACS
Classical Biers Ltd	2970.00	Paid by BACS
Cottenham Brass Band	250.00	Paid by BACS
Richard Ashman	250.00	Paid by BACS
Newsquest Media Group Ltd	120.00	Paid by BACS
Grocer's Brokers Ltd	100.68	Paid by BACS
G & G Gallo	407.02	Paid by BACS
V Rudkin	220.20	Paid by BACS
M Routledge	855.00	Paid by BACS
KOMPAN Ltd	72000.00	Paid by BACS
Peter Irvine	15.00	Paid by BACS
Securitas Security Services Ltd	651.72	Paid by BACS
Shefs	1042.80	Paid by BACS
Festive Lights Ltd	1749.90	Paid by BACS
Human Capital Department Ltd	178.80	Paid by BACS
RGP Security Services Ltd	240.00	Paid by BACS
Westair Reproductions Ltd	416.52	Paid by BACS
We Are Blueshed Ltd	780.00	Paid by BACS
H C Electrical	354.00	Paid by BACS
L Villegas-Cid	127.00	Paid by BACS
Wagstaff Bros Ltd	2378.40	Paid by BACS
S Blake	638.00	Paid by BACS
Ellgia Ltd	228.22	Paid by BACS
S Bradley	300.00	Paid by BACS

**17. FINANCE CONTINUED .....**

Local Media Publishing Ltd	180.00	Paid by BACS
Studio Nova Ltd	83.98	Paid by BACS
Gem Heating Solutions	840.00	Paid by BACS
S Slezacek Building Services	1808.83	Paid by BACS
S Blake	125.00	Paid by BACS
Miss S Devaney	185.23	Paid by BACS

*The following invoices have already been paid prior to the Full Council, due to due date of payment with the approval of the Chairman*

Eden Farm Hulleys	389.90	114162
Jewson Ltd	1087.90	114163
S Jay	11.70	114164
ESPO	590.58	114165
Konica Minolta Bus Sols Ltd	456.76	114166
CoolerAid Ltd	66.98	114167
Allens Skip Hire Ltd	220.00	114168
Verve Digital Ltd	120.00	114169
A Bennett	42.62	114170
Churches Fire Security Ltd	194.28	114171
King's Lynn Town Band	50.00	114172
PKF Littlejohn LLP	2400.00	114173
City Cycle Centre	242.00	114174
Breckland Industrial Ltd	792.00	114175
Aztek Services Ltd	1035.60	114176
Warren Access	236.40	114177
We Are Blueshed Ltd	300.00	114178
PPL PRS Ltd	6468.71	114179
Amazon Payments UK Ltd	368.87	114180

*The following invoices have not been paid prior to the meeting*

Savills (UK) Ltd	286.25	114192
Gordon Harrison	97.81	114193
ESPO	139.45	114182
B Laver	18.90	114181
Allens Skip Hire	220.00	114196
Ely Museum	9474.25	114184
ECDC	638.23	114183
Churches Fire Security Ltd	179.40	114185
Thomas Ridley & Son Ltd	668.83	114186
Bright Publishing Ltd	210.00	114187
March Stationery & Print	20.00	114188
Amazon Payments UK Ltd	18.50	114189
RGP Security Services Ltd	96.00	114190
Glaswells	1290.00	114191
ECDC	180.00	114183
Jewson Ltd	41.88	114194
L Howell	60.00	114195
Allens Skip Hire	220.00	114196
Wagstaff Brothers Ltd	130249.25	114197

**17. FINANCE CONTINUED .....**

British Telecommunications	107.08	Paid by direct debit
British Telecommunications	42.54	Paid by direct debit
Virgin Media	62.40	Paid by direct debit
Virgin Media	62.40	Paid by direct debit
Greene King Brew & Retail Ltd	1245.40	Paid by direct debit
British Telecommunications	78.66	Paid by direct debit
Barclays	164.73	Paid by direct debit

**Payments relating to staff since meeting on the 15th August 2022**

Salaries and wages	£32,299.96
Inland Revenue (tax & NI)	£9,392.70
Pension fund payments	£9,747.30

*The meeting closed at 8.20 pm*



# Cllrs Alison Whelan and Piers Coutts

MONTHLY REPORT SEPTEMBER 2022

---

## STRATEGY & RESOURCES

### Cost of living crisis

The County Council has been working with partners including District Councils and the Fire Authority on the help that needs to be made available to local residents facing huge cost of living challenges in the months ahead.

### Advice and information on a single page

The Council is collating helpful information and advice on a single webpage. This includes information about schemes the Council is running or administering, as well as schemes run by others. More information will be added as it becomes available.

<https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/council/communities-localism/support-with-the-cost-of-living>

### Household Support Fund

The Council is reminding residents of the household support fund to increase uptake from eligible people of pensionable age. The Council is producing a leaflet on this fund for distribution through faith and community groups and at foodbanks.

<https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/coronavirus/household-support-fund#support-for-pensioners-who-are-struggling-financially-0-0>

### Council budget gap widens

Galloping inflation is a problem for households and businesses, but also for the Council. It has significantly widened the Council's budget gap, as well as leaving more residents in need of serious financial help from the Council as energy bills soar and the cost of living continues to rise.

### Staffing review

The Staffing & Appeals Committee has interviewed for some of the senior posts within the Council following the Chief Executive's restructure. The following key posts will be going to external advertisement:

- Executive Director: Place and Sustainability
  - Executive Director: Finance and Resources
  - Service Director: Legal and Governance
  - Service Director: Policy and Communities
  - Assistant Director: Communities, Employment and Skills
-

## **ADULTS & HEALTH**

### **NHS dentistry shortage**

Nine in 10 NHS dental practices across the UK are not accepting new adult patients for treatment under the health service. In a third of the UK's more than 200 council areas, no dentists are taking on adult NHS patients. Eight in 10 NHS practices are not taking on children. Of 45 dental practices in Cambridgeshire with NHS contracts, not a single one was taking on new adult patients.

The figures reveal an NHS dental system which is fundamentally broken, with people forced to spend hundreds or even thousands of pounds on private dental care and some even resorting to DIY dentistry.

---

## **COMMUNITIES, SOCIAL MOBILITY & INCLUSION**

### **Warm hubs**

Cambridgeshire ACRE is working with East and South Cambridgeshire District Councils on the provision of a network of 'warm hubs' to enable people to stay safe and warm over what is likely to be a very challenging winter of fuel and food poverty for many.

Local communities are being encouraged by Cambridgeshire ACRE to consider how they could be part of such a network, and setup support and ongoing support and advice will also be available. Interested organisations are being invited to complete an expression of interest form online and return it to Cambridgeshire ACRE.

---

## **ENVIRONMENT & GREEN INVESTMENT**

### **Fens reservoir consultation to launch in autumn**

Consultation on proposals for a new reservoir in the Fens will launch this autumn, when the water companies' preferred site will be announced. The project aims to provide significant additional resilience for public water supply, agriculture and the environment across Cambridgeshire, Norfolk, Suffolk and Essex. <https://wre.org.uk/project/future-fens-the-south-lincolnshire-and-fenland-reservoirs/>

### **Climate challenges**

The exceptionally hot, dry weather this summer has presented challenges to the fire service in Cambridgeshire. July saw the two busiest days ever for local crews, and August placed similar demands on the service.

More information about outdoor fire safety at [www.cambsfire.gov.uk/community-safety/outdoor-safety/](http://www.cambsfire.gov.uk/community-safety/outdoor-safety/)

Meanwhile water companies are asking residents to use water wisely and reuse wherever possible to help keep taps running this summer. A drought was declared in East Anglia, and restrictions on irrigation put in place on the Ely Ouse system, but (to date) no hosepipe bans for domestic residents.

[www.anglianwater.co.uk/help-and-advice/save-water/water-saving-tips/](http://www.anglianwater.co.uk/help-and-advice/save-water/water-saving-tips/)

### **Decarbonising community buildings**

Cambridgeshire ACRE has been considering how it can support the county's 280+ community-run buildings to reduce carbon emissions, improve resilience to climate impacts and encourage and enhance the natural environment.

Cambridgeshire ACRE is proposing to focus its regular 'coffee morning' events on this subject; work with and promote exemplar buildings; ensure those running community buildings are aware of all possible funding streams; and asking those who have led such projects to offer mentoring support to others.

---

## **HIGHWAYS & TRANSPORT**

### **Greater Cambridge 'Public Transport & City Access' consultation**

The Greater Cambridge Partnership Assembly is being asked to consider proposals for a consultation on improved public transport and active travel into and around Cambridge, with a Sustainable Travel Zone including a road user charging scheme. The consultation proposals will then be considered by the Greater Cambridge Partnership Executive Board on 28 September.

The Partnership has been considering for some years how to improve poor public transport provision and also solve car traffic congestion and pollution in Cambridge. This is important, when even the inadequate bus services we have are under threat from uncertain central government funding, but also difficult.

We need a plan that reduces carbon emissions, improves air quality, and makes Cambridgeshire's roads safer and less congested, while at the same time providing affordable, reliable, and convenient options for travel. However, we are not convinced that these proposals achieve that or offer the right balance for East Cambridgeshire residents. We, and our colleagues, will be working with local people and with politicians in Greater Cambridge to draw up ideas we think will serve East Cambridgeshire residents better.

Meanwhile, we strongly encourage East Cambridgeshire residents to read the proposals and respond to the consultation when it opens.

### **Local Highways Improvement reporting**

The County Council will shortly be launching a public web page showing progress on current Local Highways Improvement schemes. This will enable parish councils and residents to track their local LHI projects online.

## **Replacement of the Highway Asset Management System**

The Highways and Transport Committee Meeting this week agreed the specification for a new Highways Asset Management system, and this procurement proposal now goes to Strategy and Resources for financial approval. The aim is to provide a more integrated and efficient system for tackling highway faults, and a better flow of information to the public. If approved this will go out to tender towards the end of 2022, for phased implementation during 2023/24.

## **A142 Stuntney Causeway resurfacing**

The relining of the roadway was finally done in late August. The defects in the resurfacing have been agreed with the contractors and remedial work is promised in due course. This will inevitably mean some lane closures and associated 2-way traffic signals whilst the work is done.

## **Meanwhile on the Combined Authority**

Interim staff are beginning to be appointed to various roles in the Combined Authority, and improvement work continues. The timetable for setting the Combined Authority's budget is being established, and the Combined Authority's Overview & Scrutiny Committee has been given an informal briefing ahead of its more formal scrutiny of the budget.

Work is being done by the Combined Authority to address further education 'cold spots' including Ely and Soham, where need outstrips provision. The Skills Committee is recommending that the Board allocate a budget for this and start off a capital project to fill the gaps. The report to the Skills Committee says: "The vision of the programme is to invest in two new 'flagship' local FE centres, that will 'Future-proof' FE provision, be net-zero and state-of-the-art in providing green skills and wider curricula that meets local employer demand. Investment in FE infrastructure, raises aspirations, improves education standards and the skills levels among local communities."

---

**Cllrs Alison Whelan and Piers Coutts**  
County Councillors for Ely North and Ely South