



**MINUTES OF MEETING OF THE CITY OF ELY COUNCIL HELD AT 7.00 PM ON TUESDAY,
29TH NOVEMBER 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 C Whelan

1 Parishioner

Cllr E Every

Cllr I Lindsay

Cllr M Wade

Cllr D Edge

Cllr D Warman

Cllr S Austen

Cllr A Whelan

NOT PRESENT: Cllr R Pitt

1. APOLOGIES AND REASONS FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cllr Phillips and Cllr Harris and their reasons were accepted. County Cllr Coutts also gave his apologies.

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 7TH NOVEMBER 2022 AND
MATTERS ARISING**

Minutes of the last meeting held on the 7th November 2022 were agreed and signed as a true record. They were signed by the Chairman. Pages 1996, 1997, 1998, 1999, 2000, 2001 and 2002 refer. Matters arising:- Page 1996, item 4 - Cllr Lindsay reported the memorial bench and plaque had now been ordered. Page 1996, item 5 – Cllr Every said that following the bus service presentation at the last meeting it has been difficult to get a response from the Combined Authority but today a response was received. A meeting will now be arranged. She said it will require persistence to ensure these proposals keep moving forward.

5. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman announced that prior to the meeting there had been a presentation of Honorary Freemen of the City to Mr R J Hobbs and Mrs S E Friend-Smith. He thanked all that had attended and made it a memorable evening. He informed councillors of Cllr Harris' collaboration with St Mary's Church to organise a toy bank where new or used toys could be dropped off at the Church and can be given to local families who are finding it hard to afford Christmas gifts for their children. This would be the last Full Council of 2022 with the next one scheduled for the 16th January 2023.

6. QUESTION TIME

A parishioner congratulated the Council on having over the last 10 years acquired some great buildings. They asked when and how the Council was going to make use of the Courthouse and the Maltings Cottage. The Chairman confirmed that discussions have been undertaken with regard to the Maltings Cottage and are still ongoing. Tours have also been undertaken at Sessions House and a meeting will be held in the New Year with Ely Museum as to how both organisations can work together and increase the use of the building.

7. 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. District Councillors Every, Austen and C Whelan all gave verbal reports of the District meetings they had attended.

8. MAYOR'S ENGAGEMENTS & REPORT

The Mayor had attended the East Cambs Careers & Skills Fair in Ely Cathedral; on the 11th November had attended an outdoor Service of Remembrance in the Market Square and laid a wreath for the fallen at the War Memorial and read a poem; on 13th November attended the Remembrance Day Service in Ely Cathedral and on behalf of the Council laid a wreath at the memorial for the Cambridgeshire Regiment in St Etheldreda's Chapel and laid a further wreath at the War Memorial. He had also attended the Ribe Twinning Association AGM; the Godmanchester Civic Supper and visited the Festive Fayre on St Mary's Green, the Prickwillow Village Council and earlier in the evening had presided over the proclamation of two new Freeman of the City of Ely.

9. PLANNING

Cllr Lindsay gave a report on the last planning meeting.

10. INFORMATION ONLY ITEMS

The following information only items were received and noted:-

Notification of Street naming and numbering:- 116 Lancaster Way Business Park, Ely; Mulberry House, 17A Forehill, Ely

11. COMMITTEE REPORTS

(i) PERSONNEL, FINANCE & GOVERNANCE – The Chairman presented a report of a meeting held on the 21st November, which was approved. Cllr A Whelan proposed the CIL applications for a new gate at Paradise play area (£884); 2 x picnic tables at the High Barns and Paradise play areas (£1044) and a climbing tower at St John's play area (£10,000) be approved. This was seconded by Cllr Edge and unanimously approved. Cllr A Whelan proposed the recommendations from the Inclusivity Working Group be approved. These being approval to apply for planning permission for the month of February to fly the Pride flag for LGBT History month and approval to purchase the flag to fly for Black History month in October and to also apply for planning permission. To also approve the review of the Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Policy Statement, which had no amendments. This was seconded by Cllr C Whelan and all unanimously approved. The Chairman signed the approved Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Policy Statement. Cllr A Whelan proposed a Working Group be formed with a specific aim to investigate further the issues with regard to undertaking a Neighbourhood Plan. The Group would report back to Full Council with a recommendation as to whether this was something the Council should consider undertaking. This was seconded by Cllr Edge and unanimously approved. Cllrs Wade, Every, Austen and Edge will form the Working Group. The Group will report back to Full Council with their recommendations by March 2023.

11. COMMITTEE REPORTS CONTINUED

(ii) **CLIMATE AND ENVIRONMENT** - Cllr Denness presented a report of a meeting held on the 14th November 2022, which was approved. The wheelie bin stickers have now been delivered for the 20's Plenty campaign. Cllr Denness will draft a list of roads that she considers to be priority for this. Cllr Denness will be prioritising the Council's list of minor highway issues so a bid through the LHI Scheme can be submitted before the deadline of 6th January 2023. Cllr Denness proposed the Council approve the volunteer that has come forward to be a Tree Warden for Ely. This was seconded by Cllr Edge and unanimously agreed. ECDC will be contacted requesting they undertake the appropriate training through their tree warden scheme.

The Chairman confirmed he had sent a letter to the Commercial Director at ECDC with regard to the two possible sites around the Hive that had been identified for a splashpad. Permission in principle is therefore sought to pursue one of the sites for the Ely Splashpad. A response had not been received so he will chase this.

(iii) **ASSETS** – Committee had not met. The next meeting will be on the 12th December 2022.

(iv) **TOURISM AND TOWN CENTRE** – Cllr Warman reported a meeting had been held on the 28th November 2022, but the minutes had not been produced yet due to this only being the previous evening. These will be considered at the next Full Council meeting. She did inform councillors that the digital signage boards would be delayed now until June 2023 due to procurement and supply issues. Cllr Every will be speaking to ECDC with regard to this and the need to launch the app early next year.

12. REPORTS FROM EXTERNAL MEETINGS

Executive Review Group – notes of a meeting held on the 15th November 2022 were noted.

City of Ely Allotments and Gardens Association – minutes of meetings held on the 19th October 2022 were noted.

PUBLIC BODIES (ADMISSION TO MEETINGS) ACT 1960 EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND THE PUBLIC Cllr Morgan proposed to resolve that in accordance with Section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 and by reason of the confidential nature of the remainder of the business, the Press and the Public be excluded from the Meeting. This proposal was seconded by Cllr Lindsay and unanimously agreed by councillors. There were no members of the press or public present.

13. TO CONSIDER REPORT WITH REGARD TO OVERTIME/TOIL REVIEW

Recommendations from the Personnel, Finance and Governance Committee were considered and discussed. Councillors agreed options for each section of the report.

PUBLIC BODIES (ADMISSION TO MEETINGS) ACT 1960 RE-ADMITTANCE OF THE PRESS AND THE PUBLIC Cllr Morgan proposed to resolve that the confidential business having been concluded, the Press and Public be re-admitted to the meeting. This was seconded by Cllr Lindsay and unanimously agreed by councillors. There were no press or public to readmit.

Items 14 and 15 was taken before item 13. All members of the public left the meeting at 8.05 pm.

14. TO PASS A RESOLUTION THAT MRS CHRISTINE TYLER AND MRS SUZANNE STONE BE SPECIFIED AS A PENSIONABLE EMPLOYEES UNDER REGULATION B1(5) OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT REGULATIONS 1986 (AS AMENDED)

Cllr A Whelan proposed the Council pass a resolution that Mrs Christine Tyler and Mrs Suzanne Stone be specified as pensionable employees under Regulation B1(5) of the Local Government Regulations 1985 (as amended). This was seconded by Cllr Edge and unanimously approved.

15. FINANCE

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

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
Cybertill Ltd	70.12	Paid by direct debit
Worldpay	370.51	Paid by direct debit
Worldpay	696.25	Paid by direct debit
ESPO	201.18	Paid by direct debit
ESPO	609.17	Paid by direct debit
ESPO	119.64	Paid by direct debit
ESPO	142.05	Paid by direct debit
ESPO	152.53	Paid by direct debit
Greene King Brewing & Retail Ltd	257.64	Paid by direct debit
Greene King Brewing & Retail Ltd	1992.87	Paid by direct debit
Lex Autolease	352.06	Paid by direct debit
Barclaycard	1552.80	Paid by direct debit
Virgin Media	62.40	Paid by direct debit
Virgin Media	62.40	Paid by direct debit
TotalEnergies Gas & Power	257.35	Paid by direct debit
TotalEnergies Gas & Power	440.28	Paid by direct debit
TotalEnergies Gas & Power	7102.14	Paid by direct debit
TotalEnergies Gas & Power	17.75	Paid by direct debit
TotalEnergies Gas & Power	96.03	Paid by direct debit
Greene King Brewing & Retail Ltd	2484.11	Paid by direct debit
English Eden	467.88	Paid by BACS
ATS Heritage	234.00	Paid by BACS
ATS Heritage	234.00	Paid by BACS
Human Capital Department Ltd	178.80	Paid by BACS
G & G Gallo	487.64	Paid by BACS
Ely Tool Hire Ltd	100.52	Paid by BACS
L Rouse	20.00	Paid by BACS
Cambs Chamber of Commerce	302.40	Paid by BACS
Kevin Robinson	128.40	Paid by BACS
Shefs	1766.40	Paid by BACS
RGP Security Services Ltd	192.00	Paid by BACS
Icon Books Ltd	119.88	Paid by BACS
Mile Tree Brewery Ltd	182.59	Paid by BACS
Studio Nova Ltd	96.00	Paid by BACS
Ely Museum	9474.25	Paid by BACS
CamAlarms Ltd	859.19	Paid by BACS
Bright Publishing Ltd	210.00	Paid by BACS
G & G Gallo	224.90	Paid by BACS

15. FINANCE CONTINUED

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

Thomas Ridley & Son Ltd	195.99	114245
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The following invoices had not been paid prior to the meeting

ESPO	147.46	114246
Konica Minolta Bus Sols Ltd	90.85	114247
Heelis & Lodge	700.00	114248
SLCC	60.00	Paid by BACS
ECDC	1564.32	114249
Amazon Payments UK Ltd	416.73	114250
Warren Access	140.40	114251
Festive Lights Ltd	23.77	114252
Caterfix Ltd	222.00	114253
M Routledge	53.14	114254
Gordon Harrison	85.94	114255
H C Electrical	165.60	114256
Nisbets	86.37	114257
Cambs Turf Nurseries	36.00	114258
ECDC	132.00	114249
Churches Fire Security Ltd	246.08	114259
Greene King Brewing & Retailing Ltd	946.50	Paid by direct debit
British Telecommunications	78.66	Paid by direct debit
Norfolk Sound Systems	4908.14	Paid by BACS
Kathryn Rowland	100.00	114260
M Chinery-Colyer	419.37	Paid by BACS
ESPO	100.92	114246
ESPO	534.00	114246
RGP Security Services Ltd	105.60	Paid by BACS
Warren Access	1152.00	114251
G & G Gallo	360.80	Paid by BACS
Trade UK	301.47	Paid by BACS
Shefs	3351.78	Paid by BACS
East Cambs Trading Co Ltd	2591.16	114263
Lex Autolease	383.70	Paid by direct debit
Barclays	255.76	Paid by direct debit
Amazon Payments UK Ltd	64.66	114250
Konica Minolta Bus Sols Ltd	267.11	114247
British Telecommunications	42.54	Paid by direct debit
British Telecommunications	107.08	Paid by direct debit
SLCC	403.00	114261
Jewson Ltd	24.73	114262
Thomas Ridley & Son Ltd	275.92	114264
Cheffins	152.78	Paid by BACS
CamAlarms Ltd	328.80	Paid by BACS
CamAlarms Ltd	378.63	Paid by BACS
Mrs S Morley	235.00	Paid by BACS

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MAYOR
16th January 2023

15. FINANCE CONTINUED

Payments relating to staff since meeting on the 7th November 2022

Salaries and wages	£47,932.01
Inland Revenue (tax & NI)	£8,763.36
Pension fund payments	£9,512.69

Members noted and approved the bank reconciliation against the accounts for the period ending 30th November 2022

The meeting closed at 8.30 pm

Cllrs Alison Whelan and Piers Coutts

MONTHLY REPORT NOVEMBER 2022

BUSES

Combined Authority

The Combined Authority's bus procurement concluded last month, with all eighteen routes which had been cut by Stagecoach, along with all of the five reduced services, seeing some level of service reinstated.

The Combined Authority had set aside £1.7M for subsidies to operators to keep them running. Currently, the total cost is expected to be about £1.25M because bus operators were limited in what services they were prepared to provide. The Combined Authority will be monitoring how the new services are working.

As well as ensuring vital bus services continue between October and the end of March 2023, the Combined Authority is working to put in place a sustainable and affordable bus network from April 2023 onwards.

All this is a sharp reminder of the reality of the current deregulated bus system, and the problems caused by sixty per cent of bidding authorities in England, including Cambridgeshire & Peterborough, receiving no Government funding for their Bus Service Improvement Plans (BSIPs).

The Combined Authority's Overview & Scrutiny Committee was told in a report from its lead member for buses that two reasons had been given for the failure of the Department for Transport to fund Cambridgeshire's Bus Service Improvement Plan:

1. in DfT's view we had insufficient commitment to road charging, active travel and bus priority schemes in our area; and
2. the DfT subsequently applied a deprivation index score to each BSIP submitted and given our high overall growth, this meant that the money tended to be allocated in the north of England rather than to us.

A refreshed Bus Strategy for Cambridgeshire and Peterborough will be presented to the Combined Authority's Transport & Infrastructure Committee in November, alongside a refreshed Bus Service Improvement Plan and a case for Government investment.

Work is also continuing to further develop the business case for a franchised bus network in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough, but this will need money for the necessary investment in the service.

Passengers with questions about bus services can email passenger.transport@cambridgeshirepeterborough-ca.gov.uk

Greater Cambridge Partnership

The Greater Cambridge Partnership has now opened its public consultation on its proposals for a significant expansion of bus services in Cambridge and the city's travel to work area, including East Cambridgeshire, to be paid for by the introduction of a congestion charge in Cambridge in 2027/28.

It is very important indeed that local residents here in East Cambridgeshire read the proposals, complete the survey, and let the Greater Cambridge Partnership know what the proposals would mean for them.

The survey closes at midday on Friday 23 December. The consultation website, including the survey, brochure, map book, frequently asked questions, and contact details, can be found at <https://consultcambs.uk.engagementhq.com/making-connections-2022>

Mayoral precept

The Mayor of Cambridgeshire & Peterborough meets regularly and informally with leaders of the member councils of the Combined Authority. One idea he raised in one such meeting was whether there might be a case for setting a Mayoral precept to be added to the Council Tax, to fund bus services beyond March 2023. This suggestion was then leaked to the media, with some council leaders then taking the opportunity to oppose the idea from the outset.

We understand Cambridgeshire County Council and Peterborough City Council would both have a veto over such a proposal.

A bus network covering more than just a few key urban routes will need public subsidy, and the money for this will need to come from somewhere—either central government, or local government.

The Government has already refused to fund Cambridgeshire's Bus Service Improvement Plan once. Will we be more fortunate this time? The Chancellor of the Exchequer is looking for billions of pounds in spending cuts. How likely are we to see the kind of Government investment we need?

Locally, some politicians have opposed the Greater Cambridge Partnership congestion charge proposals, and also opposed the idea of a Mayoral precept. If we continue to receive no money from central government, and if all sources of local government funding for improved buses are opposed, how else will the necessary investment in bus services be raised to move Cambridgeshire to a more sustainable franchised model of bus transport?

COMMUNITIES, SOCIAL MOBILITY & INCLUSION (COSMIC)

Household Support Fund

The Committee met in November and agreed eligibility criteria for the third round of the Household Support Fund (October 2022 to March 2023). The amount available for the third round of funding is £3,581,424. This is to be spent once again on school meal vouchers for the school holidays, and on direct one-off grants to eligible households, which were raised from £100 to £110 to reflect increasing inflation.

ENVIRONMENT & GREEN INVESTMENT

Interim Tree & Woodland Strategy

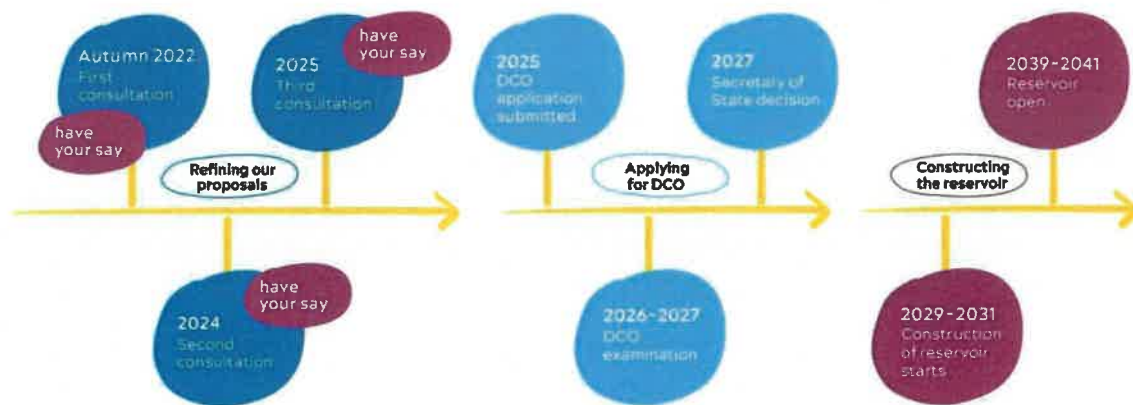
The Environment & Green Investment Committee approved an Interim Tree Strategy last month. The interim strategy will serve while the Council gathers information about what trees the Council has, where they are, and how the Council can improve and expand its tree assets. Once the Council has this baseline information it can start to plan for the future.



Fens Reservoir

Anglian Water and Cambridge Water have now announced their preferred location for a new Fens reservoir north of Chatteris.

The timeline for such a big project is a long one, with multiple consultations, an application to the Secretary of State, construction expected to start in 2029-31 and the reservoir to open in 2039-41. The indicative timeline is as follows.



The water companies' initial survey on the design of the reservoir, and what people would like to see as part of the project, will be open for public comment until Wednesday 21 December at <https://www.fensreservoir.co.uk/>

Details of public events in Fenland and community webinars are available at <https://www.fensreservoir.co.uk/our-proposals/consultation-overview/>

HIGHWAYS & TRANSPORT

Local Highways Improvements

The improvements we reported in October to the Local Highways Improvement process have now been agreed, and the new timetable is as follows.

- Application window opens **Monday 31 October 2022**
- Application window closes at 5:00PM on **Friday 6 January 2023**
- Feasibility studies undertaken **February to April 2023**
- Panel meetings **May 2023**
- Report to committee including prioritised list for approval **June 2023**
- Programming, design, consultation **July 2023 to March 2024**
- Pricing and construction **March to August 2024**

20MPH scheme

Proposals for the process to award funding for applications for 20MPH schemes will be reported to the December meeting of the Highways & Transport Committee. Piers is a member of the Committee and is pressing for this to be put in place as soon as possible.

HGV policy

The draft HGV policy we reported last month has now been approved with a couple of minor additions about length and width restriction applications.

<https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/travel-roads-and-parking/roads-and-pathways/heavy-or-abnormal-loads-on-the-highway/heavy-goods-vehicle-hgv-policy>

FIRE AUTHORITY

Budget

The Chief Fire Officer for Cambridgeshire has warned that there will have to be reductions to the service unless the way in which it is funded changes.

As part of national negotiations a revised cost of living pay award of five per cent was offered for firefighters. Combining this with the offer already on the table for support staff, Cambridgeshire's fire service will be in budget deficit of at least £1.1m at the start of April 2023. CFO Chris Strickland said the service wanted its employees to be given a pay increase that reflected the current rate of inflation, but also had a responsibility to deliver a balanced budget, and these were currently at odds.

Fire and rescue services are limited as to the increase in council tax which they can request.

The Chair of the Fire Authority, Cllr Edna Murphy, said: "This year's increase in fires, as a result of the prolonged hot, dry weather, has shown us that we will need the fire service more in the future, not less."

Meanwhile on the Combined Authority

The Combined Authority will consider its bus strategy this month, at the Transport & Infrastructure Committee, and again at its Board meeting.

The Overview & Scrutiny Committee last month held a Mayoral Question Time at which Mayor Nik Johnson received questions from members of the Committee. Many of these were about bus services, as this has been such a serious issue for many residents, but others were more general in nature about climate change, active travel, the Combined Authority's Improvement Plan, affordable housing, skills, and the overall priorities and direction of travel of the Combined Authority.

Mayor Nik Johnson is currently on sick leave for three months whilst recovering from surgery. Cambridge City Council's Leader, Cllr Anna Smith, has taken on the additional role of Statutory Deputy Mayor during his absence.

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

