



**MINUTES OF MEETING OF THE CITY OF ELY COUNCIL HELD AT 7.00 PM ON MONDAY,
27TH FEBRUARY 2023 AT THE MALTINGS, SHIP LANE, ELY**

PRESENT: Mrs T Coulson – Clerk to the Council

Cllr R Morgan, Mayor

Cllr D Edge

Cllr V Ganivet

Cllr R Pitt

Cllr E Every

Cllr C Phillips

Cllr M Wade

Cllr S Austen

Cllr D Warman

Cllr C Whelan

Cllr A Whelan

Cllr I Lindsay

County Cllr P Coutts

1. APOLOGIES AND REASONS FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cllr Harris and his reason for absence was 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 16TH JANUARY 2023 AND MATTERS ARISING

Minutes of the last meeting held on the 16th January 2023 were agreed and signed as a true record. They were signed by the Chairman. Pages 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014 and 2015 refer. Matters arising:–
Page 2011, item 6 – Cllr Phillips informed councillors he had met with the CEO of the Kite Trust. He felt it was a group that the council should support and he looked forward to working with them in the future.
Page 2011, item 9 – Cllr Phillips informed councillors he had written to ECDC electoral services department as agreed. Cllr C Whelan had produced an article for our submission in the Elyi on this matter to inform parishioners.

5. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman said that earlier this evening he had been delighted to receive members of the KD Theatre Production and a cheque, for which they raised funds for the Mayor's Charity.

6. QUESTION TIME

As there were no members of the public present no questions were received.

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. Cllr Coutts updated councillors on the progress with the implementation of the 20 mph in Ely. He confirmed that funding had been found for this scheme, which would be available until March 2024. He said a letter from the County Council will be sent out shortly to launch the consultation for the scheme. He also confirmed that the council would not have to apply under the other scheme which has just been launched. Cllr Lindsay requested that County Cllr Coutts talk to Stuntney Village Council as they feel a 20 mph scheme in Stuntney would be beneficial. He agreed to do so. The Mayor also said that Prickwillow Village Council were interested. County Cllr Coutts said this as not within his ward and they would need to speak to their ward councillor. District Councillor Every informed councillors of further tickets being available for the Community Safety Partnership celebration event on the 13th March at 6.30 pm. She also informed councillors that ECDC had frozen their council tax for another year. Cllr C Whelan tabled a written report, which will be attached to the minutes. Cllr Austen had nothing additional to report.

8. MAYOR'S ENGAGEMENTS & REPORT

The Mayor had attended the preview of Burial of a Princess? At Ely Museum; the induction of the Revd Ann Williams as priest in charge of St Peter's, Ely; a talk on St Etheldreda at the Old Palace; the ceremonial ribbon cutting at Willow Woods, Lynn Road for 258 new homes; the 70th anniversary commemoration service since the Great Flood at The Minister, King's Lynn; the Mayor of March's ball; the launch of St Etheldreda 1350 Anniversary at Ely Cathedral; presented certificates to American air force personnel who helped erect the city's Christmas lights at USAF Lakenheath and thanked Mr Chinery-Colyer for arranging everything; the dedication of the new Royal British Legion Standard given in memory of Private John Unwin by the late Mayor, Mike Rouse and attended the Viva Ars & Community Group Awards ceremony. The Deputy Mayor had attended an event at the Paradise Centre, caring for carers; the Thinking Day at St Mary's Church. He had also represented the Council, along with Cllrs Lindsay and Every at the funeral of Mrs V Holden.

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:- 24 Lisle Lane, Ely; Paddock View, The Hamlet, Chettisham, Ely

Notification of street closures:- various streets, but including Bentham Way, Langham Way, Steward Close, Wilford Drive and West End, Ely 1.4 – 1.12.2023 (footway slurry seal works); The Gallery, Ely - 2.3.2023 (removal of the Black Oak Table); Lynn Road, Ely – 24-28.4.2023 (resurfacing of carriageway and white lines)

11. COMMITTEE REPORTS

(i) PERSONNEL, FINANCE & GOVERNANCE – Cllr A Whelan presented a report of a meeting held on the 23rd January 2023, which were noted and approved. The Pride flag has been flown from the 1st February for LGBT+ month. Cllr Denness will be applying for planning permission for the Black Lives History flag for the month of October. Cllr Phillips would be working his way through the list of charities and organisations in Ely, to identify and contact organisations to see if the Council can work with them. The Internal Auditor's reports re Sessions House, the Maltings and Oliver Cromwell House were noted. Cllr C Whelan proposed councillors approved the recommended grant aware of £500 to the Kite Trust. This was seconded by Cllr Ganivet and unanimously approved.

11. COMMITTEE REPORTS CONTINUED

(ii) CLIMATE AND ENVIRONMENT – Cllr Ganivet presented a report of a meeting held on the 20th February 2023, which was noted and approved. The update on climate change was noted. The Council will have a stall at the next Green Fair to be held on Cross Green on the 5th August 2023. The Council has submitted a response to the Combined Authority’s draft Bus Strategy Consultation, which had been prepared by Mr G Hughes. A site meeting had been held at the Hive and the location for the proposed Splashpad had been agreed. A further site meeting will now need to be held with an officer from ECDC to confirm acceptance of this location.

(iii) ASSETS – Cllr Philips presented a report of a meeting held on the 30th January 2022, which were noted and approved. Councillors noted the updates with regards the Maltings and Maltings Cottage. Cllr Phillips informed councillors he will be giving a tour of the cemetery to members of the public on the 27th March. This will include the history of the site and family history.

(iv) TOURISM AND TOWN CENTRE – Cllr Warman presented a report of a meeting held on the 25th January 2023, which was noted and approved. The update on the service and the town centre were noted. Cllr Warman informed councillors the new Visitor Guide had now been launched and was extremely good. She thanked Mrs Bennett for her success in getting lots of the local businesses to advertise in it. The Council will continue to stock and provide the late Cllr Mike Rouse’s books. An agreement had been made with his family to enable us to continue his legacy.

12. REPORTS FROM EXTERNAL MEETINGS

City of Ely Allotments and Gardens Association – minutes of meetings held on the 21st December 2022 were noted.

Executive Review Group – notes of a meeting held on the 16th January 2023 were noted.

Cllr Lindsay, as a representative on the Ely/Ribe Twinning Association informed councillors a twinning event was planned for representatives from Ribe to visit Ely from the 12-15 May 2023. It was hoped the Mayor would be able to attend some of the planned events.

Cllr Phillips informed councillors he had attended a meeting of the Trinity Dole and Needham’s Foundation, who are planning to merge and had discussed what the new organisation would look like. He will keep the Council informed of the progress.

Cllr Lindsay had attended a meeting of the Cawdle Fen Internal Drainage Board.

13. NOMINATIONS FOR MAYOR AND DEPUTY MAYOR FOR 2023/2024

Councillors unanimously approved the nomination of Cllr Chris Phillips for Mayor, proposed by Cllr I Lindsay and seconded by Cllr E Every. There were no nominations for Deputy Mayor

14. TO APPROVE THE APPOINTMENT OF MRS E GREY TO THE POSITION OF SOCIAL MEDIA AND MARKETING ASSISTANT AT OCH AND TO AGREE TO THE APPOINTMENT OF A PERSON TO THE ROLE OF PART-TIME TOURIST INFORMATION CENTRE ASSISTANT ONCE THE INTERVIEW AND SELECTION PROCESS HAS BEEN COMPLETED

Cllr Every proposed the approval of the appointment of Mrs E Grey to the position of Social Media and Marketing Assistant at OCH and the appointment of a person to the role of part-time Tourist Information Centre Assistant once the interview and selection process had been completed. This was seconded by Cllr Warman and unanimously approved.

15. ST ETHELDREDA 1350 YEARS – CLLR EVERY TO INFORM COUNCILLORS OF THE HISTORY BEHIND THIS CELEBRATION

Cllr Every gave councillors the history behind the St Etheldreda 1350 years celebrations.

16. FINANCE

Cllr Morgan proposed these all be approved, which was seconded by Cllr Phillips and unanimously approved. Councillors also noted and approved the bank reconciliation against the accounts for the period ending the 31st December 2022.

Direct debit payments and BACS payments

British Telecommunications	266.00	Paid by direct debit
British Telecommunications	78.66	Paid by direct debit
British Telecommunications	78.66	Paid by direct debit
British Telecommunications	107.08	Paid by direct debit
British Telecommunications	42.54	Paid by direct debit
Barclays	152.63	Paid by direct debit
Siemens Financial Services Ltd	452.40	Paid by direct debit
Francotyp Postalia Ltd	64.80	Paid by direct debit
Worldpay	184.67	Paid by direct debit
Worldpay	575.02	Paid by direct debit
Virgin Media	62.40	Paid by direct debit
Virgin Media	62.40	Paid by direct debit
Lex Autolease	383.70	Paid by direct debit
Greene King Brewing & Retail Ltd	2001.69	Paid by direct debit
Cybertill Ltd	70.12	Paid by direct debit
Lex Autolease	231.36	Paid by direct debit
Lex Autolease	770.78	Paid by direct debit
Drax Energy Solutions Ltd	35.69	Paid by direct debit
FuelGenie	409.21	Paid by direct debit
Francotyp Postalia Ltd	64.80	Paid by direct debit
Greene King Brewing & Retail Ltd	570.36	Paid by direct debit
TotalEnergies Gas & Power	443.50	Paid by direct debit
TotalEnergies Gas & Power	226.45	Paid by direct debit
TotalEnergies Gas & Power	4897.10	Paid by direct debit
TotalEnergies Gas & Power	17.63	Paid by direct debit
TotalEnergies Gas & Power	90.12	Paid by direct debit
Barclaycard	1998.89	Paid by direct debit
ESPO	486.71	Paid by direct debit
ESPO	1670.47	Paid by direct debit
ESPO	1095.26	Paid by direct debit
ESPO	350.84	Paid by direct debit
Siemens Financial Services Ltd	500.40	Paid by direct debit
Public Works Loan Board	9498.75	Paid by direct debit
St Ives Choral Society	50.00	Paid by BACS
Ely Museum	9474.25	Paid by BACS
Warren Access	456.00	Paid by BACS
Mile Tree Brewery Ltd	206.64	Paid by BACS
D Holt	50.00	Paid by BACS
L Villegas-Cid	142.50	Paid by BACS
Harper Collins Publishers	43.97	Paid by BACS
RGP Security Services Ltd	192.00	Paid by BACS
Elyi Magazine	350.00	Paid by BACS

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16. FINANCE CONTINUED

Rialtas Business Solutions Ltd	132.59	Paid by BACS
H C Electrical	1912.56	Paid by BACS
East Air Conditioning Services Ltd	774.00	Paid by BACS
Star Editions Ltd	989.33	Paid by BACS
ATS Heritage	234.00	Paid by BACS
Zaun Ltd	1012.80	Paid by BACS
Ellgia Ltd	176.84	Paid by BACS
Ely Central Heating Services Ltd	360.00	Paid by BACS
Lauren Rouse	35.00	Paid by BACS
Take One Media Ltd	732.00	Paid by BACS
Fullpip Ltd	234.90	Paid by BACS
Cambridge Art	723.60	Paid by BACS
Grocer's Brokers Ltd	191.76	Paid by BACS
Trade UK	52.95	Paid by BACS
G & G Gallo Enterprises Ltd	506.97	Paid by BACS
We Are Blushed Ltd	72.00	Paid by BACS
March Stationery & Print	82.18	Paid by BACS
P Myerson HVAC Maintenance Ltd	278.98	Paid by BACS

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

The Mayor's Account	80.00	114289
Anglian Water	371.53	114290
Aztek Services Ltd	661.32	114291
ESPO	104.52	114292
Studio Nova Ltd	24.00	114293
Art of Clean	214.08	114294
Eden Farm Hulleys	420.96	114295
Thomas Ridley & Son Ltd	246.66	114304
Fenland Leisure Products Ltd	2473.20	114303
National Federation of Cemetery Friends	10.00	114302
RGP Security Services Ltd	249.60	114301
Studio Nova Ltd	60.00	114300
Westair Reproductions Ltd	427.68	114299
Allens Skip Hire Ltd	220.00	114298
S Blake	495.00	114297
Human Capital Department Ltd	178.80	114296

The following invoices had not been paid prior to the meeting

Securitas Security Services (UK) Ltd	176.40	114306
CoolerAid Ltd	5.93	114307
ESPO	72.26	114308
City Cycle Centre	113.21	114309
G & J Peck Ltd	118.12	114310
ECDC	781.92	114311
Konica Minolta Bus Sols (UK) Ltd	344.22	114312
Cambridge Marketing Ltd	7272.00	114313
Allens Skip Hire Ltd	220.00	114314
1st Call (Hire & Sales) Ltd	7.08	114315
Thomas Ridley & Son Ltd	223.49	114316

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16. FINANCE CONTINUED

Jewson Ltd	175.69	114317
East Cambs Trading Co Ltd	6518.98	114318
Sue Aldridge	56.00	114319
Amazon Payments UK Ltd	513.37	114320
Gordon Harrison	189.67	114321
A Bennett	74.54	114322
Virgin Media	62.40	Paid by direct debit
Virgin Media	62.40	Paid by direct debit
Barclays	75.48	Paid by direct debit
British Telecommunications	78.66	Paid by direct debit
British Telecommunications	42.54	Paid by direct debit
British Telecommunications	107.08	Paid by direct debit
Lex Autolease Ltd	383.70	Paid by direct debit
Studio Nova Ltd	24.00	Paid by BACS
ICCM	114.00	Paid by BACS
KISS Communications	90.00	Paid by BACS
CB Groundworks and Construction Ltd	1786.99	Paid by BACS
ATS Heritage	234.00	Paid by BACS
ESPO	77.32	114308
Konica Minolta Bus Sols Ltd	176.26	114312
ECDC	73.36	114326
M Routledge	57.14	114323
Amazon Payments UK Ltd	35.58	114324
Allens Skip Hire Ltd	220.00	114325
G & J Peck Ltd	42.40	114326

Payments relating to staff since meeting on the 29th November 2022

Salaries and wages	£30,278.58
Inland Revenue (tax & NI)	£10,002.178
Pension fund payments	£10,613.29

Councillors noted and approved the bank reconciliation against the accounts for the period ending 31st December 2022.

The meeting closed at 8.20 pm.

Cllrs Alison Whelan and Piers Coutts

MONTHLY REPORT FEBRUARY 2023

FULL COUNCIL

Group changes

Cllr Doug Dew (Hemingfords & Fenstanton) has left the Conservative Group on the County Council and joined the Liberal Democrat Group. At a by-election on 17 February Geoff Seeff was elected to represent St Neots The Eatons Division. The new composition of the Council is now:

- Conservative 27
- Liberal Democrat 22
- Labour 9
- Independent 3

2023/2024 County Council Budget

Tuesday 7 February was the date of the annual budget meeting. As reported last month, the Government announced its 'financial settlement' for councils just before Christmas, and proposed that Cambridgeshire County Council's 'core spending power' (the overall revenue funding available for council services) should increase by 9.5 per cent, less than the current rate of inflation.

Half of that 9.5 per cent is from the council's power to raise council tax—in other words, the Government expects local council tax payers to shoulder a lot of the extra costs.

The County Council set a balanced budget for 2023-24, in the face of a national funding settlement which takes no account of Cambridgeshire's population growth. The Government's decision to move its fair funding review back for a further two years leaves Cambridgeshire with a formula which takes no account of recent population growth, and in some cases bases funding on population figures which are more than twenty years old.

The budget sought to bridge the potential funding gap for the coming year which was of £21.4M, even after finding more than £10M of additional savings or income, in the face of levels of inflation not seen for forty years along with rising costs for energy and essential services.

The budget outlined how the Council plans to spend more than £15m in one-off funds from reserves next year including

- £1M to continue free school meal vouchers for eligible children
- £1M into highways schemes including rural roads drainage
- £1M investment into flood mitigation

- more than £1.3M into libraries
- £380,000 investment in community services.

The council's new 'triple bottom line' approach to the social and economic impacts of budget proposals has seen increased investment in biodiversity improvements, and in ensuring all new schools are built to net zero standards.

The budget proposal means band D properties will pay an additional £73 per year in council tax, although more than half (64 per cent) of the county lives in homes rated band C or below and who will see rises of between £49 and £65 per year. In total this will raise £17.8M towards setting a legally balanced budget for 2023/4 and help to mitigate the additional costs of adult social care.

The Full Council also approved the Council's five-year business plan, based on its Strategic Framework, which sets out a vision for a 'greener, fairer and more caring Cambridgeshire', and is based around its seven key ambitions. Over the next five years, the business plan looks to deliver

- £122M for new primary school places
- £164M for new secondary school places
- £13.3M investment into converting streetlights to LED, delivering both environmental and financial benefits
- £2.5M into a new highways materials recycling operation
- A £7.2M upgrade to the March and Milton household recycling centres

At the time of writing, the following council tax changes are being proposed.

Cambridgeshire County Council	+ 4.99 per cent (£1.72 per week Band D)
East Cambridgeshire District Council	No change
Fire Authority	+ £4.95 per annum at Band D
Police & Crime Commissioner	+ 5.8 per cent (£0.29 per week Band D)

The Combined Authority has agreed to introduce a Mayoral Precept of £12 per year at Band D to support local bus services.

STRATEGY & RESOURCES

Electricity contract

Concerns over the carbon credentials of its current provider of electricity have led Cambridgeshire County Council to defer a decision to sign up for a further four years while it looks into further options.

Since 2016 the Council has had a single contract in place for the supply of electricity with Total Energies, a French multinational oil and gas company from which it purchases a 'Pure Green' electricity tariff at a small extra cost. The

contract was negotiated via the Eastern Shires Purchasing Organisation (ESPO), of which the County Council is a shareholder.

In recent discussions with ESPO, the opportunity has arisen to allow the council to offset the energy it purchases with energy it generates, such as from the North Angle solar farm which is due to become operational later this year. It is not yet known if this opportunity would be available via other purchasing organisations, and councillors agreed to defer making a final decision on the contract until March to explore this further.

ADULTS & HEALTH

Cold weather actions and tips

Each year the number of deaths expected from cold weather increases. Cold weather and freezing temperatures are threats to health, as they can lead to falls, respiratory infections, strokes, heart attacks and other health risks.

This winter a particularly high number of people are ill with a respiratory illness, and so Cambridgeshire County Council have put together some actions and tips for residents to help them prepare.

www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/news/locals-urged-to-be-aware-of-the-dangers-to-health-in-cold-weather

CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE

Great Gidding school

A difficult meeting of the committee last month included a decision to start formal consultation on the potential closure of Great Gidding school in Huntingdonshire. Pupil numbers from within the catchment have declined significantly and there are concerns about the ongoing educational and financial viability of the school.

Outdoor centres

The council is also moving to close Stibbington outdoor centre, and use the money saved to improve the council's other centres at Grafham Water and Burwell House.

Holiday voucher scheme

The Christmas holiday voucher scheme closed at the end of January with around three per cent of vouchers unclaimed—significantly less than in previous rounds. The Council once again ran a voucher scheme for February half term whereby each eligible child could be issued with a £15 voucher.

- Information <https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/children-and-families/schools-learning/help-with-school-learning-costs/free-school-meals>
- Queries winter.support@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

Foster caring

Cambridgeshire County Council is continuing to seek residents who would like to make a real difference to the lives of a child or young person by becoming a Foster Carer. Applicants must be over 21 years of age, have a spare bedroom, and be willing and able to provide a stable and loving environment in which a child or young person can thrive. Foster Carers can benefit from local training and development, generous pay and benefits, 24/7 support from a Supervising Social Worker, as well as local support groups and networking opportunities.

- Information www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/children-and-families/fostering-and-adoption
- Email fostering@cambridgeshire.gov.uk,
- Call 0800 052 0078
- Text FOSTERING to 60777

Strikes in schools

The National Education Union has announced three strike dates affecting Cambridgeshire.

- Wednesday 1 March (East of England)
- Wednesday 15 March (national)
- Thursday 16 March (national)

The County Council's education team has been providing advice and information to schools, and the Director of Education has met with the Trade Unions.

The most up to date and relevant information about strikes affecting particular schools will be on the schools' own websites. However a list will also be maintained at <https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/children-and-families/schools-learning/school-term-dates-closures/school-closures>

COMMUNITIES, SOCIAL MOBILITY & INCLUSION

Food bags for vulnerable families

Nearly 1,200 vulnerable families across Cambridgeshire were given special food bags as part of the Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) Programme this Christmas.

The 'Take and Make bags'—funded by the Department for Education—contained long-life food items worth up to £35 to allow families prepare nutritious meals for the New Year. Bags were distributed to 1,178 families, and eligible children

were also able to attend a holiday scheme which provided them with a nutritious meal and a variety of experiences such as sports, cooking and play opportunities. Requests for free school meals have increased by 24 per cent in the past sixteen months.

Free school meals information www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/children-and-families/schools-learning/help-with-school-learning-costs/free-school-meals

Cost of living www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/council/communities-localism/support-with-the-cost-of-living

National Lottery funding

Funding of up to £10,000 is available for events and activities through the National Lottery *Awards for All* programme. National Lottery *Awards for All* does not have a deadline but can take up to twelve weeks from the point of submission to receiving funding.

www.tnlcommunityfund.org.uk/funding/under10k

ENVIRONMENT & GREEN INVESTMENT

Waste upholstered domestic seating

Last month we reported on changes by the Environment Agency to its enforcement of legislation on disposal of waste upholstered domestic seating. As a result of these last-minute changes, Cambridgeshire County Council had no option but to stop receiving unwanted sofas and other upholstered furniture from 1 January.

Fortunately this situation lasted only a week, and legally compliant storage arrangements have now been put in place while permanent disposal solutions are negotiated.

Moving towards Net Zero

The County Council's Environment & Green Investment Committee received a report last month on the council's progress towards Net Zero for its own operations, and for the whole of Cambridgeshire.

The focus of the council's activities in the next six months will be on:

- Decarbonisation measures in eight schools for heating, hot water, and energy efficiency.
- 30MW of solar electricity generating capacity coming online from the North Angle Solar Farm.
- 100 homes connected to the Swaffham Prior Community Heat Network receiving 99 per cent decarbonised heating and hot water.

- 1,500 Cambridgeshire homes installed with solar and battery solutions by the end of May 2023 to add to last year's figures.
- Starting to retrofit a further five Council buildings (to add to the 22 already complete or nearing completion) to decarbonise heating and hot water.
- 30 businesses receiving low carbon business support to start their Net Zero journey.
- Decarbonisation plans for the Council's high emitting carbon sectors.
- A roadmap for the roll-out of county-wide electric vehicle infrastructure in partnership with the Combined Authority and district partners.
- Starting an audit of trees and significant hedgerows this month on the Council's assets to inform the Corporate Tree and Woodland Strategy and wider Biodiversity Strategy.
- Launching a new People Strategy to help bring the right skills and resources to the organisation for climate change and biodiversity crises.
- Developing and sharing best practice and case studies as part of the implementation of the Council's Climate Communications Strategy.
- Agreeing Net Zero by Design principles for all projects and services.
- Net Zero procurement guidance for commissioners of Council services.
- A further thirty council officers receiving Carbon Literacy training.
- A new corporate outcome for the Council starting April 2023 focused on responding to the climate crisis and achieving carbon net zero.

HIGHWAYS & TRANSPORT

Street lighting and road repair recycling

The County Council plans to fit street lighting with energy-efficient LEDs. The council spends £3.3M a year on energy for street lights, and investment in a programme of LED replacement would pay back in under six years.

The Council is also proposing to recycle materials from road works, from asphalt and tar to gully water, with an estimated saving of around £250,000 a year.

Local Highway Improvement schemes

We discussed with Cllr Denness some possible ideas for LHI bids, but unfortunately these were not sufficiently developed by the deadline, and Cllr Denness decided to postpone taking these forward until next year.

Safety bollards on Waterside

When a small housing development was completed on Waterside Ely a few years ago, a slip-up over a planning requirement resulted in there being a blind entrance which posed a threat to pedestrians and cyclists. When resident Ted Coney contacted me (Piers) I approached the planners at ECDC but they were unable to remedy the situation. I therefore liaised with the County Council and their contractor *Milestone* to resolve the issue and implement safety measures.

Potholes

Cllrs Alex Beckett and Neil Shailer, chair and vice-chair of Highways and Transport at the County Council, have published a statement about potholes.

“In the winter a lot more road defects and potholes form, this is being seen across the country. This is due to wet and freezing weather causing those worn areas of road and pavement surfaces to break up.

“We know how important our roads are which is why we carry out regular inspections of our roads, bridges, cycleways and footpaths. Defects identified and reported to us are repaired as quickly as possible. We have increased the number of gangs dealing with both temporary and permanent fixes and we are using our two dragon patchers.

“Our dedicated highway inspectors are working hard to keep the roads safe, but we can't be everywhere at all times, which is why we encourage the public to report any potholes or highway faults using our online tool. It's easy to use and flags any faults which have not yet been marked. We would rather have multiple reports of the same fault, than none at all.

“After the cold spell at the end of last year, it can take time for damage in the road to go on and form into potholes. We'd urge drivers to be vigilant over the next few weeks and report any faults to us.”

<https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/highwayfaults>

Meanwhile on the Combined Authority

The Combined Authority Board set its budget in January, including for the first time a Mayoral Precept of £12 a year at Band D (less for lower bands, and more for higher bands) to support bus services in Cambridgeshire & Peterborough. This will help stabilise vulnerable services and help pave the way for a more sustainable 'franchised' bus model.

This was opposed by Conservative council leaders, including the Leader of East Cambridgeshire, who proposed instead withdrawing ten Cambridgeshire bus services without consideration of the effect on social isolation, deprivation, access to facilities, or connections to the rest of the transport network—or even any information about the number of bus pass holders using the services. They also proposed to use reserves to keep other buses running for just one year. Fortunately both proposals were defeated.

The Combined Authority's Overview & Scrutiny Committee asked some searching questions about the Combined Authority's draft Bus Strategy. We were concerned to hear that any possibility of franchising, which enables the Authority to specify the services to be provided and set the routes, timetables and fares, would take two years just to reach Business Case stage, and probably five years or more to implement.

The Combined Authority has agreed new governance and committee arrangements. As the Government is not offering any more money for affordable housing, the Housing Committee has been wound down and replaced with an Environment & Sustainable Communities Committee.

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

East Cambridgeshire District Council report

27th February 2023 - Cllr Christine Whelan

FULL COUNCIL MEETING

The District Council Full Council meeting took place on Tuesday 21st February.

This meeting was to discuss the budget for 22/23.

The meeting opened with a minute's silence in recognise 2 former district councillors who had recently died.

The chair of the council announced the retirement of Joan Cox from Democratic Services.

There were no petitions presented at the meeting.

There were no public questions at this meeting.

A motion was proposed by the Liberal Democrat group about voter ID, this was defeated.

There were six member questions details of these will be published.

The council's pay policy was agreed.

Swaffham Bulbeck neighbourhood plan was adopted as part of the plan for East Cambridgeshire.

The main item on the agenda was to approve the budget for the coming year. An alternative budget was put forward by the Liberal Democrat group. This included a budget for Civil Parking Enforcement. There were comments that free parking would discontinue if this was adopted but there are many other areas where this isn't the case and free parking still exists with CPE.

The amended budget was discussed and defeated.

The Administration budget was approved and there were recorded votes for both these items.

Isabel Edgar was appointed director of East Cambs Street Scene.

ECSS has asked for an additional payment of up to £500,000 the reason is that they are in deficit of the running costs of the company. There was an

amendment proposed that this should be a loan to ECSS, this amendment to the recommendation was defeated.

The additional payment was approved by the council. Concerns were raised into the financial control of this company and the monitoring of the accounts were questioned.

Meeting can be viewed at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OvaGlvSy-Ro>

Details of the agenda and minutes of previous meeting can be found at

<https://www.eastcambs.gov.uk/meetings/council-21022023>

OPERATIONAL SERVICES COMMITTEE

The next meeting is on 27th March.

FINANCE AND ASSETTS

The next meeting in on 30th March