



**CITY OF ELY COUNCIL
ASSETS COMMITTEE**

MINUTES OF A MEETING

HELD ON MONDAY 7TH AUGUST 2023 AT 7.00 PM AT SESSIONS HOUSE, LYNN ROAD, ELY.

PRESENT: Mrs S Jay– Deputy Clerk to the Council

Bold font indicates voting member of committee

Cllr R Morgan

Cllr S Austen

Cllr R Moss-Eccardt

Cllr L Fox

The Mayor, Cllr C Phillips

Cllr R Denness

Not present: Cllr M Wade

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies had been received from **Cllr K Holtzmann**

2. To receive declarations of interests

There were no declarations of interest.

3. To approve the minutes of the last meeting held on the 30th May 2023 and matters arising

The minutes of the last meeting held on the 30th May 2023 were agreed by members and signed by the Chairman. Pages A57 & A58 refer

Page A 58 – Item 10, The Deputy Clerk reported the plaque had been received and will be put up shortly.

4. To appoint committee Vice Chair

Cllr Fox proposed Cllr Moss-Eccardt as Vice chair this was seconded by Cllr Austen and unanimously agreed by members.

5. To appoint a lead member for Recreation and Cemetery

Cllr Morgan proposed Cllr Moss-Eccardt as the lead member for Recreation & Cemetery, this was seconded by Cllr Fox and unanimously agreed by members.

6. To appoint a lead member for the Maltings

Cllr Morgan proposed Cllr Austen as the lead member for the Maltings, this was seconded by Cllr Moss-Eccardt and unanimously agreed by members.

7. To note budget updates for Cemetery, Recreation, Christmas Lights, Local Needs Housing and the Maltings complex dated 31st July 2023

Members noted the budget updates dated 31st July 2023. There were no significant variances.

8. Zurich Insurance inspection reports received dated July 2023 for play areas and Cemetery, no major faults reported.

The Deputy Clerk explained that Zurich carry out annual inspections of equipment and that there were no major faults reported.

9. Recreation Areas

(i) St John's Road play area update on new equipment

The Deputy Clerk reported she has a site visit with the supplier on 8th August, with a planned installation date of mid-September.

(ii) St John's Road Play area – surfacing

The Deputy Clerk reported that the wetpour surfacing under the swings needs replacing, and that she is in the process of obtaining 3 quotations for this work. Members agreed for her to place an order for the cheapest, this will be funded from the Recreation budget of ear marked reserves and the cost will be around £3500-£4000.

(ii) To receive update on fitness equipment

The Deputy Clerk reported she had met with an officer from ECDC who had welcomed the suggestion to install 5 fitness stations between Morley Drive and West Fen Road. ECDC have requested standard terms and conditions, such as responsibility, equipment checks, repairs and replacement and that any correspondence regarding the equipment will be dealt with by the City of Ely Council. The Deputy Clerk will provide these in due course. Members agreed to approach the CIL Committee for £20K to fund the project.

(iv) To discuss email received re Skate Park

Members noted the email that had been circulated with the agenda and agreed that whilst the equipment does not suit the needs of all skaters, it is popular with the younger generation. Given that it has now been repaired it was agreed to not explore replacing the equipment at the current time but to review the matter in 2 years' time.

(v) Upgrade fence at the Park

The Deputy Clerk informed members the wooden fence that surrounds the play area is starting to deteriorate. All other play areas the council owns have galvanised steel metal hoop fences which require no maintenance. She had been in touch with the Director of Conservation & Works at the Cathedral to see if they would prefer a wooden fence or if a metal fence would be acceptable. They have responded to say they will consult the Chapter regarding this.

10. Cemetery

The Deputy Clerk reported that the planting is starting to mature in the Sensory Garden. The Mayor would like to see the hedge planted in order to define the area. The committee resolved that there will be no burials within the Sensory Garden as the space will remain a place for recollection.

The Mayor reported that District Cllr Anna Bailey had complimented the Estates team and the fine job they do in maintaining the cemetery.

11. Christmas Lights

(i) To co-opt members on to the Christmas Lights sub-committee

Cllr Moss-Eccardt proposed Mrs A Arnold, Mr G Burrell and Mr T Deschane to be co-opted on to the Christmas Lights Sub-Committee, this proposal was seconded by Cllr Austen and unanimously agreed by members.

(ii) To note minutes of the Christmas Light Sub committee meeting held on the 13th June 2023

Members noted the minutes of the meeting held on the 13th June 2023. Cllr Fox reported they had received a request from Re-imagine to provide Christmas decorations from recycled materials, made by children to hang on the tree. Members agreed this idea will be discussed at the next Christmas Lights sub-committee meeting to be held on the 12th September 2023.

12. Local Needs Housing

No updates to report at the current time.

13. Sessions House

(i) To discuss the Friends of Sessions House and appoint a Councillor to lead this in conjunction with Visit Ely

Members agreed there is not a need for a Friends of Sessions House group as Assets is mainly concerned with the fabric of the building, it's upkeep and the setting of hire charges. It was agreed that using the building as a venue is predominantly aimed at tourism and therefore the Tourism and Town Centre Committee should take the lead and develop events to include Sessions House in conjunction with the museum and other external organisations, but always keep the Clerks informed of bookings as they manage the calendar.

14. The Maltings Complex -to receive updates on:

(i) Maltings

No updates to report at the current time.

(ii) Maltings Cottage

Currently waiting for insurance report from ECDC re subsidence.

(iii) Maltings Restaurant

No updates to report at the current time.

15. Date of next meeting:

Monday 2nd October at 7pm

The meeting closed at 7.55pm