



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

Tel: 01353 661016

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING
HELD AT THE MALTINGS, SHIP LANE, ELY
AT 7.00 PM ON MONDAY, 27TH MARCH 2023**

PRESENT: Mrs T Coulson – Clerk to the Council

The Mayor, Cllr R Morgan

Cllr V Ganivet

Cllr C Whelan

Cllr R Denness

Cllr C Phillips

Cllr E Every

Cllr M Wade

Cllr P Harris

Cllr I Lindsay

Cllr D Warman

1 representative of the Ely Ribe Twinning Association

5 representatives of the Voluntary Organisations giving reports

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Cllr A Whelan, Cllr D Edge, Mr H McMillian from the Ely Ribe Twinning Association and County Cllr P Coutts.

2. MINUTES OF THE LAST ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD ON THE 29TH MARCH 2022

Minutes of the last Annual Parish Meeting held on the 29th March 2022 were agreed and signed as a true record. Pages 167, 168 and 169 refer.

3. MAYOR'S OPENING REMARKS

The Mayor welcomed everyone to the meeting, which he said was a statutory meeting that the Council has to hold each year. He said this was the fourth and last annual parochial meeting in the quadrennial prior to the Council elections. Before he moved forward with the agenda he recalled those who had meant something special to members of the Council.

Firstly Her Late Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, for it was in her reign that the Council came to be formed and it was by Her Royal Command that the Mayor of Ely be addressed as The Right Worshipful the Mayor of Ely; secondly the late Michael Henry Rouse, who had spent nearly 50 years as a member of the Council and had served as Mayor of Ely three times;

Vicki Holden who had never stood for election, but through her tenacity fought for the disabled through East Cambs Access Group and Mr Peter Austen, the husband of his fellow councillor Sue Austen. All those present stood for a minute's silence to remember these.

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4. PRESENTATION OF REPORTS

The Committee Chairmen spoke about their Annual Reports, which had been issued with agendas and answered questions raised.

(i) Chairman’s Annual Report

No questions.

(ii) Personnel, Finance and Governance

No questions.

(iii) Planning

No questions

(iv) Assets

No questions.

(v) Climate & Environment

A representative from Prickwillow Village Council stated that the Zipper bus routes go around Ely but do not cover the Prickwillow area. Councillors confirmed that new bus routes should be opening up and that the Combined Authority should be looking at this. The 20s plenty timeframe was also raised. Cllr Denness said that County Cllr Coutts had reported that Ely had been identified and the County Council would be moving this forward.

(vi) Tourism and Town Centre

No questions.

(vii) CIL

No questions.

(viii) Christmas Lights

No questions. Cllr Every requested that people consider volunteering to assist with the erection of the Christmas lights. New volunteers are always welcomed. The representative from Prickwillow Village Council agreed to share with the residents of Prickwillow.

(ix) Ely/Ribe Association

No questions. Mr Hughes thanked the Council for its continued support. The recent visit to the City by the Ribe Tour Guides had been very successful and he was currently discussing arrangements for taking Ely Tour Guides to Ribe in November 2023.

(x) Allotments

No questions.

(xi) Working Groups

Questions were raised for the following Working Groups:-

CCTV – a representative of the Kite Trust asked how many CCTV cameras there were in Ely and whether these were value for money. Cllr Every provided the information and said that the Council were looking to extend the scheme as was recommended by the Police and Community Safety Partnership. The cameras do act as a deterrent. She requested information be provided on crimes that they are aware of as this would help the Community Safety Partnership safety action plan. This was agreed to be discussed outside of the meeting.

Outdoor Sport & Leisure – a representative of the Prickwillow Village Council asked how they should go about setting up a wheelchair rugby league. Cllr Every said that East Cambs District Council would be able to assist with that and agreed to provide contact details. She fully supported that disabled people should have access to sport. Cllr Lindsay also confirmed that Ely Tennis Club have groups for the disabled and that they should also be contacted.

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4. PRESENTATION OF REPORTS CONTINUED

Youth – The Council was questioned as to why they did not have a Youth Working Group and did the Council feel there was enough priority given to the youth in Ely. Cllr C Whelan confirmed that the Council used to have one, but it was disbanded and a Youth Lead appointed. The Council had tried to engage with the youth of Ely, but there had not been a lot of interest. Cllr Every reported that ECDC had produced a Youth Strategy and were working with the Community Safety Partnership in delivering this.

(xii) Representatives on Other Organisations

No questions.

5. GENERAL FORUM

There were no questions raised in the general forum.

6. REPORTS FROM VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS

Kite Trust

Pip Gardner, Chief Executive said that the Kite Trust was a youth organisation working with LGQ+ youth in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough. They had a huge amount of gratitude for the grant awarded and felt that the Trust had been welcomed to Ely, with their offices on Market Street. The grant of £500 will be used to add to the collection of books in their library area, shelving, gallery space to display young people’s artwork, bathroom space for gender neutral toilet facilities, sanitary products and sexual health products. The numbers of youths they are helping is increasing so they will be looking to run two groups.

Unfortunately, the building and some of the youths attending have experienced random acts of hate crime. Pip wanted the Council to also be aware that they still have people knocking on their door for CAB so there is still a need for this. Cllr Every said that the Community Safety Partnership had been informed with regard to the hate crime.

Voluntary & Community Action East Cambs

Angela Haylock informed councillors she was the new CEO of VCAEC, although she had been working on and off for the organisation since 2013. The role of VCAEC was to help people find volunteers. The grant from the Council was used for the Helping Hands Gardening Scheme. This is where volunteers go and help people with their gardens as they are usually not able to do themselves and are probably vulnerable, which could lead them to being victims of crime. 80% of the work undertaken is usually garden clearance. By providing this scheme it helps the people who volunteer to undertake the work as they can be long-term unemployed, have mental health problems or even early onset dementia. This gives them satisfaction as they have helped others. They receive referrals from the Papworth Trust for those wanting to volunteer, with most contact being from word of mouth. In the first year of the scheme only one garden was done, due to the weather. A representative from Prickwillow Village Council asked how they reached vulnerable groups and Angela said that they advertised in GP surgeries, encouraging people to contact them. Angela thanked the Council for the grant they had received. It was very much appreciated and invaluable to the organisation.

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Cambridgeshire Artistic Roller Skating Club

Diane King, Chair of the Board of Trustees said the Club became a registered charity in 2017. She thanked the Council for their grant of £1000. People can learn to skate or attend fun skate sessions for £4 at Ely Paradise Centre and at Soham. They can also hire skates for £1. People just turn up as they do not have to be a member. They are a totally inclusive club and have skaters of all levels, with some have competed at national artistic skating competitions. They have had many new families attend this year, with some from the Ukraine. Many have little or no English, but they make them feel welcome. They have six coaches and an off-skate dance specialist. They have had great success at National and British Championship. Until covid they were a buoyant club, but families have suffered financially and now with the cost of living they had quite a few leave. Their bank account is low so they have had to raise rates. The cost of hiring the Paradise Centre is £8,000 per annum, which will rise to £9,600 from April 2023. Soham charges them £5,000 per annum. So they have to find £15,000 before insurance and other costs. With the Council’s grant is has enabled them to keep rates at the same level. The Club is now thinking that they will need to replace their skate stock, which is vital to enable people to skate. Grants will keep them going until July 2023 but further grants will be needed to carry on. Parents also raise money for the Club, which is greatly appreciated.

Prickwillow Village Council

Pat Del Grazia, Treasurer of Prickwillow Village Council thanked the Council for the grant which will be used to provide a paved area and ramp around the war memorial in Prickwillow to enable access for the disabled. She thanked Cllr Morgan, for being the Council’s representative on their Council and attending their meetings. He has enabled them to push forward with projects. They are looking forward to having a community orchard and have social events planned for the village. They are registering formally as a Community Interest Company. She said that speeding in the village is still an issue, but it has been helped thanks to the Council and the setting up of Speedwatch.

7. MAYOR’S CLOSING REMARKS

The Mayor thanked everyone for attending, his fellow councillors for their reports, the reports from the voluntary organisations and for the important questions and comments that had been made.

He said that since Covid nearly all the Council’s meetings had been held at the Maltings. These meetings are public meetings and that this was democracy’s front door.

He also said that a publication of Notice of Election had been displayed in the Council’s noticeboard today as an election of the whole Council will take place on the 4th May. He reminded everyone to vote and to take their ID with them.

The meeting closed at 8.10 pm.

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