



**MINUTES OF MEETING OF THE CITY OF ELY COUNCIL HELD AT 7.05 PM ON MONDAY,
29TH JULY 2024 AT THE MALTINGS, SHIP LANE, ELY**

PRESENT: Mrs T Coulson – Clerk to the Council

Cllr C Phillips, Mayor

Cllr R Trent

Cllr L Fox

Cllr Ní Dhónaill

Cllr R Ward

Cllr C Whelan

Cllr M Wade

Cllr M Banyard

Cllr D Warman

Cllr R Denness

*County Cllr A Whelan
5 members of the public*

1. APOLOGIES AND REASONS FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cllrs Novick, Holtzmann, Morgan and Moss-Eccardt. The reasons for their absences 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 17TH JUNE 2024 AND MATTERS ARISING

Minutes of the last meeting held on the 17th June 2024 were agreed and signed as a true record, They were signed by the Chairman. Pages 2103, 2104, 2105, 2106, 2107, 2108, 2109 and 2110 refer. There were no matters arising.

5. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENT

The Chairman reminded colleagues that the current casual vacancy on the Council would be filled at the September Full Council meeting and urged them to encourage candidates to come forward for consideration.

He also reminded councillors that Ely Pride would take place on the 3rd August and that this event had been strongly supported by the Council for a number of years. He hoped that colleagues would be able to attend for part of the day.

6. QUESTION TIME

A member of the public representing Ely Pride asked if the Council would consider waiving the charges for the Maltings for their upcoming event, which was a community event. The Clerk explained that as a community event they would already be receiving a discount on the charges. She suggested that they apply through the Council's grant process to cover these costs.

A member of the public representing Stuntney Village Hall Committee asked if the Council would look favourably at supporting an application for financial assistance to undertake repairs to Stuntney Village Hall. The Clerk explained that they would need to submit a grant or CIL application and this would be considered along with all the other applications. It was noted that the remaining lease on the Hall is only for 9 years.

A member of the public representing the Splash Pad Ely group asked if the Council could reform the Outside Sports and Leisure Working Group to enable them to continue to receive support through this Group. Cllr Ní Dhónaill agreed to discuss this request at the next Personnel, Finance and Governance Committee meeting but requested that further details were provided as to what they thought the Council could give them by reforming the Group.

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 Cllrs Trent, C Whelan and Wade gave short reports on matters regarding the District Council.

County Cllr A Whelan left the meeting at 7.30 pm.

8. MAYOR'S ENGAGEMENTS & REPORT

The Mayor had attended the Bishop's Garden Party; Ely Arts Festival; Armed Forces Day; the opening of Bengal Brunch; Mildenhall USAF base for Mayors' event; Chaplaincy Evensong at the Cathedral; Aquafest; Ely Folk Festival; Ely Choral Society Concert; Royal Anglian Regiment Annual Reunion; Back to Nature Exhibition at the Museum; Rotary Club of Ely tour of Ely Cemetery; NSPCC Summer Supper fundraiser; presentation of bronze award plaque to Ely Methodist Church for its environmental work; Citizenship Ceremony at New Shire Hall; Licensing of the Revd Ann Williams at St Peter-in-Ely; presentation of certificates at Ely Porta Language School; attended Green Fair and the Susan Osbourne Art Exhibition at The Yard.

The Deputy Mayor had attended the RAF Mildenhall Change of Command Ceremony; High Sheriff's Garden Party and the Cambs ACF Family Celebration Day.

9. PLANNING

Cllr Warman in the absence of the Planning Committee Chairman gave a report on the planning meeting which had been held prior to this meeting.

10. INFORMATION ONLY ITEMS

The following information only items were received and noted:-

Street Naming & Numbering:- new dwelling – 158 Lynn Road, Ely; new dwelling – 60C Cambridge Road, Ely

Notification of Street Closures:- ground investigation works, Fen Rivers Way footpath, Queen Adelaide, Ely – 5.8 – 5.10.24; new gas connection, B1102, Ely – 12-16.8.24; Remedial works Anglian Water, High Street, Ely – 6-6.8.24; Public footpath Ely 76/2, temporary diversion during construction work prior to diversion onto new route, Kings Ely playing field - 9.9.24 -9.3.25

11. COMMITTEE REPORTS

(i) PERSONNEL, FINANCE & GOVERNANCE - Cllr Ní Dhónaill presented a report of a meeting held on the 22nd July 2024, which was unanimously approved. The applications for CIL funding for Splash Pad Group - £700; restore Maltings hall floor - £3,800; Maltings future projects - £50,000; bus shelter in Prickwillow - £7123.94; Ely Youth Artwork in Leisure Village Underpass additional grant - £2875.35 and Prickwillow play area expression of interest - £100,000 were all approved.

Cllr Novick as the new Youth Lead informed members he had spoken to Lis Every and Ely College with regard to the formation of a Youth Forum. This would enable younger people to make the Council aware of their ideas. Members felt that before this could move forward, Cllr Novick needed to bring a formal plan to the next meeting, explaining how it would be set up, how it would work, how it would be launched etc. Cllr Novick agreed to do this.

The Communications and PR Working Group had discussed a councillor being appointed to undertake social media in relation to the younger parishioners. It was agreed if this was to be proposed, the Council's policies would have to be considered if amendments were necessary and a formal plan as to how this would work would need to be considered and approved.

Three quotes had been received for a replacement Shopmobility scooter at Ely Museum. It was felt the best replacement would be the same model as the Museum currently had. It was unanimously agreed the quote for £3,395 plus VAT be accepted.

It was agreed the title of the Tourism and Town Centre Committee would be renamed Tourism Committee. It was agreed that the request to omit town centre from the Tourism and Town Centre Manager's title was not as straightforward as consultation would need to be undertaken with the Manager as to the proposed change. It was agreed the Clerk would review the Manager's job description with regard to duties that related to the town centre and have a discussion with the Manager and then bring back a recommendation to the next meeting.

Climate Plan Action A2 - Cllr Ní Dhónaill proposed that she take on this task and be appointed as the lead to develop this policy, whilst liaising with C&E Working Group. This was seconded by Cllr Banyard and unanimously agreed.

Climate Plan Action A9 - It was agreed that Cllr Ní Dhónaill and the Clerk would look into the options available and draft a sustainable travel policy for consideration by the Council. A request was made for some bike racks to be installed at Sessions House. This will be referred to the Assets Committee for consideration.

It was unanimously agreed the Clerk would apply for the Disability Confident Employer status. The personnel issue, discussed in Committee at the end of the meeting, was agreed to accept the recommendation made by the Clerk.

(ii) CLIMATE AND ENVIRONMENT – No report as Committee had not met.

(iii) ASSETS - No report as Committee had not met.

(iv) TOURISM AND TOWN CENTRE – No report as Committee had not met.

12. REPORTS FROM EXTERNAL MEETINGS

Executive Review – members noted the notes of a meeting held on the 26th July 2024.

City of Ely Allotments and Gardens Association – members noted the notes of a meeting held on the 9th May 2024.

Ely Ribe Association – members noted the notes of a meeting held on 11th July 2024.

County Cllr A Whelan returned to the meeting at 7.49 pm.

13. TO CONSIDER IF THE COUNCIL WISHED TO SUPPORT A CAMPAIGN ON THE SAFETY OF LITHIUM-ION BATTERIES AND THEIR DISPOSAL

Cllr Fox felt this was a sensible piece of legislation and would support more sustainable transport. She proposed the Council should support this proposed bill. This was seconded by Cllr Ní Dhónaill and unanimously agreed.

14. TO CONSIDER COMMENTS ON ECDC'S CONSULTATION ON ITS GAMBLING ACT 2055- STATEMENT OF PRINCIPLES FOR LICENSING

It was unanimously agreed not to make any comments on this consultation.

15. FINANCE

Cllr Banyard proposed these all be approved, which was seconded by Cllr Ní Dhónaill and unanimously approved.

Direct debit payments and BACS payments

ECDC	299.00	Paid by direct debit
ECDC	2295.00	Paid by direct debit
ECDC	200.00	Paid by direct debit
ECDC	524.00	Paid by direct debit
ECDC	499.00	Paid by direct debit
ECDC	299.00	Paid by direct debit
ECDC	2295.00	Paid by direct debit
ECDC	200.00	Paid by direct debit
ECDC	524.00	Paid by direct debit
ECDC	499.00	Paid by direct debit
FuelGenie	341.95	Paid by direct debit
Barclays	172.35	Paid by direct debit
Lex Autolease	772.90	Paid by direct debit
SSE Energy Supply Ltd	79.75	Paid by direct debit
British Telecommunications	317.74	Paid by direct debit
TotalEnergies Gas & Power Ltd	300.14	Paid by direct debit
TotalEnergies Gas & Power Ltd	365.73	Paid by direct debit
TotalEnergies Gas & Power Ltd	100.67	Paid by direct debit
TotalEnergies Gas & Power Ltd	20.85	Paid by direct debit
TotalEnergies Gas & Power Ltd	8931.26	Paid by direct debit
Virgin Media	62.40	Paid by direct debit
Virgin Media	62.40	Paid by direct debit
EE Ltd	102.24	Paid by direct debit
Greene King Brewing & Retail Ltd	1696.88	Paid by direct debit
Greene King Brewing & Retail Ltd	1000.94	Paid by direct debit
Cybertill Ltd	74.82	Paid by direct debit
Francotyp Postalia Ltd	250.00	Paid by direct debit

15. FINANCE CONTINUED

Barclaycard	928.22	Paid by direct debit
ESPO	133.04	Paid by direct debit
ESPO	96.51	Paid by direct debit
ESPO	831.56	Paid by direct debit
ESPO	137.10	Paid by direct debit
British Telecommunications	50.22	Paid by direct debit
Bidfood Ltd	930.72	Paid by direct debit
Virgin Media	62.40	Paid by direct debit
Virgin Media	62.40	Paid by direct debit
EE Ltd	102.24	Paid by direct debit
Greene King Brewing & Retail Ltd	1488.20	Paid by direct debit
Lex Autolease	772.90	Paid by direct debit
Shefs	2885.00	Paid by BACS
Ely Museum	264.00	Paid by BACS
HC Electrical	429.67	Paid by BACS
We Are Blushed Ltd	204.00	Paid by BACS
Speedy Asset Services Ltd	221.66	Paid by BACS
G & G Gallo Enterprises Ltd	1121.00	Paid by BACS
SIS Global Seating Ltd	1020.00	Paid by BACS
S A Wilson	150.00	Paid by BACS
Cambridge Mobility Ltd	108.00	Paid by BACS
Cambridgeshire Search & Rescue	100.00	Paid by BACS
Grocer's Brokers Ltd	247.08	Paid by BACS
Eden Farm Hulley's	184.37	Paid by BACS
Newmarket Town Band	250.00	Paid by BACS
K Robinson	250.00	Paid by BACS
J Wiley & Sons Ltd	279.31	Paid by BACS
Star Editions Ltd	1041.97	Paid by BACS
Two Bad Mice Publishers Ltd	409.44	Paid by BACS
RGP Security Services Ltd	299.70	Paid by BACS
LE Enterprises	1050.00	Paid by BACS
AC Environmental Services (UK) Ltd	714.00	Paid by BACS
ATS Heritage Ltd	234.00	Paid by BACS
S Bradley	350.00	Paid by BACS
Ellgia Ltd	154.51	Paid by BACS
Human Capital Department	226.80	Paid by BACS
Studio Nova Ltd	276.00	Paid by BACS
Marston Book Services Ltd	19.98	Paid by BACS
Shefs	1425.00	Paid by BACS
The Play Inspection Co Ltd	2336.00	Paid by BACS
Ely Tool Hire Ltd	38.94	Paid by BACS
CoolerAid Ltd	11.86	Paid by BACS
Konica Minolta Bus Sols Ltd	114.84	Paid by BACS
P Sadgrove	20.00	Paid by BACS
CamAlarms Ltd	432.00	Paid by BACS
Witham Oil & Paint (Soham) Ltd	139.67	Paid by BACS
Cottenham Brass Band	250.00	Paid by BACS
Pheasant Catering	130.00	Paid by BACS
Eden Farm Hulley's	484.70	Paid by BACS

15. FINANCE CONTINUED

Trade UK Ltd	78.56	Paid by BACS)
March Stationery & Print	55.00	Paid by BACS)
Konica Minolta Bus Sols Ltd	114.84	Paid by BACS)
Cambridge Marketing Ltd	741.60	Paid by BACS)
Mr S J Warner	230.00	Paid by BACS)
Littleport Band	250.00	Paid by BACS)
Ely Skip Hire Ltd	304.00	Paid by BACS)
ECDC	450.70	Paid by BACS)
Mitchell & Mayle Ltd	150.00	Paid by BACS)
Stark Building Materials Ltd	129.72	Paid by BACS)
Konica Minolta Bus Sols Ltd	218.50	Paid by BACS)
G & J Peck Ltd	63.73	Paid by BACS)
City Cycle Centre	163.37	Paid by BACS)
Soham Pest Control	99.00	Paid by BACS)
G & G Gallo Enterprises Ltd	1336.85	Paid by BACS)
Ely Museum	4266.00	Paid by BACS)
Amazon Payments UK Ltd	425.90	Paid by BACS)
Anglian Water	1204.74	Paid by BACS)

The following invoices had not been paid prior to the meeting

Pen & Sword Books Ltd	35.10	Paid by BACS
Stark Building Materials Ltd	51.30	Paid by BACS
RGP Security Services Ltd	255.30	Paid by BACS
Cambridge Marketing Ltd	59.20	Paid by BACS
Millennium Pest Control Ltd	75.60	Paid by BACS
Anglia Property Preservation Ltd	696.00	Paid by BACS
ECDC	390.00	114667
Amazon Payments UK Ltd	89.75	114673
Minerva Publications	612.00	Paid by BACS
CoolerAid Ltd	48.00	Paid by BACS
Bannold Supplies and Services Ltd	156.00	Paid by BACS
Amazon Payments UK Ltd	39.06	114673
Yellow Publications Ltd	118.80	Paid by BACS
M Ward	197.50	114668
British Telecommunications	65.47	Paid by direct debit
British Telecommunications	65.47	Paid by direct debit
A Bennett	29.50	114671
Cambridge Wind Band	250.00	Paid by BACS
E Long	68.25	Paid by BACS
Ely Museum	10000.00	Paid by BACS
We Are Blueshed Ltd	324.00	Paid by BACS
Konica Minolta Bus Sols Ltd	33.35	Paid by BACS
Greene Kind Brewing & Retailing Ltd	1039.82	Paid by direct debit
L Pridmore	28.80	114670
Barclays	83.70	Paid by direct debit
SSE Energy Supply Ltd	77.19	Paid by direct debit
Gordon Harrison	65.66	114669
Stark Building Materials Ltd	24.02	Paid by BACS

15. FINANCE CONTINUED

Payments relating to staff since meeting on the 17th June 2024

Salaries and wages	£38,171.29
Inland Revenue (tax & NI)	£11,906.32
Pension fund payments	£12,590.72

The meeting closed at 7.55 pm.

Cllrs Piers Coutts and Alison Whelan

MONTHLY REPORT JULY 2024

A brief report this month, as most meetings were postponed in the run up to the General Election.

CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE

Additional needs provision

Locally and nationally, there is a growing complexity of need, alongside a lack of local capacity for children and young people with complex needs in crisis. Two Council owned properties will be used to deliver additional capacity for Cambridgeshire children. The service will be provided by an external provider.

The Council was paying an average cost of £16,596 per child with higher needs per week for an unregistered placement which was down from the average cost in October 2023 of £19,545. Following a meeting and negotiations with the market providing higher needs provision, the Council would be placing a cap on the weekly tendered rate. The new figure was likely to be between £8,000 and £12,000 per week. The Council would also be bringing children, identified as the prioritised cohort, back in County.

The increase in the number of children with a Child Protection Plan for every 10,000 population under 18 since last winter was not out of step nationally or regionally, and Cambridgeshire was lower than the England average and its statistical neighbours. Post Covid there had been an increase in complexity of need, which had challenged the resources available to universal services for preventative work.

COMMUNITIES, SOCIAL MOBILITY & INCLUSION (COSMIC)

Household support fund

The Household Support Fund in Cambridgeshire is preparing to finish as the national scheme comes to an end.

In April 2024, Cambridgeshire County Council was awarded over £3,580,000 to support households in need and help with the rising cost of living.

The scheme has experienced significant demand, with large numbers of applications being submitted every day through both direct applications to the Council and via partners.

To ensure demand is managed and the fund does not overspend, the scheme in Cambridgeshire will close on 26 July, with all applications received up to 9.00am on that day being processed.

The council's Household Advice and Support Team will continue to process applications, with the current processing time being approximately three weeks.

If funds remain after all outstanding applications have been processed, the scheme will briefly reopen for new applications.

The closure of the Household Support Fund does not affect the holiday supermarket voucher scheme for families in receipt of free school meals.

Although the scheme is being discontinued, advice is still available to those struggling with the cost of living. Help with utility bills, housing support, emergencies and benefits and the Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) programme from Cambridgeshire County Council can be found [on our website](#).

The Government also offers help and advice (<https://www.gov.uk/cost-of-living>) with living costs, childcare and maternity costs, managing money and debt and guidance for those over 60 or those who have a disability or health condition.

ENVIRONMENT & GREEN INVESTMENT

Sunnica solar farm

One of the first actions of the new Labour Government was the approval of the Sunnica solar farm.

County Councillors have joined local residents and representatives across Cambridgeshire and Suffolk to express their further disappointment and dismay that the proposal for a 2,700 acre development to create the largest solar farm in the UK was given permission by the Secretary of State, Ed Miliband, on Friday 12 July 2024. This decision to permit the scheme to go ahead comes despite the Planning Inspectorate's recommendation to refuse the application

HIGHWAYS & TRANSPORT

Electrical Vehicle Charging

The Council and PCC are seeking to procure a long-term turn-key arrangement with one or more chargepoint operators to provide largely on-street public chargepoints. The contract will include provisions for design, installation, operation and maintenance of the chargepoints, as well as payment systems. A key element of the contract will be the leverage of significant private sector investment to support its delivery.

20MPH Speed Limits

A 20mph speed limit has been approved for most residential streets in Huntingdon.

The proposal also agreed a review of 20mph schemes, including Ely, to happen in 24 months time.

Declassification of A1123 and A1421 from 'A' Road to 'B' Road

It was considered unlikely that downgrading of a road from 'A' to 'B' road status will alone make any significant difference in the number of HGVs choosing to use the route. Sat Nav algorithms generally do not differentiate between 'A' and 'B' roads, but will choose the quickest or shortest route. If the downgrade of the A1421 to a 'B' road status were approved, changes would be required to the road signage and the national streets gazetteer.

There would be a budgetary impact to the Council in downgrading the A1421 from 'A' to 'B' road status. This impact would be from a reduction in the Department for Transport (DfT) annual grant sent to the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority (CPCA). The grant provided to the CPCA by DfT is split between the Council and Peterborough City Council in agreed proportions based on road lengths and categories of road. The reduction in grant per annum would be in-perpetuity. It is estimated that there would also be a one-off cost of about £3,000 to replace or amend signage

Meanwhile on the Combined Authority

The new Tiger bus pass is free of charge and designed to make public transport more affordable for young people, helping them travel to school, college, training, work, shopping, and social activities.

The pass allows the holder to access £1 bus fares

Bus services in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough are set to be transformed and everyone across the region is being invited to have their say. The Bus Reform Assessment (also known as the Business Case) was approved CPCA Board and there will be a formal franchising consultation which will enable residents, businesses, stakeholders and statutory consultees to share their views.

CLRs Alison Whelan and Piers Coutts

County Councillors for Ely North and Ely South

