



**MINUTES OF MEETING OF THE CITY OF ELY COUNCIL HELD AT 7.00 PM ON MONDAY,
13TH JANUARY 2025 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 Morgan

Cllr C Whelan

Cllr M Wade

Cllr D Warman

Cllr M Banyard

Cllr S Sandhu

Cllr R Denness

Cllr R Ward (arrived at 7.09 pm)

County Cllr P Coutts

1. APOLOGIES AND REASONS FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cllr Moss-Eccardt, Cllr Novick and Cllr Holtzmann. The reason for their absence was accepted.

2. COUNCILLOR REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATIONS

There were no requests for dispensations.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

No declarations of interest were made.

4. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING HELD ON THE 2ND DECEMBER 2024 AND MATTERS ARISING

Minutes of the last meeting held on the 2nd December 2024 were proposed by Cllr Whelan that they be agreed and signed as a true record. This was seconded by Cllr Trent and unanimously approved. They were signed by the Chairman. Pages 2131, 2132, 2133, 2134, 2135, 2136, 2137 and 2138 refer. Matters Arising:- Page 2133, item 11 i) – Cllr Ní Dhónaill informed councillors the article regarding the North of Ely councillors, for inclusion in the Elyi had been submitted.

5. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENT

The Chairman reminded councillors of the fund raising Quiz Night on the 17th January, the Civic Service on the 2nd March and the proposed Council participation on the 11th February in the East Cambs Parish Council Conference at Littleport Leisure Centre. He also said how pleased he had been to see that Malcolm Fletcher, secretary of the City of Ely Military Band, had been awarded a BEM in the New Year's Honors and that Daniel Schumann, who had done so much fine work with young people in the wider district had received an MBE. It was agreed the Chairman would send a letter of congratulations to Malcolm Fletcher.

6. QUESTION TIME

There were no questions as no members of the public were present.

7. REPORTS FROM COUNTY COUNCILLORS AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

A written report was received from County Cllrs Coutts and A Whelan, which was presented by Cllr Coutts. A copy of which will be attached to the minutes. District Councillors Wade, Trent and C Whelan gave updates on the District Council meetings they had attended and other matters.

County Cllr C Coutts left the meeting at 7.28 pm.

8. MAYOR'S ENGAGEMENTS & REPORT

The Mayor had spoken at the re-opening Exhibition at the Stained Glass Museum; attended the Ribe Association Christmas celebration; the Sing Choir's Concert at St Mary's Church; the 'Coat of Hope' service at Ely Methodist Church; given a tour of Sessions House to the Police Cadets, had a meeting with the Ely Standard; attended Santa's Toy Bank; the Mayor's Gala Night of the Ely Pantomime; the Children's Society Christingle at Ely Cathedral; the Ely Choral Society Concert; the City of Ely Military Band Christmas Concert; the re-opening of Mepal Post Office and village store and the Lessons and Carols at Ely Cathedral.

9. PLANNING

Cllr Morgan as the Planning Committee Chairman gave a report on the planning meetings which had been held prior to this meeting.

10. INFORMATION ONLY ITEMS

The following information only items were received and noted:-

Road Closures:- Mildenhall Road (A1101), Shippea Hill – 15-16.2.25; Ely Road, Queen Adelaide, Ely – 17.2.25; Nornea Lane, Stuntney, Ely – 2.2.25 – 31.7.25

Temporary traffic orders:- Waterside, parking bays between Lisle Lane to Willow Walk, Ely – 24.2.25 – 7.3.25

11. COMMITTEE REPORTS

(i) PERSONNEL, FINANCE & GOVERNANCE - No report as Committee had not met. Cllr Ní Dhónaill informed the next meeting of this Committee will be a 'paperlite' one.

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

(iii) ASSETS – No report as Committee had not met. The next meeting is on the 20th January 2025.

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

12. REPORTS FROM EXTERNAL MEETINGS

Councillors noted the minutes from the Ely Ribe Association meeting held on the 9th January 2025.

Cllr Denness gave an update to councillors on a current issue with regards to the City of Ely Allotments and Gardens Association and the steps being undertaken to resolve this issue.

13. TO CONSIDER ECDC'S CONSULTATION REGARDING THEIR DRAFT RURAL SETTLEMENT LIST 2025/26

Councillors requested clarification on the levels set within this consultation and the population figures. Once this information had been confirmed, councillors would then decide if they wished to make any comments on this consultation.

14. TO APPROVE NEW MAYORAL AWARD – MAYOR OF ELY’S AWARD FOR OUTSTANDING VOLUNTARY SERVICE

The Chairman presented his proposal for a new Mayoral Award. Cllr Ní Dhónaill proposed this award be approved and moved forward. This was seconded by Cllr Whelan and was unanimously approved. The Chairman will now arrange a meeting of himself, the incoming Mayor and Deputy Mayor and any others that would like to take part, to draw up a more detailed plan to present to Full Council in two months’ time.

15. FINANCE

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

Direct debit payments and BACS payments

EE Ltd	99.29	Paid by direct debit
British Telecommunications	323.66	Paid by direct debit
Francotyp Postalia Ltd	64.80	Paid by direct debit
FuelGenie	469.75	Paid by direct debit
Cybertill Ltd	48.13	Paid by direct debit
Greene King Brewing & Retail Ltd	2710.14	Paid by direct debit
ESPO	2558.29	Paid by direct debit
ESPO	596.04	Paid by direct debit
ESPO	206.90	Paid by direct debit
ESPO	538.37	Paid by direct debit
Bidfood Ltd	1095.72	Paid by direct debit
British Telecommunications	65.47	Paid by direct debit
British Telecommunications	65.47	Paid by direct debit
British Telecommunications	318.16	Paid by direct debit
Liquidline Ltd	525.70	Paid by direct debit
Greene King Brewing & Retail Ltd	1693.37	Paid by direct debit
Cybertill Ltd	77.51	Paid by direct debit
FuelGenie	193.79	Paid by direct debit
Market Kitchen Ely	69.20	Paid by BACS
Human Capital Department Ltd	226.80	Paid by BACS
Deltron Lifts Ltd	3584.16	Paid by BACS
Catering Centre	394.64	Paid by BACS
Warren Access	1209.60	Paid by BACS
L E Enterprices	740.00	Paid by BACS
Aztek Services Ltd	641.34	Paid by BACS
Studio Nova Ltd	41.99	Paid by BACS
CoolerAid Ltd	11.86	Paid by BACS
Ellgia Ltd	162.64	Paid by BACS
G & G Gallo Enterprises Ltd	2478.28	Paid by BACS
Nisbets	65.14	Paid by BACS
Stark Building Materials Ltd	89.83	Paid by BACS
Fenland Leisure Products Ltd	93.60	Paid by BACS
Millennium Pest Control Ltd	75.60	Paid by BACS

15. FINANCE CONTINUED

Simpson's Nurseries Ltd	1596.00	Paid by BACS
Amazon Payments UK Ltd	140.44	Paid by BACS
John Wiley & Sons Ltd	64.95	Paid by BACS
L Pridmore	9.99	Paid by BACS
Mr C L Berry	150.00	Paid by BACS
RGP Security Services Ltd	466.20	Paid by BACS
Eden Farm Hulley's	861.70	Paid by BACS
RJH Technical Consultancy Ltd	6900.00	Paid by BACS
Openview Security Solutions Ltd	40385.91	Paid by BACS
Konica Minolta Bus Solutions Ltd	85.28	Paid by BACS
Barbell Computing Ltd	69.00	Paid by BACS
W H Darby Ltd	4227.61	Paid by BACS
Mr M Chinery-Colyer	269.65	Paid by BACS
Pet Planet	449.91	Paid by BACS
Unusual Rigging Ltd	1800.00	Paid by BACS
G & G Gallo Enterprises Ltd	1326.85	Paid by BACS
LE Enterprices	525.00	Paid by BACS
Barbell Computing Ltd	24.00	Paid by BACS
Studio Nova Ltd	36.00	Paid by BACS
ATS Ltd	234.00	Paid by BACS
Mr C L Berry	65.00	Paid by BACS
Konica Minolta Bus Sols Ltd	409.29	Paid by BACS
The Elyi Magazine	175.00	Paid by BACS
Aztek Services Ltd	351.60	Paid by BACS
V Rudkin	60.00	Paid by BACS
Harper Collins Publishers	37.98	Paid by BACS
Eden Farm Hulley's	1211.76	Paid by BACS
John Audus (Electrical Contractor) Ltd	54.00	Paid by BACS
Stark Building Materials UK Ltd	23.33	Paid by BACS
Trade UK	77.43	Paid by BACS

The following invoices had not been paid prior to the meeting

ECDC	1063.43	114742
City Cycle Centre	23.40	114739
Julia's Tearooms	253.00	114740
Soham Pest Control	99.00	114741
ESPO	78.60	114743
A Bennett	42.73	114744
W Ramsell	30.00	114745
Gordon Harrison	638.33	114746
Amazon Payments UK Ltd	588.34	114747
SSE Energy Solutions	77.19	Paid by direct debit
Barclays	74.71	Paid by direct debit
Lex Autolease Ltd	684.68	Paid by direct debit
EE Ltd	102.24	Paid by direct debit
Virgin Media Business Ltd	62.40	Paid by direct debit
Virgin Media Business Ltd	62.40	Paid by direct debit
Barclaycard	876.97	Paid by direct debit
Greene King Brewing & Retail Ltd	647.34	Paid by direct debit

15. FINANCE CONTINUED

TotalEnergies Gas & Power Ltd	31.09	Paid by direct debit
TotalEnergies Gas & Power Ltd	252.22	Paid by direct debit
TotalEnergies Gas & Power Ltd	256.88	Paid by direct debit
TotalEnergies Gas & Power Ltd	6154.59	Paid by direct debit
TotalEnergies Gas & Power Ltd	216.39	Paid by direct debit
TotalEnergies Gas & Power Ltd	32.39	Paid by direct debit
TotalEnergies Gas & Power Ltd	251.99	Paid by direct debit
TotalEnergies Gas & Power Ltd	247.25	Paid by direct debit
TotalEnergies Gas & Power Ltd	6665.65	Paid by direct debit
TotalEnergies Gas & Power Ltd	99.97	Paid by direct debit
Human Capital Department	226.80	Paid by BACS
East Air Conditioning Services Ltd	4650.00	Paid by BACS
Commercial Floor Sanding Ltd	4286.40	Paid by BACS
Warren Access	1209.60	Paid by BACS
Amazon Payments UK Ltd	14.91	114747

Payments relating to staff since meeting on the 2nd December 2024

Salaries and wages	£40,905.24
Inland Revenue (tax & NI)	£18,413.78
Pension fund payments	£16,586.05

Councillors noted and approved the bank reconciliation for the period ending 30th November 2024

The meeting closed at 8.09 pm.

Cllrs Piers Coutts and Alison Whelan

MONTHLY REPORT JANUARY 2025

FULL COUNCIL

Five motions were debated at the December Full Council meeting.

Being a 'trauma-informed' council

This motion was about those delivering council services needing to be aware of the effects of trauma on residents with whom they come into contact, and how to support trauma survivors.

Special educational needs and disabilities

This motion asked the council to respond to the Government's review of the school curriculum making clear the importance of an appropriate curriculum for pupils with special educational needs and disabilities, and to gather information from secondary schools in the county on how they are ensuring they are able to meet the needs of all pupils.

It also asked the Children & Young People Committee to consider how the child and adolescent mental health system is working, and gather information about experience of special educational needs and disabilities in early years and primary school settings.

Mill Lane bridge, Huntingdonshire

This motion was about flooding at this location and the timetable for an options appraisal. It was voted down as unnecessary, as work is already under way.

A1421 Haddenham to Witcham Toll

This motion was about road safety options at this location and the timetable for a report. Again this was voted down as unnecessary, as this road will be included in a report coming to the Highways & Transport Committee shortly.

Family farms and inheritance tax

This motion asked the council to write to the Secretary of State calling on the Government to stop changes to inheritance tax on family farms, and engage with the local farming community to offer support. We both supported this, as it is an important issue locally and the Government's approach is wrong.

STRATEGY RESOURCES & PERFORMANCE

Council budget

Cambridgeshire County Council will set its budget on Tuesday 11 February, with recommendations being considered in advance by the Strategy Resources & Performance Committee on Tuesday 28 January.

Each year councils are required to set a balanced budget for the year ahead. This has become more difficult in recent years for several reasons including

- Growing demand for services and increasing complexity of health and care needs
- Inflation
- Market failures in services such as provision for children in care, with high demand, insufficient supply, provider profiteering, and diminished council negotiating power.

The totality of the council's gross budget, including schools and services funded by specific grants, is expected to be over £1.1 billion for 2025-26. Of this, over half (£567 million) is proposed to be spent on children, education and families, and health and adult social care.

In December, councillors were told that efficiencies and savings or additional income of £34 million would be needed to set a balanced budget for 2025-26, and considered draft proposals to achieve this. However, the coming five years show an overall funding gap of £132 million, of which £73 million is not yet addressed.

ADULTS & HEALTH

Social care reform—but not until 2028

The Government has promised to 'finally grasp the nettle on social care reform', with an independent commission due to begin work in April.

Proposals on a stable system for the long-term funding of adult social care in England have been needed for years. But these are unlikely to be delivered before 2028 at the earliest, the government has confirmed. The proposed commission, chaired by Baroness Louise Casey, is not due to publish its final report until then.

Meanwhile, councils and care providers across the country are saying this is far too long to wait for reform of vital social care services which are already on their knees.

Urgent and emergency care

The County Council's Adults & Health Committee received a report last month for their scrutiny on the performance of the NHS in urgent and emergency care.

During 2024/25, performance has been below the planned trajectories submitted as part of the Integrated Care Board (ICB) operational plan, and below national standards.

Two key national metrics for urgent and emergency care are that

- Emergency departments should see and treat a minimum of 78 per cent of patients within four hours of arriving in the department by the end of March 2025, and
- Patients categorised by the ambulance trust as Category 2 emergency, should have an ambulance response time within 30 minutes.

Both these targets remain behind plan, with the NHS under considerable pressure locally and nationally.

COMMUNITIES, SOCIAL MOBILITY & INCLUSION (COSMIC)

CAB grant for income maximisation

The County Council's COSMIC committee has agreed a grant of £800,000 over two years to Citizens Advice in the county for income maximisation—working with residents to ensure they are in receipt of all financial assistance they are eligible for, and helping people out of poverty across Cambridgeshire by providing a long-term solution to financial hardship.

Since income maximisation work began in 2023, 5,455 Cambridgeshire residents have accessed the service, resulting in an income gain of £3,887,844.

The CAB is sadly no longer supported by the district council in East Cambridgeshire. Face to face appointments with Cambridgeshire Rural CAB are available in Fenland and Huntingdonshire, but only for residents there.

ENVIRONMENT & GREEN INVESTMENT

Non-recycled waste

A recent article in the *Guardian* newspaper reported that 87 per cent of Cambridgeshire's non-recyclable waste goes to landfill—second only to Essex. The council commented:

“Our first priority is to reduce, re-use and to recycle as much as possible, as there are limited methods available to treat the waste that is left over in the short-medium term.

“We are actively working with both our waste contractor and Central Government to try and find the best long-term solution to manage the county’s waste.”

It is important to note that

- All mixed dry recycling collected from Cambridgeshire households and household recycling centres is recycled
- All food and garden waste collected from households is composted.
- Where legislation prohibits sending waste to landfill the council is in full compliance.
- Where possible, black bag waste is treated using energy recovery or mechanical biological treatment, to divert as much as possible from landfill.

The whole waste industry and legislative framework is currently going through a period of significant change. The council is awaiting detailed guidance from Government to inform its long-term waste strategy.

Meanwhile the council is actively looking at more modern ways to treat waste that can't be recycled and is currently going to landfill.

HIGHWAYS & TRANSPORT

£10 million for road maintenance

The Government has announced how much each council area will receive for highways capital maintenance for 2025/26.

For the Cambridgeshire & Peterborough area it's £10 million, with a quarter of that amount to be held back until the respective councils have proved they will meet certain—still to be announced—criteria. £10 million sounds a lot, but

- The Government may hold back twenty-five per cent of it
- It includes Peterborough as well as Cambridgeshire
- In Cambridgeshire alone the backlog of highways maintenance is around £600 million.

Better than nothing, then, but a long way from what we need.

Prioritising the highways capital programme

The council's Highways & Transport Committee on 3 December approved a new scoring system to prioritise planned capital highways maintenance schemes.

Parish councils and county councillors were approached by the council to submit suggestions of roads that needed significant capital work.

When it meets in March, the committee expects to receive a proposed three year forward capital maintenance programme and an indicative programme for the following two years. The same meeting will also consider a proposed hierarchy for maintaining walking, wheeling, and cycling routes. Proposals for a hierarchy for maintaining Public Rights of Way is expected to follow in July or October.

Warning – Road Closure between Sutton and Earith

Chain Causeway in Sutton is scheduled to be closed 24/7 from Monday 6 January to Friday 7 March, for work on the 'bends' between the end of The America and the start of the straight stretch down to Earith Bridge. The recommended diversion is via Witcham Toll and Haddenham

Winter gritting reminder

With the weather taking a cold turn, a quick reminder about gritting on Cambridgeshire's roads.

Cambridgeshire County Council's 37 gritting vehicles cover 44 per cent of the county's road network. Cambridgeshire is split into three gritting areas:

- Fenland and East
- Huntingdonshire and South
- Cambridge

Which roads are gritted and when will depend on forecast temperatures in each of these three areas, so there may be occasions when some parts of the county are gritted but not others.

Roads on the gritting network are classified as primary or secondary routes. Primary routes are the priority for gritting, because they serve as major connecting routes for communities and allow people to get to work and access essential services. Secondary routes are gritted in addition to primary routes as and when resources allow when there is a forecast of a prolonged cold spell, where road surface temperatures fall below zero, or when snowfall is forecast.

You can find which roads are primary or secondary gritting routes at <https://maps.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/> In the Map categories menu to the left of the screen, choose Transport and Streets, then select Primary Gritting Routes and Secondary Gritting Routes from the drop-down menu.

The Council checks detailed weather forecasts throughout the day, and at midday every day during winter receives road and air temperatures from twelve

weather stations around the county. This information guides where and when to send out the gritters and how much salt needs to be spread.

You can find more information about winter gritting in Cambridgeshire at <https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/travel-roads-and-parking/roads-and-pathways/gritting-roads-cycleways-and-paths> And the County Council posts regular updates on Facebook and Twitter, including road gritting news and weather warnings.

In 2022, 14 people were killed, 379 seriously injured, and 1,227 slightly injured in reported road collisions on Great Britain's roads when there was rain, snow, sleet or foggy conditions, according to the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents. The AA has useful advice for driving in snow and ice, at <https://www.theaa.com/driving-advice/seasonal/how-to-drive-in-snow>

Speed cameras

Officers have been asked whether the council might consider the introduction of more speed cameras. In a discussion about Cambridgeshire's 'Vision Zero'—the aim to reduce to zero the number of people killed or seriously injured on our roads—it was pointed out how few speed cameras there are in Cambridgeshire compared with, for example, Staffordshire.

The answer from the road safety manager was as expected, about the cost. But he went on to say that another factor was that 'there have to be the appropriate available court slots to deal with anybody committing speeding offences'. as there would simply not be space to 'push them through' the court system—and this was 'a bigger problem to solve' than the cost. It's yet another example of the collapse of the justice system under the previous government.

Meanwhile on the Combined Authority

The Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Combined Authority has decided not to increase the current bus fare cap of £2 per journey. This comes despite the decision of the Government nationally to increase the fare cap to £3, and will be welcomed by many bus passengers.

The new Tiger on Demand bus service, which replaces the 'Ting' demand-responsive service in the west of Huntingdonshire, will soon be coming to East Cambridgeshire, and opening up public transport opportunities for many village residents here. This is very welcome news, especially as East Cambs Conservatives opposed Ting and the funding for more bus services.

<https://transport.cambridgeshirepeterborough-ca.gov.uk/buses/tiger-on-demand/>

Cllrs Alison Whelan and Piers Coutts

County Councillors for Ely North and Ely South

