



**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, 25TH MARCH 2024**

PRESENT: Mrs T Coulson – Clerk to the Council

The Mayor, Cllr C Phillips

Cllr R Moss-Eccardt

Cllr M Banyard

Cllr R Trent

Cllr R Denness

Cllr M Wade

Cllr Ní Dhónaill

Cllr R Morgan

Cllr D Warman

Cllr L Fox

1 representative of the Ely Ribe Twinning Association

2 representative of the City of Ely Allotments and Gardens Association

5 representatives of the Voluntary Organisations giving reports

13 members of the public

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Cllr S Austen, Cllr K Holtzmann and Cllr R Ward.

2. MINUTES OF THE LAST ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD ON THE 27TH MARCH 2023

Minutes of the last Annual Parish Meeting held on the 27th March 2023 were proposed by Cllr Morgan and seconded by Cllr Wade that they be agreed and signed as a true record, which was unanimously agreed. Pages 170, 171, 172 and 173 refer.

3. MAYOR'S OPENING REMARKS

The Mayor welcomed everyone to the meeting and explained how the meeting would work.

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) Planning

No questions.

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**THE MAYOR
31ST MARCH 2025**

4. PRESENTATION OF REPORTS continued

(iii) Personnel, Finance and Governance

A member of the public asked how he could find the accounts, assets and net worth of the Council. The Clerk explained where this information was on the Council's website but requested they contact her direct so she could provide the information they required.

(iv) Assets

No questions.

(v) Climate & Environment

No questions.

(vi) Tourism and Town Centre

No questions.

(vii) CIL

No questions.

(viii) Christmas Lights

No questions.

(ix) Ely/Ribe Association

No questions.

(x) Allotments

A member of the public asked when the new allotments at Hopkin Homes would be ready.

An update on this was given.

(xi) Working Groups

Questions were raised for the following Working Groups:-

CCTV – two members of the public asked questions about cameras working in the Country Park and at Waterside. The Clerk responded to these questions and explained the process which has to be followed with regard to a CCTV subject access request and what this request covered.

Strategic Plan – a member of the public asked what the Council was aiming for and how they were going to achieve this. It was explained that the Strategic Plan Working Group had found it hard to meet this last year and it would be discussed at the Personnel, Finance and Governance Committee meeting at how this Group moved forward. The Council does have a mission statement and vision already in place.

North Ely Hub – a member of the public asked why the new community hub was not moving forward. Cllr Morgan said that it had all stalled, but he would be chasing the agents after Easter.

(xii) Representatives on Other Organisations

Questions were raised for the following representatives on other organisations:-

Stuntney Village Council – a member of the public asked how people can get to Ben's Yard. Cllr Banyard explained that he was working with County Councillor Coutts to look at the bus service. A walkway, cycle and equestrian route was also being investigated by County Cllr Coutts. Cllr Coutts also provided information regarding the question raised,

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THE MAYOR
31ST MARCH 2025

5. GENERAL FORUM

A member of the public asked how the Council had improved the way it communicates with parishioners. The Clerk explained that the Council uses its website, Facebook and noticeboards to inform parishioners. It also publishes information in the Elyi, which is delivered to the majority of Ely. A member of the public said that the new houses on the Redrow estate do not receive the Elyi. The Clerk also confirmed that the Council would be looking at how they communicate with the community and do hope to improve further on this.

Another member of the public asked about the parking in Ely, particularly in relation to those that park on Forehill. It was explained that this is the responsibility of the Police and the Council does not have any powers to resolve this situation. Residents parking was also raised and why there was none of this. Cllr Moss-Eccardt explained about decriminalisation of parking process and residents parking as to how this worked and who could undertake it.

6. REPORTS FROM VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS

Friends of the Lantern School

Tali Iserles, Co-Secretary and Emma Holland, Forest School Teacher said that the Lantern School had an active Friends Association. The £1000 grant from the Council had been used to improve the forest school area, which had been such an amazing joyful, boasting project, with teambuilding etc. They thanked the Council for the grant. Some of the equipment they replaced had been 10 years old and they had also been able to purchase new equipment. The forest school benefits the children's physical and mental health and is enjoyed by all that use it.

Crafts 4 Smiles

Fiona Adley, Co-Founder/Direct and Gray Adley, Co-Founder/Director said that Crafts 4 Smiles was a social enterprise and provides accessible papercraft and mixed media courses. They have found that 75% of the people that take their courses find it has made a positive difference to their daily lives. They aim to take a beginner to an advanced crafter in 18 months. They work across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough and have had 250 people take their courses since they started. Arts is important to maintain well being and they had just undertaken a 10 week programme at the Centre E for 21 Ely residents. The residents found it brought structure in to their week. They were both extremely grateful for the grant they had received, which had enabled them to put these courses on.

Cllr Wade left the meeting at 8.28 pm.

1st Ely Rangers

Netta Record, the Unit Leader was unfortunately unwell, so was unable to attend the meeting.

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THE MAYOR
31ST MARCH 2025

6. REPORTS FROM VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS continued

Lets Run Girls Ely

Non Bowkis, the Volunteer Run Leader said that Lets Run Girls Ely was a social enterprise and organised fun sessions and power walking sessions. They had 2 evening sessions a week and on Sundays. They also organise challenges that members can take part in with prizes of vouchers for businesses in Ely, so keeps people in Ely. They had five volunteer leaders. They have also set up a Park Run at Ben's Yard. She thanked the Council for the grant they had generous given to their group.

7. MAYOR'S CLOSING REMARKS

The Mayor thanked everyone for attending. He felt it had been a worthwhile and interesting evening. He said that he was now coming to the end of his year as Mayor and had attended over 100 events throughout the year. His eyes had been opened to what a wonderful place Ely was to live and he had seen such care and compassion.

The meeting closed at 8.39 pm.

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THE MAYOR
31ST MARCH 2025