



**MINUTES OF MEETING OF THE CITY OF ELY COUNCIL HELD AT 7.00 PM ON MONDAY,  
15TH SEPTEMBER 2025 AT THE MALTINGS, SHIP LANE, ELY**

**PRESENT:** Mrs T Coulson – Clerk to the Council

Cllr M Banyard, Mayor

Cllr R Denness

Cllr C Phillips

Cllr C Whelan

Cllr R Morgan

Cllr C Ní Dhónaill

Cllr L Fox

Cllr R Moss-Eccardt

Cllr R Ward

*County Cllr A Whelan*

*Elie Hughes, Curator of Ely Museum*

*11 members of the public*

*1 candidate for co-option*

**1. APOLOGIES AND REASONS FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received from Cllrs Trent, Warman, Wade and Sandhu. The reasons for their absences were 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 21ST JULY 2025 AND MATTERS ARISING**

Minutes of the last meeting held on the 21st July 2025 were proposed by Cllr Morgan that they be agreed and signed as a true record. This was seconded by Cllr Denness and unanimously approved. They were signed by the Chairman. Pages 2174, 2175, 2176, 2177, 2178, 2179 and 2180 refer. There were no matters arising.

**5. UPDATE ON ELY MUSEUM AS PER SERVICE LEVEL AGREEMENT BY ELIE HUGHES, CURATOR OF ELY MUSEUM**

Ms Hughes gave a summary on the current and upcoming displays at the Museum. She also explained about the partnership working and tickets with the other attractions in the City. She thanked the Council for their continued financial support and explained that finances would be difficult next year due to their heritage grant ceasing next year. It was suggested that she could look at whether there were any funding opportunities that they could do with the other partner attractions. She agreed to look into this. The Chairman thanked her for her update and said the Museum was a wonderful asset in the centre of the City and thanked her and her team for all their hard work.

## **6. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENT**

The Chairman expressed a thought for our time:- Ely has become a diverse City and we welcome wholeheartedly the rich mixture of cultures and traditions which are now represented in our communities. The City Council will continue to play its part in maintaining good relations between all our citizens. Our communities value love, of self and all neighbours here, welcoming diversity, equality and inclusivity. Together, working with partners on District and our County councillors, we acknowledge what you do, are doing, and what you have done. We can all work to do more in the future. The Chairman thanked his fellow councillors for their attendance and support at Ely Pride, especially Cllr Trent's hard work in making the two rainbow boards. He concluded by saying in the future, let us resolve to work together and hold our values high in our hearts and minds.

## **7. QUESTION TIME**

A member of the public raised their concerns with regard to the dangers of crossing Cam Drive and urged the council to install a dedicated light control crossing. All the other members of the public had attended in support of this request.

*Item 18 was brought forward as the member of the public had raised concerns regarding crossing Cam Drive. See Item 18.*

*At 7.34 pm Ms Hughes and 7 members of the public left the meeting.*

## **8. REPORTS FROM COUNTY COUNCILLORS AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS**

A written report for September was received from County Cllrs C Whelan and A Whelan. This was presented by Cllr A Whelan. A copy of which will be attached to the minutes. District Cllr C Whelan informed councillors of the upcoming District Council meetings.

## **9. MAYOR'S ENGAGEMENTS & REPORT**

The Mayor had attended the Change of Command at RAF Mildenhall; anniversary celebration at RAF Wyton for Huntingdon Freedom of City; Huntingdon's Mayor cheese and wine event; attended Ely railway station for the 180th anniversary of railway coming to Ely; Ely classic car show; citizenship reception with two new citizens; A10 underpass art event; Ely Pride; Mayor of Ramsey's tea; VJ memorials at Ely War memorial and the lighting of the beacon at St Mary's; MAGPAS air ambulance visit; opening of new shop in Market Street, A Little Something; OFEH Mayoral charity tea; Orchards Care Home opening of fete and celebrating a resident's 103rd birthday; March Armed Forces Fair and attended the Ely Old Choristers lunch, meeting and Evensong.

## **10. PLANNING**

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

## **11. INFORMATION ONLY ITEMS**

The following information only items were received and noted:-

Road Closures – Hills Lane, Ely – 2 – 6.10.25 (to facilitate stop tap replacements and associated works);

Ely Bridleway 25 – 3–17.10.25 (to facilitate essential maintenance)

Street Naming – Cranwell, 19 Prickwillow Road, Ely

## 12. COMMITTEE REPORTS

(i) PERSONNEL, FINANCE & GOVERNANCE – Cllr Ní Dhónaill presented a report of a meeting held on the 18th August 2025, which was noted and approved. The additional investment in the CCLA funds had now been transferred. It was agreed that Ely Museum would have on permanent loan one of the old Mayoral hats and the old Mayoral chain. Cllr Ní Dhónaill proposed the recommendation for the adoption of a new system where Chairs and Vice-Chairs are elected by each Committee at their first meeting, following the Annual Council Meeting be approved. This was seconded by Cllr Phillips and approved. Cllr Ní Dhónaill proposed that the maximum time councillors could occupy the Chair of a particular committee should be three years, backdated to May 2023. This was seconded by Cllr Moss Eccardt and approved with one abstention. An exception could be approved by Council for the existing Chair to continue for a further year if no councillor wished to take over the role of Chair. This proposal would not include the Chair of Planning. The Clerk will update the Standing Orders. Councillors noted and approved the annual review of the Council's Policies and Procedures. Cllr Ní Dhónaill proposed the approval and adoption of the new Meeting Apologies Policy, which was seconded by Cllr Denness and unanimously approved. Cllr Ní Dhónaill proposed the approval and adoption of the new Information Technology Policy. This was seconded by Cllr Banyard and approved and adopted with one abstention. Cllr Ní Dhónaill proposed councillors approve the recommendations for the grant applications for 2025/26. The City of Ely Football Club recommendation was agreed as £1500. This was seconded by Cllr Ward and agreed with one abstention. The Local Government Services Pay Agreement for all staff members of 3.20% for 2025/26 was noted.

ii) CLIMATE AND ENVIRONMENT – Cllr Denness presented a report of a meeting held on the 4th August 2025, which was noted and approved. Two projects under the Designing Streets for Active Travel programme have secured funding for the detailed design phase of these projects. These are the City Centre to Station Improvements and the Merivale Bridge. The quotes to locate a camera onto Bon Marché and to reinstate camera C4 at Barton Road car park near to the Silver Street entrance were approved.

*1 member of the public left the meeting at 7.57 pm.*

(iii) ASSETS – Cllr Morgan presented a report of a meeting held on the 11th August 2025, which was noted and approved. Three quotes had been received for the proposed fencing extension at St John's Road play area. The quote from NPS Fencing at a cost of £3500 plus VAT was approved. Three quotes for the installation of a new swing at this play area had also been considered, with the quote from Kompan at a cost of £13,143.60 plus VAT being approved. The woodland burial area is nearing completion and the sensory garden is progressing well. The electric van is due to be delivered in September. Cllr Morgan proposed that as three quotes for wet pour at High Barns had been obtained, that a quote from RTC Safety for £6030.00 be approved. This was seconded by Cllr Moss Eccardt and approved, with one abstention.

(iv) TOURISM – Cllr Phillips presented a report of a meeting held on the 28th August 2025, which was noted and approved. It was noted that Oliver Cromwell's House had been awarded the Trip Advisor 'Travellers Choice' award for 2025. The update on the service, shop and events was noted. It had been unanimously agreed that the digital signage board on Forehill would not be removed. The Committee had agreed that the digital signage board located at Pegasus Walk would be removed due to vandalism and the digital signage board at Newnham Street would be repaired. The Clerk explained why the building work at Oliver Cromwell's House would have to be delayed until Spring 2026.

### **13. REPORTS FROM EXTERNAL MEETINGS**

Councillors noted the Ely Ribe Association – notes of a meeting held on the 15th July 2025.

Cllr Phillips informed councillors he and Cllr Denness had attended a tour of the properties owned by the now joined Trinity Dole and Needham's Foundation. The merger of the two charities is now complete and will now be able to resume the regular work of the charity. Cllr Banyard is also a representative for the Cathedral on this organisation.

### **14. TO CONSIDER MOTION FROM CLLR BANYARD WITH REGARD TO ACCEPTING ECDC'S OFFER TO PURCHASE THE MALTINGS, MALTINGS COTTAGE AND OLIVER CROMWELL'S HOUSE FOR A £1 EACH**

Cllr Banyard updated councillors that at the last Asset Committee meeting a small group had been tasked to discuss the implications of agreeing to purchase these buildings with Bidwells. This discussion had now taken place. Cllr Banyard proposed the Council agree to accept ECDC's offer of purchasing these buildings, subject to contract. It would also be on the proviso that after instructing the Council's solicitors if any restrictive covenants caused concern then special advice would be sought. This was seconded by Cllr Morgan and agreed, with the exception of one abstention.

### **15. TO NOTE THE COMPLETION OF THE ANNUAL GOVERNANCE & ACCOUNTABILITY RETURN FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2025 FROM PKF LITTLEJOHN LLP**

Councillors noted the completion of the limited assurance review of the Council's annual return for the year ended 31st March 2025 by the external auditors, PKF Littlejohn LLP. On the basis of their review of Sections 1 and 2 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR), in their opinion the information in Sections 1 and 2 of the AGAR were in accordance with Proper Practices and no other matters have come to their attention giving cause for concern that relevant legislation and regulatory requirements had not been met. The notice of completion was published on the Council's website on the 2nd September 2025.

### **16. TO DISCUSS CAMBS COUNTY COUNCIL EMAIL REGARDING THE LAUNCH OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT REORGANISATION (LGR) – PHASE 2 PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT SURVEY AND TO AGREE COUNCIL RESPONSE TO THIS SURVEY**

The options within this survey were discussed with a unanimous decision that the favoured option was Option A. It was unanimously agreed that councillors should respond to this survey as individuals, however the Chairman will also respond on behalf of the whole Council. Cllrs Fox and Wade had agreed to draft a letter at the last Full Council meeting, supporting Option A and Cllr Fox agreed to finalise this so it could also be sent.

### **17. TO APPROVE THE RENEWAL OF THE TOWN CRIER'S CONTRACT**

It was noted that the new Town Crier would shortly be coming to the end of his contract, which had been for a year. Cllr Banyard proposed that this be renewed but for a period of three years instead of one. This was seconded by Cllr Whelan and unanimously agreed.

*Cllr Moss-Eccardt proposed this item was discussed following Item 7 due to the statement made by the member of the public. This was seconded by Cllr Whelan and unanimously agreed. Cllr Ní Dhónaill proposed the meeting be adjourned at 7.20 pm to allow County Cllr A Whelan to speak on the matter. This was seconded by Cllr Whelan and unanimously agreed.*

#### **18. TO CONSIDER GRANTING SUPPORT IN PRINCIPLE FOR THE UPGRADING OF CROSSING ON CAM DRIVE, ELY**

County Cllr A Whelan spoke on a report she had provided to the councillors prior to the meeting and answered questions from councillors. The meeting reconvened at 7.31 pm. Cllr Ní Dhónaill proposed the Council approved a maximum of £90,000, from CIL funding, for the installation of the zebra crossing. This was seconded by Cllr Denness and unanimously approved. This amount was agreed on the basis that Taylor Wimpey would undertake work and adjust the design of the island crossing to meet zebra crossing specifications. They will also install electrical ducting to enable a zebra or puffin crossing to be fitted. Cambs County Council will install the crossing and take responsibility for it once completed.

#### **19. TO CONSIDER WRITTEN APPLICATIONS FOR THE OFFICE OF PARISH COUNCILLOR AND FILL THE EXISTING VACANCIES FOR EAST AND WEST WARDS, BY CO-OPTION**

The Chairman informed the councillors that one application had been received for the vacancy in the West Ward and none for the vacancy in the East Ward. The Chairman proposed the meeting be adjourned to allow the candidate to speak on his application. This was seconded by Cllr Denness and unanimously approved. The meeting was adjourned at 8.24 pm. Mr M Hucker spoke on his application and answered questions from the councillors. The meeting reconvened at 8.32 pm. Councillors voted on the candidate for the West Ward and he was elected with one abstention. The vacancy for the East Ward will be readvertised.

#### **20. FINANCE**

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

##### *Direct debit payments and BACS payments*

|                            |         |                      |
|----------------------------|---------|----------------------|
| ECDC                       | 499.00  | Paid by direct debit |
| ECDC                       | 524.00  | Paid by direct debit |
| ECDC                       | 2295.00 | Paid by direct debit |
| ECDC                       | 299.00  | Paid by direct debit |
| ECDC                       | 200.00  | Paid by direct debit |
| ECDC                       | 499.00  | Paid by direct debit |
| ECDC                       | 524.00  | Paid by direct debit |
| ECDC                       | 2295.00 | Paid by direct debit |
| ECDC                       | 299.00  | Paid by direct debit |
| ECDC                       | 200.00  | Paid by direct debit |
| ECDC                       | 499.00  | Paid by direct debit |
| ECDC                       | 524.00  | Paid by direct debit |
| ECDC                       | 2295.00 | Paid by direct debit |
| ECDC                       | 299.00  | Paid by direct debit |
| ECDC                       | 200.00  | Paid by direct debit |
| SSE Energy Solutions       | 77.19   | Paid by direct debit |
| Lex Autolease Ltd          | 684.68  | Paid by direct debit |
| British Telecommunications | 73.46   | Paid by direct debit |

**20. FINANCE CONTINUED .....**

|                                  |         |                      |
|----------------------------------|---------|----------------------|
| British Telecommunications       | 73.46   | Paid by direct debit |
| British Telecommunications       | 73.46   | Paid by direct debit |
| British Telecommunications       | 73.46   | Paid by direct debit |
| Cellair Ltd                      | 55.20   | Paid by direct debit |
| Barclays                         | 33.60   | Paid by direct debit |
| ESPO                             | 336.20  | Paid by direct debit |
| Virgin Media Business Ltd        | 62.40   | Paid by direct debit |
| Virgin Media Business Ltd        | 62.40   | Paid by direct debit |
| EE Ltd                           | 101.14  | Paid by direct debit |
| British Telecommunications       | 338.96  | Paid by direct debit |
| Cellair Ltd                      | 82.80   | Paid by direct debit |
| Bidfood Ltd                      | 832.82  | Paid by direct debit |
| FuelGenie                        | 293.35  | Paid by direct debit |
| Cybertill Ltd                    | 77.51   | Paid by direct debit |
| Greene King Brewing & Retail Ltd | 801.01  | Paid by direct debit |
| Greene King Brewing & Retail Ltd | 109.34  | Paid by direct debit |
| Siemens Financial Services Ltd   | 452.40  | Paid by direct debit |
| TotalEnergies Gas & Power Ltd    | 658.54  | Paid by direct debit |
| TotalEnergies Gas & Power Ltd    | 98.00   | Paid by direct debit |
| TotalEnergies Gas & Power Ltd    | 31.40   | Paid by direct debit |
| TotalEnergies Gas & Power Ltd    | 392.66  | Paid by direct debit |
| TotalEnergies Gas & Power Ltd    | 6138.21 | Paid by direct debit |
| ESPO                             | 187.27  | Paid by direct debit |
| ESPO                             | 96.35   | Paid by direct debit |
| ESPO                             | 85.82   | Paid by direct debit |
| ESPO                             | 65.31   | Paid by direct debit |
| Francotyp Postalia Ltd           | 250.00  | Paid by direct debit |
| Barclaycard                      | 834.33  | Paid by direct debit |
| PWLB                             | 9508.08 | Paid by direct debit |
| Francotyp Postalia Ltd           | 64.80   | Paid by direct debit |
| Francotyp Postalia Ltd           | 50.00   | Paid by direct debit |
| Lex Autolease Ltd                | 684.68  | Paid by direct debit |
| SSE Energy Solutions             | 79.75   | Paid by direct debit |
| British Telecommunications       | 73.46   | Paid by direct debit |
| British Telecommunications       | 73.46   | Paid by direct debit |
| Greene King Brewing & Retail Ltd | 2128.27 | Paid by direct debit |
| EE Ltd                           | 82.56   | Paid by direct debit |
| Virgin Media Business Ltd        | 62.40   | Paid by direct debit |
| Virgin Media Business Ltd        | 62.40   | Paid by direct debit |
| Barclays                         | 88.86   | Paid by direct debit |
| Greene King Brewing & Retail Ltd | 423.70  | Paid by direct debit |
| Greene King Brewing & Retail Ltd | 49.86   | Paid by direct debit |
| Cellair Ltd                      | 55.20   | Paid by direct debit |
| FuelGenie                        | 181.06  | Paid by direct debit |
| Bidfood Ltd                      | 733.81  | Paid by direct debit |
| Liquidline Ltd                   | 274.36  | Paid by direct debit |
| British Telecommunications       | 337.40  | Paid by direct debit |
| Francotyp Postalia Ltd           | 64.80   | Paid by direct debit |
| Anglian Water                    | 57.55   | Paid by BACS         |

**20. FINANCE CONTINUED .....**

|                                  |         |              |
|----------------------------------|---------|--------------|
| Anglian Water                    | 62.09   | Paid by BACS |
| Gem Heating Solutions Ltd        | 114.00  | Paid by BACS |
| AA Media Ltd                     | 311.69  | Paid by BACS |
| Ely Cathedral                    | 15.00   | Paid by BACS |
| Cambridge Marketing Ltd          | 1785.60 | Paid by BACS |
| P Sadgrove                       | 145.00  | Paid by BACS |
| Rydon Signs Ltd                  | 3510.00 | Paid by BACS |
| ESPO                             | 104.70  | Paid by BACS |
| Ely Folk Festival                | 90.00   | Paid by BACS |
| Advanced Thinking Systems Ltd    | 234.00  | Paid by BACS |
| Anglian Water                    | 968.09  | Paid by BACS |
| RBK (Ely) Ltd                    | 2160.00 | Paid by BACS |
| Chatteris & Manea Silver Band    | 250.00  | Paid by BACS |
| Prestige Fire Safety Ltd         | 1200.00 | Paid by BACS |
| SGP Paranormal                   | 50.00   | Paid by BACS |
| RGP Security Services Ltd        | 126.00  | Paid by BACS |
| O Theobald                       | 50.00   | Paid by BACS |
| Anglian Water                    | 114.11  | Paid by BACS |
| ECDC                             | 350.00  | Paid by BACS |
| Cambridge Art                    | 338.40  | Paid by BACS |
| John Audus Ltd                   | 345.07  | Paid by BACS |
| Konica Minolta Business Sols Ltd | 218.89  | Paid by BACS |
| Surface Matter                   | 2162.40 | Paid by BACS |
| Human Capital Department Ltd     | 226.80  | Paid by BACS |
| D Gray                           | 250.00  | Paid by BACS |
| G & J Peck Ltd                   | 29.58   | Paid by BACS |
| G & G Gallo Enterprises Ltd      | 1584.35 | Paid by BACS |
| City Cycle Centre                | 21.17   | Paid by BACS |
| Abbey Memorials (Stonecraft) Ltd | 550.00  | Paid by BACS |
| CoolerAid Ltd                    | 41.44   | Paid by BACS |
| RGP Security Services Ltd        | 453.60  | Paid by BACS |
| Two Bad Mice Publishers Ltd      | 637.80  | Paid by BACS |
| Cambridge Food & Wine Ltd        | 609.00  | Paid by BACS |
| Fen Farm Supplies Ltd            | 141.00  | Paid by BACS |
| Pen & Sword Books Ltd            | 483.15  | Paid by BACS |
| K Bennett                        | 500.00  | Paid by BACS |
| Mrs M Turner                     | 158.00  | Paid by BACS |
| Elyi Magazine                    | 175.00  | Paid by BACS |
| Mr C Berry                       | 65.00   | Paid by BACS |
| We Are Blueshed Ltd              | 606.00  | Paid by BACS |
| Ellgia Ltd                       | 228.96  | Paid by BACS |
| Screwfix Direct Ltd              | 64.51   | Paid by BACS |
| Amazon Payments UK Ltd           | 127.85  | Paid by BACS |
| Shefs                            | 2337.60 | Paid by BACS |
| East Cambs Trading Co Ltd        | 246.82  | Paid by BACS |
| Securitas Security Services Ltd  | 806.51  | Paid by BACS |
| We Are Blueshed Ltd              | 570.00  | Paid by BACS |
| Mrs N Booth                      | 222.00  | Paid by BACS |

**20. FINANCE CONTINUED .....**

|                                      |          |              |
|--------------------------------------|----------|--------------|
| G & G Gallo Enterprises Ltd          | 11.52    | Paid by BACS |
| S Bradley                            | 700.00   | Paid by BACS |
| David J Richards Ltd                 | 395.80   | Paid by BACS |
| RGP Security Services Ltd            | 126.00   | Paid by BACS |
| E R Copley                           | 74.25    | Paid by BACS |
| Xtreme Brewery Ltd                   | 266.36   | Paid by BACS |
| John Wiley & Sons Ltd                | 107.17   | Paid by BACS |
| Waterland Media Ltd                  | 330.00   | Paid by BACS |
| Chambers & Fenner Ltd                | 184.80   | Paid by BACS |
| Fen Farm Supplies Ltd                | 141.00   | Paid by BACS |
| RGP Security Services Ltd            | 113.40   | Paid by BACS |
| Fen Farm Supplies Ltd                | 104.59   | Paid by BACS |
| Westair Reproductions Ltd            | 461.38   | Paid by BACS |
| Ely Museum                           | 95.25    | Paid by BACS |
| Grocer's Brokers Ltd                 | 229.72   | Paid by BACS |
| G & G Gallo Enterprises Ltd          | 753.34   | Paid by BACS |
| Konica Minolta Bus Solutions Ltd     | 210.86   | Paid by BACS |
| G & J Peck Ltd                       | 12.06    | Paid by BACS |
| RBK (Ely) Ltd                        | 840.00   | Paid by BACS |
| Thompson Media Partners Ltd          | 750.00   | Paid by BACS |
| Babylon Arts                         | 240.00   | Paid by BACS |
| Somersham Town Band                  | 250.00   | Paid by BACS |
| Stark Building Materials UK Ltd      | 835.52   | Paid by BACS |
| Ely Skip Hire Ltd                    | 334.00   | Paid by BACS |
| Cambridge Marketing Ltd              | 126.00   | Paid by BACS |
| Gordon Harrison                      | 648.79   | Paid by BACS |
| King's Lynn Town Band                | 250.00   | Paid by BACS |
| UK Tents Ltd                         | 310.24   | Paid by BACS |
| Festive Lights Ltd                   | 5643.37  | Paid by BACS |
| Arco Ltd                             | 188.96   | Paid by BACS |
| RGP Security Services Ltd            | 138.60   | Paid by BACS |
| John Wiley & Sons Ltd                | 35.72    | Paid by BACS |
| Gem Heating Solutions Ltd            | 55194.75 | Paid by BACS |
| Advanced Thinking Systems Ltd        | 234.00   | Paid by BACS |
| CamAlarms Ltd                        | 463.20   | Paid by BACS |
| Studio Nova Ltd                      | 119.98   | Paid by BACS |
| Ely Museum                           | 10000.00 | Paid by BACS |
| PKF Littlejohn LLP                   | 2520.00  | Paid by BACS |
| Beau Business Media Ltd              | 234.00   | Paid by BACS |
| RBK (Ely) Ltd                        | 546.00   | Paid by BACS |
| Mr C Berry                           | 65.00    | Paid by BACS |
| G & G Gallo Enterprises Ltd          | 825.96   | Paid by BACS |
| Bryan Lecoche Ltd                    | 4757.33  | Paid by BACS |
| Minerva Publications                 | 478.80   | Paid by BACS |
| Star Editions Ltd                    | 1113.26  | Paid by BACS |
| The Stained Glass Museum             | 183.75   | Paid by BACS |
| CoolerAid Ltd                        | 20.45    | Paid by BACS |
| NPS Fencing & Countryside Management | 2100.00  | Paid by BACS |
| Ely Cathedral                        | 864.00   | Paid by BACS |

**20. FINANCE CONTINUED .....**

|                                    |         |              |
|------------------------------------|---------|--------------|
| Ernest Doe & Sons Ltd              | 12.50   | Paid by BACS |
| Human Capital Development Ltd      | 226.80  | Paid by BACS |
| Cam Alarms Ltd                     | 601.14  | Paid by BACS |
| Ellgia Ltd                         | 215.69  | Paid by BACS |
| City Cycle Centre                  | 61.34   | Paid by BACS |
| Screwfix Direct Ltd                | 275.84  | Paid by BACS |
| Amazon Business UK Payments        | 1885.86 | Paid by BACS |
| RGP Security Services Ltd          | 138.60  | Paid by BACS |
| East Cambs Street Scene            | 330.00  | Paid by BACS |
| Gem Heating Solutions Ltd          | 502.80  | Paid by BACS |
| PCC of Ely Parish St Mary's Church | 106.00  | Paid by BACS |

*The following invoices had been paid prior to the meeting*

|            |       |        |
|------------|-------|--------|
| S Thompson | 12.35 | 114777 |
| A Bennett  | 13.20 | 114778 |

*The following invoices have not been paid prior to the meeting*

|                                     |         |                      |
|-------------------------------------|---------|----------------------|
| A Bennett                           | 27.94   | 114779               |
| Cybertill Ltd                       | 127.73  | Paid by direct debit |
| TotalEnergies Gas & Power Ltd       | 82.31   | Paid by direct debit |
| TotalEnergies Gas & Power Ltd       | 5885.68 | Paid by direct debit |
| TotalEnergies Gas & Power Ltd       | 32.70   | Paid by direct debit |
| TotalEnergies Gas & Power Ltd       | 543.37  | Paid by direct debit |
| TotalEnergies Gas & Power Ltd       | 31.83   | Paid by direct debit |
| Greene King Brewing & Retailing Ltd | 1922.30 | Paid by direct debit |
| TotalEnergies Gas & Power Ltd       | 252.40  | Paid by direct debit |
| Splash and Dash Creations Ltd       | 1101.00 | Paid by BACS         |
| Stark Building Materials UK Ltd     | 152.39  | Paid by BACS         |
| RBK (Ely) Ltd                       | 492.00  | Paid by BACS         |
| Darren Wailes                       | 1200.00 | Paid by BACS         |
| We Are Blueshed Ltd                 | 744.00  | Paid by BACS         |
| Ely Tyre Services                   | 231.60  | Paid by BACS         |
| Kanazawa Security Solutions Ltd     | 572.00  | Paid by BACS         |
| Prepared Media Ltd                  | 180.00  | Paid by BACS         |
| RGP Security Services Ltd           | 126.00  | Paid by BACS         |
| Soham Pest Control                  | 99.00   | Paid by BACS         |

**Payments relating to staff since meeting on the 21st July 2025**

|                           |                     |                        |
|---------------------------|---------------------|------------------------|
| Salaries and wages        | £48,953.57 (August) | £44,804.19 (September) |
| Inland Revenue (tax & NI) | £15,222.71          | £18,502.15             |
| Pension fund payments     | £14,006.12          | £16,002.06             |

Councillors noted and approved the bank reconciliation for the periods ending 30th June 2025, 31st July 2025 and 31st August 2025

*The meeting closed at 8.35 pm.*



# Cllrs Christine Whelan and Alison Whelan

## MONTHLY REPORT September 2025

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### LOCAL GOVERNMENT REORGANISATION

To nobody's very great surprise, it has been revealed that the Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government failed to undertake its own analysis of the financial implications of the ongoing local government reorganisation, relying instead on analysis by consultants PwC.

Fresh analysis of those figures shows that replacing the two-tier system with 58 new unitary councils with populations as low as 300,000 could end up costing £850 million over five years and deliver no long-term savings.

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### ADULTS & HEALTH

#### Cambridge Children's Hospital contractor appointed

A building contractor has been appointed to Cambridge Children's Hospital, which will be built on the same site that houses Addenbrooke's and Royal Papworth hospitals. Bouygues UK is expected to start within the next 18 months.

The facility will be the first specialist children's hospital in the East of England— the only region in the UK currently without one. The five-storey building will include 108 inpatient beds, sixteen paediatric intensive care beds, forty-two daycase beds, seven operating theatres, imaging and diagnostics, and a hospital school alongside a new research institute.

#### 'Good' rating for adult social care services

Cambridgeshire County Council's adult social care services have been rated as 'Good' by the Care Quality Commission (CQC), with its assessment finding that early support and flexible options are helping people stay independent longer.

Assessment began in November 2024, with a site visit in early April. It found that people who draw on the council's care felt supported, listened to and offered choices, with care being co-ordinated in a planned way considering people's interests and what was important to them.

A range of successes and areas of good practice were highlighted in the report, including:

- Prevention and Reablement success: Quick assessments and goal-focused care are enabling people to stay at home and thrive.
- Strong provider relationships: Staff build trust and offer tailored care packages, supported by robust quality assessments.
- Leadership that listens: A stable leadership team is driving cultural change and boosting morale.
- Wellbeing at work: Staff feel supported through flexible working, wellbeing initiatives, and caring leadership.
- The report also includes a number of areas for improvement, including:
  - Direct payments: The number of people receiving direct payments is significantly below the national average. This needs to be increased to give people more choice and control over their care.
  - Equity and inclusion: The council needs to improve its use of demographic data to understand the needs of underrepresented groups in Cambridgeshire.
  - Unpaid carers: The council should build on the work of its All Age Carers Strategy 2022-2026 to ensure unpaid carers have consistently good experiences.
  - Transitions and continuity of care: The council should work to improve transitions from children's services to adults' services for young people, ensuring this is timely and well-coordinated.

[www.cqc.org.uk/care-services/local-authority-assessmentreports/cambridgeshire-0825](http://www.cqc.org.uk/care-services/local-authority-assessmentreports/cambridgeshire-0825)

### Integrated Care Boards 'between a rock and a hard place'

NHS Integrated care boards (ICBs) have been left between a rock and a hard place over taking forward redundancy schemes to hit demanding cost reduction targets set by the Government.

In March, the Government announced that it was scrapping NHS England over the coming years and set a target for integrated care boards to reduce running costs by 50 per cent by the end of the third quarter of this year. It later refined this target to keeping running costs within £18.76 per head of population, meaning that ICBs face different cost reduction targets depending on their starting point. Redundancies will be essential to meet this target.

However, it has subsequently become clear that there is an expectation that all redundancy costs should be self-funded. However, this leaves ICBs facing the prospect of launching a redundancy scheme, where the costs have not been included

in their financial plan, or putting schemes on hold and missing their target to reduce running costs.

ICBs are now stuck between a rock and a hard place, without the additional funds needed to pay for their own restructuring.

To meet the cost cutting requirements of the Government, most ICBs have agreed 'clustering' arrangements. Cambridgeshire and Peterborough ICB has clustered with Bedfordshire Luton & Milton Keynes and Hertfordshire, with a population of around 3.3 million people.

### Annual Healthwatch summit

Healthwatch is an independent patient champion organisation consisting of a national body, Healthwatch England, and local Healthwatch groups focused on specific geographical areas. The current leadership team at Healthwatch Cambridgeshire have been active supporters of health scrutiny, including submitting reports and attending public scrutiny sessions to share the patient voice.

This years' annual summit is focusing on mental health and making local mental health services accessible to everyone. The event is taking place on Wednesday 8 October 2025 between 9:00AM and 2:50PM at the Delta Marriott Hotel, Kingfisher Way, Huntingdon PE29 6FL. It is free to attend and open to all. Booking required.

**[www.healthwatchcambridgeshire.co.uk/form/sign-up-to-join-ourannualsummit](http://www.healthwatchcambridgeshire.co.uk/form/sign-up-to-join-ourannualsummit)**

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## CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE

### Improvements in support for care leavers

The County Council has improved the support and stability it provides for care leavers in Cambridgeshire, according to a recent Ofsted report.

Ofsted carried out a focused visit in July, looking at the council's arrangements for care leavers. They concluded that arrangements have strengthened since their last visit in 2024, though there is still work to be done.

Inspectors commented that:

- 'Leaders are ambitious to support care leavers into employment, further education and training opportunities [...] The local authority is trailblazing the use of bursaries for care leavers over 19, supporting care leavers to remain longer in further education or giving care leavers who wish to return to employment, education or training, these opportunities.'

- 'Care leavers now have stronger and more purposeful relationships with their personal advisors and investment in additional staffing in the service is helping to reduce staff turnover and workloads.'
- 'Most care leavers live in suitable accommodation that meets their needs and increasing numbers are supported to remain living with their current carers through effective Staying Put arrangements.'
- 'Political and corporate leaders and care leavers have co-produced a convincing and aspirational pledge which sets out their commitment to help care leavers fulfil their full potential.'

The summary also identifies four areas for improvement:

- The quality and impact of front-line manager's supervision to promote and provide reflective practice for personal advisors
- The quality and impact of front-line managers oversight to ensure purposeful and considered case direction
- The quality and consistency of pathway planning
- The range and accessibility of suitable accommodation to meet care leavers needs.

**<https://files.ofsted.gov.uk/v1/file/50285468>**

### **Could you be a foster carer?**

Cambridgeshire Fostering Service is looking for compassionate individuals and families across Cambridgeshire to become foster carers. By offering a stable, loving home, you can make a life-changing difference for children and young people who are unable to live with their families. Fostering doesn't have to be a long-term commitment—the council also needs carers for short-term fostering and respite care. Find out more

- 0800 052 0078
- [www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/children-and-families/fosteringand-adoption](http://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/children-and-families/fosteringand-adoption)
- Facebook [www.facebook.com/CCCFosteringService/](https://www.facebook.com/CCCFosteringService/)
- Instagram [www.instagram.com/cambsfostering/](https://www.instagram.com/cambsfostering/)

### **Music Education Hub**

The music consortium agreement has been increased for another year to enable the music hub to continue the good work it is doing with schools and educational projects. The outcomes of this continued funding will be the investment in future academic years (25- 26 and 26-27) of £1.2 million annually into music education

provision across the combined area. This will be used to support the provision of music education support for schools, progression routes for children and young people and collaborations that broaden access to music opportunities, as set out in the National Plan for Music Education.

This work supports progression in educational studies, development of good music provision in schools, support for the Inclusion for all.

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## COMMUNITIES, SOCIAL MOBILITY & INCLUSION

### Dementia Friendly Communities

The Communities Service has been supporting the work of East Cambs Dementia Friendly Communities to bring together and support people living with dementia and their carers. Together, local organisations have been offering fun activities and a chance to connect with others who understand and share similar experiences—including drop-in craft sessions in Littleport, dementia support groups at Ely Library, and singing groups in Ely and Soham.

For more information

- watch an animation from local artist Bob Banks which showcases the activities on offer at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rCEfz3t3rmE>
- or call Tracey Knott, Neighbourhood Carers Lead for Ely Primary Care Networks, on 07523 269754.

### Cambridgeshire Skills course guide

Whether you're looking to boost your career, gain essential qualifications, or explore a new passion, there's something for everyone at Cambridgeshire Skills - from functional skills in English and maths, to horticulture and counselling.

Courses are delivered in venues across Cambridgeshire, with flexible learning options and expert tutors, making it easier than ever to learn locally.

Explore the full course guide on the Cambridgeshire Skills website or contact your local centre for more information.

**[www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/adults/cambridgeshire-skills-adultlearning](http://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/adults/cambridgeshire-skills-adultlearning)**

### Ely Library Temporary Closure

Work will be carried out at Ely Library for:

- The creation of a flexible drop in workdesk space incorporating and extending existing office provision for County Council colleagues as part of the accommodation Improvement Programme
- Improvements to library layout, fixtures, decoration

The work is proposed from 31.10.25 to 9.2.2026 requiring a temporary closure of the site – this includes the Christmas holiday period. We are currently working on an interim service offering involving the mobile library and other buildings within Ely.

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## HIGHWAYS & TRANSPORT

### **Firm action to reduce disruption on Cambridgeshire roads**

Cambridgeshire County Council is taking firm action to reduce disruption on the county's roads, issuing fines totalling £483,000 to utility companies and developers for non-compliant and over-running roadworks during 2024–25.

In total, the council processed more than 32,000 street and roadwork permits last year, regulating when and how works can take place on the highway.

- £185,000 was issued through Fixed Penalty Notices for 1,655 offences, including works that lacked a valid permit or breached the conditions of their permit.
- A further £298,000 was recovered from 201 works that overran, resulting in 1,191 extra days of disruption for road users and residents.

51 utility companies are entitled to work on Cambridgeshire's roads—and when that work is deemed an emergency they can legally start work even before notifying the council.

However, as the highways authority, the council does have powers to challenge how long emergency and urgent works remain in place. In 2024-25:

- Over 1,460 emergency permits were challenged for requesting excessive duration – more than 25% of all emergency permits.
- 254 immediate permit applications were rejected where they did not meet the legal criteria for emergency status.

One option the council is currently exploring is a lane rental scheme, which would allow the council to charge companies for the time that roadworks occupy the highway—with higher charges for works on the busiest streets at the busiest times. The council currently talking to other authorities about their experiences of lane rental.

### **Excessive and misleading signage**

I'm challenging the council and its contractors over excessive and misleading road closure signage.

Recent projects have seen road closure signage giving the impression that drivers cannot access areas of our City and the villages that are open, and sending them instead on unnecessary detours to Littleport.

Plans for upcoming closures of the crossings in Prickwillow and Queen Adelaide appear to be excessive with 'Road Closed' appearing at the Nutholt Lane junction when the closures are in Queen Adelaide and Chettisham!

### **New shuttle bus to Welney Wetland Centre**

People can now access Welney Wetland Centre, near Littleport, by public transport thanks to a grant from Greater Anglia's Customer and Community Improvement Fund. The train operator granted £9,334 to the Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust for a trial shuttle bus service connecting Welney Wetland Centre and Ely railway station, to help encourage more people to enjoy car-free days out. The free minibus will run on Tuesdays and Saturdays, departing Ely railway station at 11:00 and 12:00, and departing Welney at 14:45 and 15:45. The bus will run for a trial period from Tuesday 2 September to Saturday 29 November.

### **New highways system to go live in September**

The County Council's new Asset Management system Aurora goes live on Monday 22 September. The current system will be taken offline on Thursday 18 September, and residents will not be able to log issues or defects online between 18 and 22 September.

Under the new system:

- Customer reports will be automatically directed to the correct officer or team, ensuring they are handled by the right person first time.
- All Highways Maintenance Officers will now be equipped with tablets, allowing them to inspect defects, raise work orders, and update customers directly while on-site.

- New workflows automatically escalate reports that are not progressed within agreed service level timescales, helping to prevent delays and improve response times.
- Performance dashboards will ensure no cases are overlooked.
- Officers can send updates directly from the system, meaning residents receive regular progress updates on their reports.
- Reports can be managed dynamically by officers in the field, and loaded into inspection routes so they can be reviewed at the same time.
- The system will task officers with inspecting completed work and identifying any defects. If defects are identified these will be flagged to contractors and corrected.

### **Road works programme**

A reminder that the council's road works programme can be found at [www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/travel-roads-and-parking/roadsand-pathways/road-improvements](http://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/travel-roads-and-parking/roadsand-pathways/road-improvements)

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**Cllr Christine Whelan County Councillor Ely South**

**Cllr Alison Whelan County Councillor Ely North**