

CITY OF ELY COUNCIL
PERSONNEL, FINANCE AND GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF A MEETING HELD AT 7.00 PM ON
10TH FEBRUARY 2025 AT SESSIONS HOUSE, LYNN ROAD, ELY

PRESENT: Mrs T Coulson – Clerk to the Council

Cllr C Ní Dhónaill

Cllr C Phillips

Cllr W Novick

Cllr S Sandhu

Cllr R Trent

Cllr R Moss-Eccardt

Cllr R Denness

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Cllrs Ward and Banyard.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

3. MINUTES OF THE LAST PERSONNEL, FINANCE AND GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE MEETING (HELD ON THE 11TH NOVEMBER 2024) & MATTERS ARISING

Minutes of the last Personnel, Finance and Governance Committee meeting held on the 11th November 2024, were proposed as a true record by Cllr Ní Dhónaill, seconded by Cllr Sandhu and unanimously agreed. They were signed by the Chairman. Pages PFG 168, 169 and 170 refer. There were no matters arising.

4. BUDGET UPDATE

The budget update, up to the 31st December 2024 was noted. There were no significant variances that councillors had concerns with. The Clerk will put forward a proposal at the next meeting with regard to a further investment of some of the Council's reserves.

5. TO NOTE THE REPORTS FROM THE INTERNAL AUDITOR'S VISIT ON THE 8TH NOVEMBER 2024

Councillors noted the reports from the Internal Auditor following her visit on the 8th November 2024. There were no concerns raised.

6. UPDATE FROM THE GOVERNANCE WORKING GROUP

The Working Group had not met.

7. UPDATE FROM THE COUNCIL'S STRATEGIC PLAN WORKING GROUP

Cllr Ní Dhónaill gave a summary of what had been discussed at the Strategic Plan Working Group meeting held on the 4th February. The next meeting will be on the 17th February. A first draft of the Strategic Plan will be presented to the April Full Council meeting for comments.

8. UPDATE FROM CIL SUB-COMMITTEE AND TO RECEIVE CIL EXPENDITURE ANALYSIS UPDATE

The Working Group had not met. The application for CIL funding for OCH had been approved at the last Full Council meeting. The CIL expenditure analysis update, to the 31st December was noted.

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COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN

2025

9. UPDATE FROM THE INCLUSIVITY WORKING GROUP

The Working Group had not met. Cllr Phillips reported February was the LGBTQ+ History month and the Council was flying the flag to recognise this, for the month on the Market Place. He had also attended an exhibition in Cambridge of LGBTQ+ history. This exhibition will be touring the County and will be at Ely Museum, which councillors will be invited to attend. The Chief Executive of the Kite Trust will be giving a short presentation at the next Full Council meeting on the importance of LGBTQ+ history month.

10. UPDATE FROM THE NORTH ELY HUB AND COMMUNITY WORKING GROUP

Cllr Trent informed councillors the revised planning application had been considered at a recent ECDC Planning Committee meeting and approved. This will mean that the building of the shop, community centre, nursery should hopefully commence early next year.

11. TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE FROM THE YOUTH LEAD

Cllr Novick informed councillors that he would be attending a mental health conference in March. He had also been working with Ely College on youth matters.

12. UPDATE FROM THE COMMUNICATIONS & PR WORKING GROUP

The Working Group had not met. The Clerk reminded councillors that the Working Group had agreed to lead with the submission of material for the Elyi magazine but this was not being done. All deadline dates had been provided. She also reminded them, that the new website had not been discussed and this should have been moved forward by now. Cllr Trent agreed as a member of this Group to raise these issues at the next meeting.

13. TO CONSIDER LETTER FROM BABYLON ARTS

The request for financial support and their Case for Support was discussed at great length with all councillors being sympathetic to Babylon Arts financial situation. They did however feel that they could not support this request and this would be the decision recommended to the next Full Council meeting. This recommendation was agreed due to Councillors' concerns about the future viability of the organisation and the belief that funding from this council would not significantly impact its long-term success. It was also agreed that following the decision at Full Council, a press release would be issued explaining why the Council had made its decision.

14. HEALTH AND SAFETY ISSUES

There were no health and safety issues to report.

15. PERSONNEL ISSUES

The Clerk reported there were still several councillors who had not completed the on-line bullying and harassment training. This had been outstanding for some time. When training is required for both staff and councillors it is hoped this would be undertaken as soon as possible by all.

PUBLIC BODIES (ADMISSION TO MEETINGS) ACT 1960 EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND THE PUBLIC Cllr Ní Dhónaill proposed to resolve that in accordance with Section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 and by reason of the confidential nature of the remainder of the business, the Press and the Public be excluded from the Meeting. This proposal was seconded by Cllr Phillips and unanimously agreed by councillors. There were no members of the press or public present.

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COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN

2025

16. UPDATE ON TENDERS FOR OCH BUILDING WORK

The Clerk gave councillors an update with councillors unanimously agreeing she should continue with the current process and that if required a further request should be made for CIL funding. It was also agreed to recommend to the next Full Council meeting that a project/delivery manager be appointed to oversee this project on behalf of the Council.

17. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting date to be confirmed.

The meeting closed at 8.13 pm.

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COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN
2025