

**CITY OF ELY COUNCIL
PERSONNEL, FINANCE AND GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF A MEETING HELD AT 7.00 PM ON
11TH NOVEMBER 2024 AT SESSIONS HOUSE, LYNN ROAD, ELY**

PRESENT: Mrs T Coulson – Clerk to the Council

Cllr Ní Dhónaill

Cllr M Banyard

Cllr W Novick

Cllr C Phillips

Cllr R Trent

Cllr R Denness

Cllr R Ward (arrived 7.10 pm)

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Cllrs Sandhu and Moss-Eccardt.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

3. MINUTES OF THE LAST PERSONNEL, FINANCE AND GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE MEETING (HELD ON THE 2ND SEPTEMBER 2024) & MATTERS ARISING

Minutes of the last Personnel, Finance and Governance Committee meeting held on the 2nd September 2024, were proposed as a true record by Cllr Ní Dhónaill, seconded by Cllr Phillips and unanimously agreed. They were signed by the Chairman. Pages PFG 165, 166 and 167 refer. Matters Arising:- Page 166, item 10 – Cllr Banyard confirmed he had obtained advice with regard to the safe guarding from the Diocese.

Item 4 was deferred to the end of the meeting to allow consideration of later items as these could have an impact on the proposed budget

4. BUDGET UPDATE

The budget updates up to the 30th September 2024 were noted. There were no significant variances that councillors had concerns with. Councillors considered the proposed budget for 2025/2026 in great detail. Cllr Ní Dhónaill proposed this be recommend to Full Council for approval, with a precept for 2025/2026 of £822,558. This was seconded by Cllr Banyard and unanimously approved. It was agreed that the Clerk would submit a request to the CIL Sub-Committee for funding for the repair work needed at Oliver Cromwell's House. It was also agreed that the Clerk would request that ECDC consider gifting Oliver Cromwell's House to the Council due to the considerable amount of investment needed in the building from this Council. Cllr Ní Dhónaill thanked the Clerk for the very helpful budget notes.

5. UPDATE FROM THE GOVERNANCE WORKING GROUP

The Working Group had not met.

6. 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 1st October. The next meeting will be on the 18th November. The Tourism Committee had not discussed their objectives for inclusion in the Strategic Plan, so they will be requested to hold a meeting prior to the next scheduled one so these can be agreed and submitted to the Working Group. Once all these have been received the Working Group will produce an outline document giving the overall idea of ambitions for the Plan. It was agreed that this Committee would like to include within the Strategic Plan the Youth Action Plan, CCTV and financial resilience of the Council.

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COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN
10th February 2025

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

Cllr Phillips presented the minutes of the CIL Sub-Committee meeting held on the 30th September which was approved. The CIL expenditure analysis update, to the 31st August was noted. The application for CIL funding for air conditioning units at Sessions House had been approved at the last Full Council meeting. Cllr Trent raised the solar lights along the bund and said that he had received confirmation from ECDC that they would not fund these but would give approval for this Council to install and fund. The Clerk asked if a formal approach had been made as a District Councillor and he confirmed it had not. If this was something that the Council wished to move forward Cllr Trent would need to raise this at the Climate and Environment Committee. It was suggested that if we did agree to fund then ECDC should be responsible for the maintenance of them.

8. UPDATE FROM THE INCLUSIVITY WORKING GROUP

The Working Group had not met.

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

The Working Group had not met but Cllr Ní Dhónaill, Cllr Trent and Cllr Ward gave a verbal update, although nothing had really progressed any further.

10. TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE FROM THE YOUTH LEAD

Cllr Novick informed members that Ely College had now withdrawn their support for the Youth Forum in its proposed format. Cllr Novick will be seeking clarification from them as to the reasons for this decision. He reported the Youth Working Group had met to discuss the Youth Action Plan. Cllr Novick had been in contact with some secondary schools in Ribe with regard to an art project in connection with the 70th anniversary of the twinning with Ribe.

11. UPDATE FROM THE COMMUNICATIONS & PR WORKING GROUP

Cllr Trent gave a summary of what had been discussed at the last meeting on the 28th October. This had been with regard to introducing all councillors to parishioners through the Council pages in the Ely publication. This was discussed by the Committee and agreed that the Ely North councillors would write a short piece about themselves for the next edition, which had a deadline of the 9th December. Cllr Trent will speak to ECDC as to whether they would be able to take councillors pictures for the article. The Mayor will continue to write his normal article. The Clerk also reminded the Working Group of the need to discuss the Council's new website at their next meeting.

12. TO CONSIDER LETTER FROM BABYLON ARTS

The request for financial support was discussed at great length with all councillors being sympathetic to Babylon Arts financial situation. The Council does support them in kind, by allowing free use of the Maltings for the cinema and live events, which has a value in excess of £30,000 per annum. Councillors felt the letter did not contain enough information and felt that a business plan would need to be submitted to the Council and clarification sought as to the outcome of their discussions with the other authorities, and whether they had secured any funding from them. If this was received by the 25th November it would be possible to have a further discussion at the next Full Council meeting on the 2nd December. With the present information, financial support could not be recommended to Full Council.

13. HEALTH AND SAFETY ISSUES

There were no health and safety issues to report.

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COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN
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14. PERSONNEL ISSUES

To consider report from the Clerk regarding CCTV - Councillors considered the Clerk's report and Cllr Ní Dhónaill proposed the Clerk's recommendation of accepting option 2 be recommended to Full Council for approval. This was seconded by Cllr Banyard and unanimously agreed.

Councillors noted the agreement of the annual pay rise for 2024/25 - annual rise of £1290 for all grades up to SCP 43. Grades from SCP 44 to 62 will be increased by 2.5%

15. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on Monday, 10th February 2025 at 7.00 pm.

The meeting closed at 9.20 pm.

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COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN
10th February 2025