

**CITY OF ELY COUNCIL
PERSONNEL, FINANCE AND GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF A MEETING HELD AT 7.00 PM ON
23RD JANUARY 2023 AT SESSIONS HOUSE, LYNN ROAD, ELY**

PRESENT: Mrs T Coulson – Clerk to the Council

Cllr A Whelan

Cllr C Whelan

Cllr M Wade

Cllr D Edge

Cllr I Lindsay

Cllr C Phillips

Cllr R Morgan

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Cllrs Pitt and Austen.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

3. MINUTES OF THE LAST PERSONNEL, FINANCE AND GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE MEETING (HELD ON THE 21ST NOVEMBER 2022) & MATTERS ARISING

Minutes of the last Personnel, Finance and Governance Committee meeting held on the 21st November 2022, were agreed, and were signed by the Chairman, as a true record. Pages PFG 126, 127, 128, 129 and 130 refer. There were no matters arising.

Item 11 was discussed at this point due to Cllr Wade having to leave the meeting early.

4. BUDGET UPDATE

Members noted the budget update for the period up to the 7th December 2022. There were no significant variances that members had concerns regarding. Cllr A Whelan raised her concerns regarding the amount of money being spent on the Maltings and OCH and asked how the Council could justify putting up the council tax for that reason. She felt the people of Ely should be asked if they are happy to pay for these services. The Clerk did confirm that when the budget was set for the year 2023/2024, it was agreed that once the Council moves into the next financial year there will be a review of the services that the Council offers and public consultation will be undertaken, if felt necessary with regards to these and the cost implications of them. Cllr A Whelan requested that this be discussed at the next Full Council meeting.

5. UPDATE FROM THE GOVERNANCE WORKING GROUP

Cllr C Whelan informed members the Working Group had not met.

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

There was no update from the Strategic Plan Working Group as this had not met.

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

Cllr Phillips informed members the Sub-Committee had not met. The CIL expenditure analysis update was noted.

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COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN
6th March 2023

8. UPDATE FROM THE INCLUSIVITY WORKING GROUP

Although the Working Group had not met it was reported by Cllr C Whelan that the Pride flag would be flown from the 1st February for LGBT+ month. Cllr Denness will also be applying for planning permission for the Black Lives History flag for the month of October.

The Clerk confirmed she had obtained the information from ECDC regarding charities and organisations in Ely and had forwarded this to Cllr Phillips. Cllr Phillips confirmed he would work his way through this, identifying and contacting organisations to see if the Council can work with them.

Cllr Wade left the meeting at 7.3 pm.

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

Cllr A Whelan informed members the Working Group had not met. A response from the developers was still awaited. Cllr Lindsay informed members that representatives from St Mary's Church had visited a similar hub at Northstowe. Cllr Phillips is meeting with them tomorrow so will hopefully get feedback from their visit.

10. UPDATE FROM THE YOUTH LEAD

Cllr C Whelan had nothing to report.

Item 11 was discussed at the start of the meeting before item 4

11. UPDATE FROM THE NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN REVIEW WORKING GROUP

Cllr Wade gave an update on the initial meeting of this Working Group. Cllr Every and Cllr Wade had met with an officer from ECDC which had been very helpful. The Working Group will meet again to define what a Neighbourhood Plan is, what is required to put one into place, cost and time frames. They will present a report with options to the Personnel, Finance & Governance Committee meeting on the 6th March.

12. TO RECEIVE INTERNAL AUDITOR'S REPORTS FROM FIRST VISIT FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR 2022/23

Councillors noted the reports from the first visit of the Internal Auditor to Sessions House, the Maltings and Oliver Cromwell's House. There was only one issue raised with regard to the level of the fidelity cover that the Council has and that this should be reviewed in line with recommended guidance of yearend balance and 50% of the precept. The Clerk will arrange for this to be increased. Councillors thanked all staff for all their hard work in achieving such high standards.

13. TO CONSIDER A GRANT APPLICATION

A grant application had been received from the Kite Trust. Members considered this and agreed to recommend to the next Full Council approval for an award of £500. Members also agreed to publicise that grants could still be applied for in this financial year.

14. COMMUNICATIONS/PR

The Working Group had not met. The Clerk reminded councillors that the deadline for the next edition of the Elyi was the 13th February. Possible articles were discussed and it was agreed there would an article from the Mayor, list of meetings (Clerk), explanation regarding the increase in next year's precept (Clerk), upcoming elections and ID required for voting (Cllr C Whelan) and information regarding OCH events. It was also agreed that the next edition would include an article regarding the new Ely North community hub and a piece regarding the Paradise play area.

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COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN
6th March 2023

15. HEALTH AND SAFETY ISSUES

There were no health and safety issues to raise.

14. PERSONNEL ISSUES

The Clerk informed members confirmation had been received from the pension provider as to the rates for the next financial year. There will be no increase.

The Clerk also updated members on the progress with the recruitment of staff at both the cemetery and OCH.

16. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be on Monday, 6th March 2023 at 7.00 pm.

The meeting closed at 8.18 pm.

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COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN
6th March 2023