



CITY OF ELY COUNCIL
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**MINUTES OF MEETING OF THE CITY OF ELY COUNCIL HELD AT 7.00 PM ON MONDAY,
9TH MARCH 2026 AT THE MALTINGS, SHIP LANE, ELY**

PRESENT: Mrs T Coulson – Clerk to the Council

Cllr M Banyard, Mayor/Chairman Cllr C Phillips
Cllr C Whelan Cllr R Morgan
Cllr R Denness Cllr M Wade

Cllr D Warman
Cllr R Trent
Cllr R Ward

County Cllr A Whelan

2 representatives from the Community Safety Partnership, ECDC

2 parishioners

2 parishioners regarding bus item

2 prospective councillor candidates

1. APOLOGIES AND REASONS FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cllrs Moss-Eccardt, Ní Dhónaill and Hucker. The reasons for their absences were accepted. Cllr Sandhu not present.

2. COUNCILLOR REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATIONS

There were no requests for dispensations.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

There were no declarations of interest.

4. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING HELD ON THE 19TH JANUARY 2026 AND MATTERS ARISING

Minutes of the last meeting held on the 19th January 2026 were proposed by Cllr Morgan that they be agreed and signed as a true record. This was seconded by Cllr Warman and unanimously approved. They were signed by the Chairman. Pages 2205, 2206, 2207, 2208, 2209, 2210 and 2211 refer. There were no matters arising.

5. PRESENTATION BY EMMA GRAVES, NEIGHBOURHOOD & COMMUNITY SAFETY TEAM LEADER FROM THE COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP

Emma explained what the Community Safety Partnership do and how it is made up with partner organisations. They look at the issues within the district and undertake a strategic assessment of these issues and try to address them. Last year they looked at how to support and prevent the district's youth that are vulnerable to crime. They support parish councils by offering CSP forums where the public is invited to talk about their crime and antisocial behaviour issues they have experienced. They help prepare a three month action plan to address the issues, which other agencies can assist with. They offer court room experience days for Year 9 students, which have proved very good experiences for the students. Will help set up third party hate crime reporting centres, which with ECDC there are seven in the district. The Chair of the CSP, Mrs Elisabeth Every also gave members information on the crime within

5. PRESENTATION BY EMMA GRAVES, NEIGHBOURHOOD & COMMUNITY SAFETY TEAM LEADER FROM THE COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP continued

the city. Cllr Morgan asked if the Butter Market could have better lighting as this had been raised as quite a dark area. Emma agreed to look at this.

The Chairman thanked them both for attending and for all the work the Partnership does.

Emma Graves and Mrs E Every left the meeting at 7.19 pm.

6. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman informed members of the safe arrival of Cllr Ní Dhónaill's son on the 7th March. He has now appointed a new Mayor's chaplain, Canon Jenny Wright. His Civic Service will be on the 12th April at 4 pm in the Cathedral. He will be holding a charity quiz on the 20th March at St Mary's Church. He also informed members the Babylon Arts Group are looking for new premises and he had agreed to meet with them to discuss this further. Cllrs Whelan and Wade agreed to attend with him.

7. QUESTION TIME

A parishioner spoke on behalf of Eco Ely and requested the council consider 'no mow and no spray May.' Another parishioner highlighted the use of pesticides at the city's allotment sites and requested that boards be considered encouraging people not to use pesticides and to be more ecofriendly. Cllr Denness, as the current chair of the Association agreed to discuss this with them further.

8. REPORTS FROM COUNTY COUNCILLORS AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

A written report for March was received from County Cllrs C Whelan and A Whelan. This was presented by Cllr A Whelan and noted by members. A written report from District Cllrs C Whelan, A Whelan, Trent, Wade, Holtzmann, Colbert and Akinwale was also received and noted by members.

9. MAYOR'S ENGAGEMENTS & REPORT

The Mayor had met with the Bishop elect of Ely, Rt Revd Sarah Clarke; attended the anniversary opening of Sushi and Salad Bar; held the Chinese New Year Mayor's Charity event at the Maltings; opened the Ely Beer Festival; attended ECDC's Parish Councils conference in Isleham; the ATC 1094 Squadron Annual Dinner; Huntingdon Flipathon. Pancake racing; ECDC Webinar regarding the local Government reorganisation; spoke at ECDC Planning Committee meeting on an application being considered; attended Whittlesey Civic Service and the Ely Islamic Centre's annual Taste Ramadan and Community Iftar dinner. The Deputy Mayor had attended the Mayor's Chinese New Year Charity event and the Ely Islamic Centre's annual Taste Ramadan and Community Iftar dinner.

The Ambassador had attended the King's Ely Senior Music Department - Instrumental Music Festival Finalists' Concert 2026 at the cathedral and the Ely Islamic Centre's annual Taste Ramadan and Community Iftar dinner.

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.

County Cllr A Whelan left the meeting at 7.43 pm.

11. INFORMATION ONLY ITEMS

The following information only items were received and noted:-

Road Closures – Back Hill, Lynn Road, Merlin Drive, Upherds Lane, St Audreys Lane, Ely – 23 – 29.3.26 – to facilitate slurry sealing and associated works.

Response from Service Director – Education, Cambs County Council regarding Smartphone Free Childhood

12. COMMITTEE REPORTS

- (i) **PERSONNEL, FINANCE & GOVERNANCE** – Cllr Ní Dhónaill presented a report of a meeting held on the 9th February 2026, which was approved. Members had noted the reports from the Internal Auditor's visit on the 7th November 2025. These were for the Council, the Maltings and Oliver Cromwell's House. There were no issues raised. The Council's Children and Young People's Action Plan was discussed as to how this could be moved forward. It was agreed questions would be included with the consultation for the Strategic Plan, with regard to what parishioners felt was needed in relation to young people. Once feedback had been received this would be discussed at a future meeting. Details of safeguarding training would be provided to members and they would be requested to confirm if they wished to undertake this. It was agreed to form a new working group to consider the implications of the Local Government Reorganisation (LGR). The Accessibility Statement for the Council's websites was unanimously approved and adopted. This will be reviewed on an annual basis. The minutes of the CIL Sub-Committee held on the 23rd February 2026 were presented by the Chairman. The applications for funding were agreed as follows:- solar lighting between The Hive and Alexander Chase (£52,000) – approved subject to conditions, proposed by Cllr Morgan and seconded by Cllr Whelan. Ely Museum – purchase of defibrillator (£1,124), proposed by the Chairman and seconded by Cllr Trent. Improvements to bus stop infrastructure (£10,000), proposed by the Chairman and seconded by Cllr Denness. A review will be undertaken by the Personnel, Finance & Governance Committee with regard to the processes of assessing and agreeing expenditure through this Sub-Committee.
- ii) **CLIMATE & ENVIRONMENT** – Cllr Denness presented a report of a meeting held on the 26th January 2026, which was approved. The energy audit reports had now been received and will need to be analysed and forwarded to the appropriate committees for considerations. The Clerk and Deputy Clerk would be consulted to discuss the best way to move forward. Cllr Whelan had provided an update on the proposed crossing at Cam Drive, The LHI bid for speed reduction on the A142 in Stuntney had not been submitted by Cllr Denness due to the complexity of the application. Cllr Banyard had met with representatives from the Cambs & Peterborough Combined Authority to discuss issues, such as connectivity, with the two new bus services in Ely. A further meeting is planned to discuss how to make the services run more efficiently. It was agreed to submit an application to the CIL Sub-Committee for funding for the installation of solar lighting between Ely Leisure Centre and Alexander Chase.
- (iii) **ASSETS** – Cllr Morgan presented a report of a meeting held on the 2nd February 2026, which was approved. The installation of the new play equipment at St John's Road and High Barns had now been completed. The cemetery fees were felt to fall behind those of comparable neighbouring cemeteries and to bring them more in line, will be increased from the 1st April 2026 by 10%. A planting plan had been commissioned for the new woodland burial area within the cemetery. The water feature in the sensory garden had been installed. It was agreed that the Christmas lights display had been spectacular once again. This could not be achieved without the help of all the volunteers, including the USAF volunteers at Lakenheath. The new stage lights for the Maltings will be ordered shortly. Cllr Morgan proposed members approved the annual RPI increase for the Local Needs Housing Scheme rent by 3.8%. This was seconded by Cllr Denness and unanimously approved.
- (iv) **TOURISM** – Cllr Warman presented a report of a meeting held on the 16th February 2026, which was approved. It was agreed to approach the USAF volunteers that assist with Christmas Lights to see if they would be able to provide volunteers to assist with the Eel Day Parade. Cllr Whelan requested that the Assets Committee look at whether Sessions House would be viable as a possible wedding venue. The commitment which had been made to the Smartphone Free Childhood Campaign with regards to advertising on the digital boards was discussed and agreed to initially support for six months when it will be reviewed. The number of posters will be reduced through this period. The update on the planned building work at Oliver Cromwell's House was noted. Cllr Warman thanked the staff at Visit Ely, especially Mr Routledge and Mrs Reddick for ensuring the smooth running of the service in the Manager's absence and for all their hard work.

13. REPORTS FROM EXTERNAL MEETINGS

Ely Ribe Association Committee – minutes of a meeting held on the 5th February 2026 were noted.

14. NOMINATIONS FOR MAYOR AND DEPUTY MAYOR FOR 2026/2027

Members unanimously approved the nomination of Cllr Rebecca Denness for Mayor, proposed by Cllr R Ward and seconded by Cllr D Warman and the nomination of Cllr Christine Whelan for Deputy Mayor, proposed by Cllr R Trent and seconded by Cllr C Phillips.

15. TO APPROVE AMENDMENT TO THE FINANCIAL REGULATIONS WITH REGARD TO THE PROCUREMENT THRESHOLDS FROM 1 JANUARY 2026

The Chairman proposed the amendment to the Financial Regulations with regard to the procurement thresholds from 1 January 2026. This was seconded by Cllr Warman and unanimously agreed.

16. TO CONSIDER PAPER PROPOSED BY CLLR BANYARD TO BE SENT TO THE COMBINED AUTHORITY REGARDING A SUSTAINABLE BUS NETWORK FOR THE ELY AREA

Cllr Banyard thanked Mr Hughes and Mr Eden for producing the paper regarding a sustainable bus network for the Ely area. They had worked with Cllrs Denness, Whelan and himself. Cllr Warman thanked them for their hard work and felt it should encourage people to use public transport. Cllr Banyard proposed the paper be approved and sent to the Combined Authority. This was seconded by Cllr Denness and unanimously approved.

The two parishioners in attendance for the bus item left the meeting at 8.08 pm.

17. TO CONSIDER WRITTEN APPLICATIONS FOR THE OFFICE OF PARISH COUNCILLOR AND FILL THE EXISTING TWO VACANCIES FOR THE EAST WARD, BY CO-OPTION

The Chairman informed members that two applications had been received for the two vacancies in the East Ward. The Chairman proposed the meeting be adjourned to allow the candidates to speak on their applications. The meeting was adjourned at 8.08 pm. The two applicants spoke on their applications. At 8.11 pm the meeting was reconvened. Members voted on the candidates for the East ward and the two candidates, Mr Cosmin Bebu-Vijianu and Mr Piers Coutts were elected to fill the two vacancies.

18. FINANCE

The Chairman proposed these all be approved, which was seconded by Cllr Denness and unanimously approved.

Direct debit payments and BACS payments

EE Ltd	87.24	Paid by direct debit
Virgin Media Business Ltd	82.30	Paid by direct debit
Virgin Media Business Ltd	82.30	Paid by direct debit
Barclays	50.77	Paid by direct debit
Lex Autolease Ltd	353.67	Paid by direct debit
Lex Autolease Ltd	358.22	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	1086.57	Paid by direct debit
Lex Autolease Ltd	767.64	Paid by direct debit
Bidfood Ltd	2454.03	Paid by direct debit
FuelGenie	185.01	Paid by direct debit

18. FINANCE CONTINUED

British Telecommunications	337.67	Paid by direct debit
Cybertill Ltd	79.25	Paid by direct debit
Francotyp Postalia Ltd	64.80	Paid by direct debit
Cellair Ltd	27.60	Paid by direct debit
ESPO	1481.41	Paid by direct debit
ESPO	562.99	Paid by direct debit
ESPO	530.55	Paid by direct debit
ESPO	614.74	Paid by direct debit
SSE Energy Solutions Ltd	73.73	Paid by direct debit
Barclaycard	1076.15	Paid by direct debit
Greene King Brewing & Retail Ltd	2082.34	Paid by direct debit
Public Work Loan Board	9508.08	Paid by direct debit
Virgin Media Business Ltd	77.32	Paid by direct debit
Virgin Media Business Ltd	77.32	Paid by direct debit
Bidfood Ltd	1394.12	Paid by direct debit
Francotyp Postalia Ltd	64.80	Paid by direct debit
EE Ltd	103.26	Paid by direct debit
Cybertill Ltd	79.25	Paid by direct debit
British Telecommunications	73.46	Paid by direct debit
British Telecommunications	73.46	Paid by direct debit
Lex Autolease Ltd	1121.31	Paid by direct debit
FuelGenie	77.92	Paid by direct debit
Cellair Ltd	55.20	Paid by direct debit
Ely Museum	10000.00	Paid by BACS
Fenland District Council	40.00	Paid by BACS
We Are Blueshed Ltd	557.40	Paid by BACS
S Bradley	350.00	Paid by BACS
Mr C Berry	2074.99	Paid by BACS
Anglian Water Business	848.14	Paid by BACS
Anglian Water Business	88.61	Paid by BACS
Stark Building Materials UK Ltd	196.28	Paid by BACS
Screwfix Direct Ltd	392.11	Paid by BACS
Amazon Business UK Payments	630.63	Paid by BACS
Ligna Consultancy Ltd	2358.00	Paid by BACS
CamAlarms Ltd	348.54	Paid by BACS
G & G Gallo Enterprises Ltd	815.05	Paid by BACS
ESPO	23.34	Paid by BACS
Simpsons Nurseries Ltd	40.50	Paid by BACS
Inform Surveying Ltd	1050.00	Paid by BACS
Studio Nova Ltd	36.00	Paid by BACS
City Cycle Centre	115.55	Paid by BACS
Cambridgeshire Turf Nurseries	80.00	Paid by BACS
Advanced Thinking Systems Ltd	234.00	Paid by BACS
Mr C Berry	68.00	Paid by BACS
Martin & Mortimer Ltd	2430.00	Paid by BACS
East Air Conditioning Services Ltd	426.00	Paid by BACS
CoolerAid Ltd	7.09	Paid by BACS
Elyi Magazine	175.00	Paid by BACS
Human Capital Development Ltd	226.80	Paid by BACS

18. FINANCE CONTINUED

Node 3 Design Ltd	2271.00	Paid by BACS
Ely & District CAMRA	40.00	Paid by BACS
C Watts	96.66	Paid by BACS
Thurlow Nunn Standen Ltd	30.95	Paid by BACS
G & J Peck Ltd	22.04	Paid by BACS
Ellgia Ltd	257.31	Paid by BACS
UK Tool Hire Group Ltd	732.00	Paid by BACS
Aztek Services Ltd	32.40	Paid by BACS
CamAlarms Ltd	245.50	Paid by BACS
E R Copley	119.00	Paid by BACS
Ely Cathedral	588.00	Paid by BACS
Stark Building Materials UK Ltd	236.74	Paid by BACS
Ernest Doe & Sons Ltd	194.49	Paid by BACS
CamAlarms Ltd	136.39	Paid by BACS
L D Sales	70.00	Paid by BACS
Fen Farm Supplies	14.40	Paid by BACS
Nordwell Ltd	660.00	Paid by BACS
Ely Skip Hire Ltd	651.00	Paid by BACS
Harper Collins Publishers	15.99	Paid by BACS
Kamarin Computers Ltd	390.00	Paid by BACS
Gordon Harrison	541.50	Paid by BACS
Ruth Martindale	1150.00	Paid by BACS
Ely Print Centre	358.00	Paid by BACS
Shefs	5762.10	Paid by BACS
Rowans Fire Ltd	2100.00	Paid by BACS
Julia's Tearooms Ltd	310.50	Paid by BACS
SSP Direct Ltd	885.00	Paid by BACS
Mr C Berry	1825.00	Paid by BACS
G & G Gallo Enterprises Ltd	1819.52	Paid by BACS
Konica Minolta Business Solutions Ltd	83.12	Paid by BACS
Glasdon UK Ltd	580.10	Paid by BACS
Konica Minolta Business Solutions Ltd	19.30	Paid by BACS
RGP Security Services Ltd	277.20	Paid by BACS
Page Fine Jewellery Ltd	120.00	Paid by BACS
Screwfix Direct Ltd	135.86	Paid by BACS
Stark Building Materials UK Ltd	240.76	Paid by BACS
Amazon Business UK Payments	368.32	Paid by BACS
Mr C Watts	12.74	Paid by BACS
Bannold Supplies & Services Ltd	396.00	Paid by BACS
CoolerAid Ltd	6.82	Paid by BACS
Thompson Media Partners Ltd	150.00	Paid by BACS
We Are Blueshed Ltd	336.00	Paid by BACS
City Cycle Centre	63.90	Paid by BACS
Advanced Thinking Systems Ltd	504.00	Paid by BACS
RGP Security Services Ltd	122.10	Paid by BACS
Mr C Berry	99.00	Paid by BACS
Studio Nova Ltd	36.00	Paid by BACS
Ely Tool Hire Ltd	36.00	Paid by BACS

18. FINANCE CONTINUED

East Cambs Trading Co Ltd	1967.57	Paid by BACS
Regent Construction Cambridge Ltd	2943.20	Paid by BACS
Konica Minolta Bus Solutions Ltd	125.64	Paid by BACS
Thompson Media Partners Ltd	40.00	Paid by BACS
Human Capital Department Ltd	26.80	Paid by BACS
John Audus (Electrical Contractor) Ltd	3645.71	Paid by BACS
English Eden	220.78	Paid by BACS
Red Laser Scanning Ltd	3360.00	Paid by BACS
Cybertill Ltd	79.25	Paid by direct debit
British Telecommunications	337.92	Paid by direct debit
Francotyp Postalia Ltd	64.80	Paid by direct debit
Greene Kind Brewing & Retailing Ltd	1170.95	Paid by direct debit
Ellgia Ltd	304.32	Paid by BACS
Simpson's Nurseries Ltd	269.58	Paid by BACS
Kennet Equipment Leasing Ltd	439.86	Paid by direct debit
Ely Tool Hire Ltd	432.00	Paid by BACS
Thurlow Nunn Standen Ltd	14.04	Paid by BACS
InPost Response Ltd	990.00	Paid by BACS
Harper Collins Publishers	152.38	Paid by BACS

The following invoices had been paid prior to the meeting

L Pridmore	36.00	114804
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The following invoices had not been paid prior to the meeting

C Phillips	23.40	114805
S Jay	30.00	114806
Mrs L Pridmore	10.00	114807

Payments relating to staff since meeting on the 19th January 2026

Salaries and wages	£45,655.95 (Jan)	£42,613.87 (Feb)
Inland Revenue (tax & NI)	£15,680.04	£15,782.46
Pension fund payments	£14,809.14	£14,127.69

Members noted and approved the bank reconciliations for the periods ending 31st December 2025 and 31st January 2026.

The meeting closed at 8.14 pm.