



**CITY OF ELY COUNCIL
ASSETS COMMITTEE**

MINUTES OF A MEETING

HELD ON MONDAY 2ND FEBRUARY 2026 AT 7.00 PM AT SESSIONS HOUSE, LYNN ROAD, ELY.

PRESENT: Mrs S Jay– Deputy Clerk to the Council

Bold font indicates voting member of committee.

The Mayor, Cllr M Banyard

Cllr R Morgan

Cllr C Phillips

Cllr R Moss-Eccardt

Cllr R Denness

Cllr M Hucker

Not present: Cllr M Wade

1. Apologies for absence.

Apologies were received from **Cllr Ward**

2. To receive declarations of interests.

There were no declarations of interest.

3. To approve the minutes of the last meeting held on the 13th October 2025 and matters arising.

The minutes of the last meeting held on the 13th October 2025 were agreed by members and signed by the Chairman. Pages A86, A87 & A88 refer.

There were no matters arising.

4. To note budget updates for Cemetery, Recreation, Christmas Lights, Local Needs Housing and the Maltings complex dated 26th January 2026.

Members noted the budget updates dated 26th January 2026. There were no significant variances. Cllr Hucker reported that he had reviewed the accounts for the Maltings and the Cemetery and believed they were on course for a positive outcome. Members requested thanks be conveyed to the Maltings staff for their hard work.

5. To consider draft nature plan.

Members agreed to commend the draft nature plan to Full Council to adopt and appoint a lead member, to move the suggestions forward on behalf of the council as a whole and report to the relevant committees. The Assets committee will implement where possible the recommendations relating to the cemetery and recreation areas.

6. Recreation Areas - to receive an update

The Deputy Clerk reported the new equipment at St Johns and High Barns is now complete. New signs will be installed in the play areas where necessary. A complaint had been received regarding a play area which has been passed to the Council's insurers.

7. Cemetery to approve fee increase and receive an update.

Members agreed that the Cemetery fees fall behind those of comparable neighbouring cemeteries and therefore to bring these more in to line, they agreed an increase from 1st April 2026 of 10%. The Deputy Clerk reported that she had met with Cllr Phillips and the Civic and Corporate Services Officer at the cemetery last week. They had been joined by Angela from English Eden who presented a planting plan for the Woodland Burial Area. The plan suggested plants that will flourish under the canopy of the trees and provide a serene environment for visitors to the area. She also reported that the water feature in the Sensory Garden is complete. A sun dial feature will be installed to the opposite side of where the water feature is. This will add a sculptural focal point. Its shadow play changes throughout the day, giving visitors something dynamic to observe. Cllr Phillips requested that members look at some of the Yew trees in the cemetery as they are very unattractive and consideration should be given to them being removed and replaced with alternative trees.

8. Christmas Lights - to receive an update

The Deputy Clerk reported the lights this year went up well and once again were a spectacular display. Again, all possible with the help of volunteers. The Mayor will be requested to present certificates to the USAF volunteers at Lakenheath. The Deputy Clerk will supply the dates when she has received them from the lead volunteer.

9. Local Needs Housing – to discuss a matter relating to the lease

Members considered the breach of the lease regarding the construction of a wall and lean-to extension. It was agreed that a letter should be sent to the tenant as per the recommendations of the council's solicitor which will allow the tenant 30 days to remove the wall. With regards to a lean-to extension that had been constructed, this as per the terms of the lease requires permission from the council as the landlord. Therefore, they will be requested to apply for retrospective permission in writing, detailing the size and use of the structure. Permission will then be considered but will not be guaranteed, this is in addition to any planning permission.

10. To receive an update regarding the purchase of the Maltings Complex and Oliver Cromwell House.

The Clerk and The Mayor met with ECDC's Chief Executive last week and they will now be moving forward with offering Oliver Cromwell House to the Diocesan Board of Finance as they must do this first and await their response before the sale can proceed. The Council's Solicitors have been instructed.

11. The Maltings Complex -to receive an update.

The Deputy Clerk reported the new stage lights will be ordered soon. The fire doors have been surveyed. Once the report from this, has been received a quotation will be obtained to re hang them, so they fit better. The Deputy Clerk reported quotes were being obtained to repair and rehang the main front doors and also retrofit an electric door opener.

Members agreed the future use of the cottage will be discussed once the purchases have been completed.

12. Date of next meeting:

Tuesday 12th May 2026 @ 7pm

The meeting closed at 7.55 pm.