



**CITY OF ELY COUNCIL
ASSETS COMMITTEE**

MINUTES OF A MEETING

HELD ON TUESDAY 12TH MAY 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 R Denness

Cllr M Banyard

Cllr C Phillips

Cllr R Moss-Eccardt

Cllr Bebu-Vijianu

Cllr M Hucker

The Mayor, Cllr R Denness Chaired the meeting up to item 4 on the agenda.

1. Apologies for absence.

Apologies were received from **Cllr R Morgan, Cllr Ward & Cllr P Coutts.**

2. To receive declarations of interests.

There were no declarations of interest.

3. To elect committee Chair.

The Mayor requested nominations for the position of committee Chair. Cllr Phillips proposed Cllr Banyard, this nomination was seconded by Cllr Moss-Eccardt and unanimously agreed by members. Cllr Banyard then Chaired the meeting.

4. To elect committee Vice-Chair.

Cllr Banyard proposed Cllr Bebu-Vijianu for committee Vice- Chair, this nomination was seconded by Cllr Phillips and unanimously agreed by members.

5. To elect a lead member for the cemetery.

Cllr Banyard proposed Cllr Phillips as the lead member for the cemetery, this nomination was seconded by Cllr Bebu-Vijianu and unanimously agreed by members.

6. To approve committee Terms of Reference.

Cllr Moss-Eccardt proposed the Terms of Reference be approved subject to a change in the wording in item 8, from Magistrates Court to Sessions House. This proposal was seconded by Cllr Phillips and unanimously agreed by members.

Cllr Hucker circulated a summary of the items he considered Assets should be responsible for relating to the strategic plan.

7. To approve the minutes of the last meeting held on the 2nd February 2026 and matters arising.

The minutes of the last meeting held on the 2nd February 2026 were agreed by members and signed by the Chairman. Pages A89 & A90 refer.

There were no matters arising.

8. To note budget updates for Cemetery, Recreation, Christmas Lights, Local Needs Housing and the Maltings complex dated 5th May 2026.

Members noted the budget updates dated 5th May 2026. There were no significant variances.

Members requested thanks be conveyed to the Maltings staff for their hard work.

9. Recreation Areas - To receive an update.

St Johns

The Deputy Clerk reported that the hedge that borders the field and play area has become overgrown and the mesh fencing within it, has broken away. There have been complaints of children climbing through into neighbouring properties. Therefore, a quote will be obtained to cut the growth back and then install a 2.4 metre anti climb fence in the autumn.

The skate park is in need of repair for which the Estates Manager is obtaining a quotation.

High Barns

The wet pour under the older pieces of equipment needs cutting back and re-edging due to shrinkage. There is also an area that needs joining. A quote for this work has been requested which will be circulated to members. Members agreed that only the one quote for this work will be required as the work is specialised.

10. Cemetery to receive an update.

Cllr Phillips updated members on the new woodland burial area and that it now has two occupants. A planting programme is in place for the area. The Sensory Garden is becoming established and has a water feature and a sun dial will be installed shortly. The area is a great asset to the cemetery and also the wider community as a tranquil place to visit.

The Deputy Clerk reported the Garden of Remembrance is nearly full and therefore cremated remains will now be interred in spaces in the old cremation section of the cemetery which has also been extended and the woodland burial area is also available for ashes to be interred.

Chapel Report

Members noted the chapel report and agreed with Deputy Clerk's proposal to budget for the high-level inspection for 27/28 and then budget accordingly from 28/29 onwards at which point Heritage Lottery funding could be applied for.

11. Christmas Lights - to receive an update.

The Deputy Clerk reported the certificate presentation to USAF volunteers will not take place in person this year. The certificates have been issued to the lead volunteer to pass on.

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

Members agreed the remaining wall should be removed by the homeowner as it was not part of the original development. It was agreed that well maintained hedges under 60cm high can remain. A letter will be sent to all residents advising the council will not take enforcement action against residents installing a front hedge up to 60 cm high, provided it is well maintained, despite the restrictive covenant. This written assurance is generally accepted by solicitors on sale of the property, though some may require a formal Deed of Variation, which can be arranged with the Council's solicitors if needed.

Members also considered the lean-to side extension that had been erected and agreed this can remain subject to any planning permission required.

13. Sessions House.

To consider as a wedding ceremony venue by registrars

Members unanimously agreed to the registrars hiring Sessions House. The Deputy Clerk will provide hire charges to them for consideration, which will include a duty manager for the hire period.

Remove stair lift in court room

Members unanimously agreed as the stair lift in the court room is irreparable, it should be removed and the installation of a ramp looked at.

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

ECDC have reported the church does not wish to take ownership of Oliver Cromwell House – therefore the conveyancing is now with solicitors.

15. The Maltings Complex.

To approve quote to carry out remedial works to existing fire door assemblies, to align with current fire safety guidance and best practice standards as per recent fire door survey.

To approve quote to repair front door.

The Deputy Clerk reported a quotation has been received to carry out remedial works to fire doors to align with current fire safety guidance and best practice standard of £10,740 plus VAT.

A further quote of £900 plus VAT has been received to refit the front doors making them easier to open.

It has taken considerable time to obtain these quotes and therefore are the only quotes that have been obtained due to the specialism of the work. Members agreed unanimously to place an order for these works to be carried out.

16. Date of next meeting:

Monday 4th August 2026 at 7pm.

The meeting closed at 7.50pm.