



**CITY OF ELY COUNCIL
ASSETS COMMITTEE**

MINUTES OF A MEETING

HELD ON MONDAY 11TH AUGUST 2025 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 M Wade**

**Cllr R Morgan
Cllr R Ward**

**Cllr C Phillips
Cllr R Moss-Eccardt**

1. Apologies for absence.

Apologies were received from **Cllr Fox.**

2. To receive declarations of interests.

There were no declarations of interest.

3. To approve the minutes of the last meeting held on the 19th May 2025 and matters arising.

The minutes of the last meeting held on the 19th May 2025 were agreed by members and signed by the Chairman. Pages A80, A81 & A82 refer.

Matter arising: - Item 4 – The Terms of reference had been updated to include ‘To support the Council’s target of Net Zero by 2030 the Committee will consider the climate implications of current and future management of all buildings to ensure energy efficiency is maximised’.

Cllr Phillips advised that the Governance Working party had met.

Item 6 – High Barns new play equipment will be installed in September

4. To note budget updates for Cemetery, Recreation, Christmas Lights, Local Needs Housing and the Maltings complex dated 1st August 2025.

Members noted the budget updates dated 13th May 2025. There were no significant variances.

5. Recreation Areas.

(i) To consider quotations for fencing and swing for St John’s play area

Members reviewed the 3 quotations received for the proposed fencing extension at St John’s play area. It was unanimously agreed to place an order with NPS Fencing at a cost of £3,500 plus VAT. Members also considered the 3 quotations for the installation of a new swing at the play area. It was unanimously agreed to proceed with an order from Kompan at a total cost of £13,143.60 plus VAT.

(ii) To discuss request for bike hoops for St Johns Recreation area

Members considered a request from the Scout Group for the installation of bike hoop stands at the St John’s Road Recreation Area. It was agreed to purchase five stands at an approximate cost of £50 each. These will be installed near the skate park.

(iii) To receive information regarding security of open spaces belonging to the council.

The Deputy Clerk advised members other than the Maltings Green, there are no other open spaces that are easily accessible. Stuntney has a gate and hedge. High Barns is fully fenced. St John’s now has bollards surrounding it. All play areas are fenced.

(iv) To consider request for Pétanque pitch.

Members discussed a request for the installation of a Pétanque pitch. However, the Council does not own any suitable land for such a facility. It was felt that the most viable locations would be Pocket Park or Paradise Field.

Cllr Wade agreed to contact the Paradise Management Committee to explore the possibility of accommodating the pitch there. The Deputy Clerk had previously approached East Cambridgeshire District Council regarding the proposal but had not yet received a response. Members suggested that the parishioner seek local support and consider lobbying ECDC directly to provide the facility.

(iv) Zurich equipment inspections, no major faults reported.

The Deputy Clerk reported that no major faults had been reported following the recent Zurich Inspections. Any minor faults will be repaired as soon as possible.

6. Cemetery

(i) To receive an update.

The woodland burial area is nearing completion. The sensory garden is progressing well.

The electric van is due to be delivered in September. It is not possible to put an EV point in the storage shed due to the cable going to the shed being of low amperage. One could go discreetly on the Chapel. However, the van comes with a 'granny' charger which is slow but may be sufficient if put on overnight. This can be tried first but until the van is in use, it is not known how long the charge lasts for the required usage.

The Deputy Clerk will check to see if the building survey quote for the chapel is still valid and if it is, she will place an order for the work as this has been budgeted for within this financial year.

7. Christmas Lights.

(i) To receive an update

The Deputy Clerk reported she has ordered the tree and hoists. New lights are arriving in September.

8. Local Needs Housing.

(i) To receive any updates.

The Deputy Clerk advised one property has recently sold.

9. To receive update from Cllrs Wade and Moss-Eccardt regarding necessary legal advice for the purchase of The Maltings Complex and Oliver Cromwell House.

The Mayor and Councillor Morgan suggested proceeding with the decision to accept the offer to purchase the buildings and initiate the legal process now. They noted that any covenants and encumbrances could be addressed at the appropriate stage, as these matters are already reflected in the existing tenancies held by the Council for the properties. All of which hold full repairing leases.

Cllr Wade advised that she had chased Bidwell's regarding a quotation for legal advice. This would potentially include representation for the Council in negotiating the terms and conditions of any covenants and encumbrances. Cllr Moss-Eccardt advised that a meeting would be required with the solicitor to discuss the matter. Members agreed to form a working group to take this matter forward. This will consist of the Mayor, Cllrs Wade and Moss-Eccardt. Three quotes in total will be required which the working group will obtain for consideration by members.

10. The Maltings Complex -to receive updates on:-

(i) Maltings – To receive update.

The order for the flooring has been placed and the website is nearing completion.

(ii) Maltings Cottage – To receive an update.

East Cambridgeshire District Council has advised that they are trying to ascertain what is required with regards to the bracing work that had been identified to them in the insurance report.

(vi) Maltings restaurant – to receive any updates.

No updates to report.

11. Date of next meeting:

13th October 2025 at 7pm.

The meeting closed at 7.50 pm.