



CITY OF ELY COUNCIL
ASSETS COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF A VIRTUAL MEETING
HELD ON TUESDAY 12TH JANUARY 2021 AT 7.00 PM

PRESENT: Mrs S Jay – Deputy Clerk to the Council

The Mayor, Cllr S Austen	Cllr R Morgan	Cllr E Carlsson Browne	Cllr A Arnold
Cllr M Rouse	Cllr C Phillips	Cllr I Lindsay	Cllr E Every

Bold font indicates voting member of committee

1. Apologies for absence

There were no apologies received.

2. To receive declarations of interests

There were no declarations of interests received.

3. To approve the minutes of the last meeting held on the 16th November 2020 and matters arising

The minutes of the last meeting held on 16th November 2020 were agreed by members and taken as signed by the Chairman, as a true record after it had been recorded that Cllr Rouse had left the meeting at 7.28pm due to a technical reason. Pages A07, A08, A09 & A10 refer.

Matters arising: page A08 -Item 6. Cllr Morgan thanked the Deputy Clerk, Estates Team and Volunteers for all their hard work in providing a lovely display of Christmas lights. The Mayor will send a letter of thanks to the team leader of the lights to thank him and the volunteers.

4. Recreation Areas

(i) To note the budget update, dated 4th January 2021

Members noted the budget update dated the 4th January 2021, there were no significant variances.

The Deputy Clerk advised a new gate is required at the Paradise Play area at a cost of approximately £500.00. This will be paid for from the current recreation budget.

Cllr Phillips reported he had been made aware that there had been a post on social media that suggested the Skate Park was unsafe. He reported the equipment is inspected 3 times a week and the frame was strengthened when it was refurbished. It is a popular piece of equipment that is very much enjoyed by children.

Cllr Phillips reported that he had met with the Deputy Clerk and the Estates Manager at the Paradise Play area as some of the equipment and surfacing needs to be upgraded. This will cost approximately £60k. He requested that this be funded from CIL. However, members agreed to defer a decision at the moment, as the area had been identified as potential location for a Splash Pad by a local group. Further discussions need to take place regarding this with Palace Green Homes and ECDC. The play area itself, is well used all year round and is not big enough to accommodate a Splash Pad as well as the play equipment. Cllr Phillips advised the area is very dank and shaded and therefore may not be the best location for a Splash Pad. Cllrs Every and Rouse will speak to Palace Green Homes and ECDC as part of the Outdoor Sport and Leisure Working Group and liaise with the Deputy Clerk and Cllr Phillips.

Action EE/MR/CP/SJ

5. Cemetery

(i) To receive an update and discuss proposals and funding for a Sensory Garden

Members noted the plan that had been distributed with the agenda for a Sensory Garden. Cllr Phillips reported that he, the Deputy Clerk and Estates Manager had met with a garden designer who had presented proposals for this and advised on the correct plants that should be incorporated within the design. The project is very specialised and will interact with all the senses. The cost will be approximately £30k. Members unanimously agreed to approach the CIL Working Group for funding, for this. Cllr Rouse requested that local groups be invited to be involved in the project. The Deputy Clerk advised that this was a possibility once the project has progressed. Cllr Every advised that Sensory Gardens are technical and it was right to employ the services of a garden designer.

Action: SJ/RD/CP/SA

(ii) To note the budget update, dated 4th January 2021

Members noted the budget update dated the 4th January 2021, there were no significant variances.

(iii) To receive update from Friends of Ely Cemetery

Cllr Arnold reported the Friends were looking forward to being involved with the Sensory Garden and hope to meet when restrictions due to Covid -19, are lifted.

(iv) To note Zurich inspection report for the hoist – no fault reported

Members noted the Zurich inspection report for the hoist dated 8th December 2021 and that no faults were reported.

Cllr Phillips reported that some items had been taken from a child's grave at the cemetery which had been very distressing for staff and the family involved. However, it is hoped that this is an isolated incident and does not happen again.

6. Christmas Lights –

(i) To form sub-committee to include Deputy Clerk, Tourism & Town Centre Manager, 2 Councillors and 6 volunteers and approve terms of reference.

Members unanimously agreed the terms of reference for a Christmas Lights Sub-Committee. Members appointed Cllr Arnold as the Assets Committee representative on the Christmas Lights Sub-Committee. Another Councillor will be appointed from the Tourism and Town Centre Committee.

Action: SJ/AB/AA

(ii) To note the budget update, dated 4th January 2021

Members noted the budget update dated the 4th January 2021, there were no significant variances.

7. The Maltings Complex -to receive updates on:

(i) Maltings

(i.i) Update on procurement of seating.

The Deputy Clerk reported she had attended a conference call with LGSS who will be undertaking the procurement of the seating. It is hoped that they will be able to tap into an existing framework which will save costs and speed the process up.

(i.ii) To discuss in principle the formation of ‘Friends of the Maltings’

Members agreed that given the current situation with Covid-19, this matter should be deferred until September 2021.

(ii) Maltings Cottage

(ii.i) To receive an update on the cottage

The Deputy Clerk reported that a response from ECDC, to the questions raised with them, is awaited after the 25th January 2021 when their Assets committee meets to discuss the matter.

(iii) To note budget update dated 4th January 2021 for the Maltings, restaurant & cottage

Members noted the budget update dated 4th January 2021, there were no significant variances.

(iv) Maltings Restaurant

Due to the confidential nature of this agenda item, this matter will be discussed in committee at the end of the meeting

As there was no business to discuss regarding the restaurant it was not necessary for this item to be taken in committee at the end of the meeting.

(v) To discuss proposal for Lighting for Ribe Tapestry Display

Members noted the proposal submitted from the Ribe Committee for improved lighting and barriers for the tapestry. Members agreed to look for a possible alternative venue to house the tapestry before a decision can be made, as there are concerns for the space required for the barriers etc.

Action RM/MR

(vi) To note Zurich inspection report for Stair lift – no major faults reported.

Member noted the Zurich inspection report dated the 9th December 2020 and that no major faults were reported.

8. Local Need Housing Scheme issues & budget update dated 4th January 2021

Members noted the budget update dated 4th November, there were no significant variances. There were no issues to report.

9. Sessions House

(i) To note budget update dated 4th January 2021

Members noted the budget update dated the 4th January 2021, there were no significant variances.

(ii) To discuss request for new notice board and funding

Members agreed that the Estates Manager should look at refurbishing the notice board

(iii) Update from ‘Friends of Sessions House’

Cllr Every advised that there had been some interest from the public to the Facebook page that Cllr Rouse had created. There had been a meeting held with 2 Councillors a member of the public and the Tourism and Town Centre Manager, who was present on a consultancy basis and would not be providing administration. However due to the current situation with Covid -19 things need to be taken slowly. It is hoped that the 200th year anniversary of the building could be linked into the Heritage Open Day weekend in September.

10. Any Other Business

There was no any other business.

11. Date of next meeting; 23rd February 2021 at 7pm

The meeting closed at 8.15pm

Due to enforced social distancing caused by the Coronavirus, this meeting took place by video communication, accessed by the Zoom meetings facility.