



**CITY OF ELY COUNCIL
ASSETS COMMITTEE**

MINUTES OF A MEETING

HELD ON MONDAY 13TH OCTOBER 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 R Morgan

Cllr C Phillips

Cllr Fox

Cllr R Moss-Eccardt

Cllr R Denness

Cllr M Hucker

1. Apologies for absence.

Apologies were received from **Cllrs Ward and Wade.**

2. To receive declarations of interests.

There were no declarations of interest.

3. To approve the minutes of the last meeting held on the 11th August 2025 and matters arising.

The minutes of the last meeting held on the 11th August 2025 were agreed by members and signed by the Chairman. Pages A83, A84 & A85 refer.

There were no matters arising.

4. To note budget updates for Cemetery, Recreation, Christmas Lights, Local Needs Housing and the Maltings complex dated 6th October 2025 and to set budget for 2026/27.

Members noted the budget updates dated 6th October 2025. There were no significant variances.

Cllr Morgan proposed the budgets for Cemetery, Recreation, Christmas Lights, Local Needs Housing and the Maltings complex for 2026/27, be set as per the budgets circulated with the agenda, incorporating an additional £3,000 and £2,000 to budget lines 4650 and 4800 respectively. These allocations are intended to support the development of a planting plan and the procurement of associated plants, as suggested by Cllr Fox. Implementation of this proposal is conditional upon the Nature Plan being discussed by the Assets Committee and subject to confirmation that the recommendations within the plan are appropriate for the identified areas. Cllr Phillips seconded this proposal and was unanimously agreed by members. Cllr Hucker had concerns regarding the amounts set for the Gas and Electricity, these will be reviewed with the Clerk.

5. Recreation Areas.

(i) To receive an update

The Deputy Clerk reported that the Wicksteed Horse has been installed at St Johns Road play area. The extension to this play area's fencing will take place in October, with the new 'Coco wave' swing being installed in November.

High Barns play area equipment is currently being installed and will be completed shortly.

(ii) Request for Pétanque Court update

The Deputy Clerk advised ECDC were investigating the possibility of providing this facility at the country park, therefore it was agreed to wait and see the outcome of this.

6. Cemetery

(i) To receive an update.

The woodland burial area is nearing completion. The sensory garden is progressing well and the water feature installed. There will be a piece going in the Elyi to promote these.

7. Christmas Lights.

(i) To receive an update

The Deputy Clerk reported the anchor point testing has been completed, with all points passing. The lights will be put up over the following weekends:

October 25th & 26th Saturday and Sunday

November 1st & 2nd Saturday and Sunday

November 15th & 16th Saturday and Sunday

November 22nd 23rd & 24th Saturday and Sunday & Monday

Tree being installed 17th November

The lights will be taken down: January 3rd & 4th Saturday and Sunday & Monday January 5th

She also advised the following:

There is a new contact for the USAF volunteers, who will be here for the 4 years, which is good news as this brings continuity to the team.

Should Councillors be able to help with the lights, they can be put in touch with the lead volunteer.

If councillors are about in town when the lights are being put up, they are requested to please say 'hello' to the team, as without their dedication the lights in Ely would not be possible.

There will be a piece going in the Elyi thanking all those involved and to put the word out for volunteers for next year.

8. Local Needs Housing.

(i) To receive any updates.

There was no update to report. Cllr Hucker asked if the council's share of the properties is insured. The Deputy Clerk advised that insurance is the responsibility of the homeowners, and every effort is made to acquire a copy of this each year. Cllr Hucker commented that there should be an insurance in place to protect the Council's share in the event of claim where a property is not insured.

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.

Cllr Moss-Eccardt reported a meeting was recently held with Bidwells. The Clerk has requested details of old covenants and once received she will meet with ECDC. The purchases can then proceed with the assistance of the council's usual solicitors.

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

(i) Maltings – To receive update.

The Deputy Clerk reported the fire escape from the Kempen room has been surveyed for structural safety. The condition of the steelwork is poor. There is advanced corrosion in the chequer plate landings, some of which are now distorted and loose. There is also some corrosion in the supporting joists. The joists can be cleaned, prepared and re-coated but the chequer plate will need to be replaced. A quote of £4300 plus VAT has been obtained from Gordon Harrison to complete this work. Due to the specialised nature of the work, it was not possible to obtain three comparative quotes and therefore members unanimously agree to place an order with Gordon Harrsion.

Flooring – the bar area and staff area, plus area in front of the disabled toilet and front entrance mat will hopefully be replaced in November. Unfortunately, there are no clear dates to have the kitchen floor replaced due to the events. Therefore, this has been booked in for August 2026.

The fire door from the storeroom has been replaced and the double fire doors from the lobby to the rear of the building will be repaired and made to fit better.

(ii) Maltings Cottage – To receive an update.

Further to the Clerks email updating members on the 16.09.25, a response is still awaited from ECDC

(iii) Maltings restaurant – to receive any updates.

No updates to report.

11. Date of next meeting:

2nd February 2026 @ 7pm

The meeting closed at 7.37 pm.