



**CITY OF ELY COUNCIL
ASSETS COMMITTEE**

MINUTES OF A MEETING

HELD ON TUESDAY 15TH OCTOBER 2024 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.

Cllr R Morgan

The Mayor, Cllr C Phillips

Cllr R Moss-Eccardt

Cllr L Fox

Cllr S Sandhu

Cllr R Ward *arrived 7.05pm*

Cllr M Banyard

Cllr W Novick

Cllr R Denness *arrived 7.31pm*

Mr G Hughes – Ely Ribe Association

Cllr Morgan advised members that Item 11 would be taken after item 3 to allow the participation of Mr G Hughes from Ely Ribe Association.

1. Apologies for absence.

Apologies had been received from **Cllr M 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 5th August 2024 and matters arising.

The minutes of the last meeting held on the 5th August 2024 were agreed by members and signed by the Chairman. Pages A72 & A73 refer.

Matters Arising – Item 5 – The Deputy Clerk reported she had received a request to renew the Scout Hall lease for longer than 21 years. Members unanimously approved to renew the lease for as long as the Council's Solicitor considered prudent.

4. To note budget updates for Cemetery, Recreation, Christmas Lights, Local Needs Housing and the Maltings complex dated 8th October 2024 and to set the budget for 2025/26.

Members noted the budget updates dated 8th October 2024. There were no significant variances.

Cllr Morgan proposed the budgets for Cemetery, Recreation, Christmas Lights, Local Needs Housing and the Maltings complex for 2025/26 be set as per the budgets circulated with the agenda. This proposal was seconded by Cllr Moss-Eccardt and unanimously approved by members.

5. Recreation Areas.

(i) To receive PiPA audit reports and summary plan.

Members noted the PiPA audit reports and summary plan. Members unanimously agreed for the Deputy Clerk to work towards obtaining quotations for each play area for the 0-6 month phase.

Cllr Banyard thanked the Deputy Clerk for her working in summarising the reports which had been very helpful.

(ii) To approve renewal of underlease with ECDC for The Park play area, Ely.

Members unanimously approved the renewal of the underlease for the Park Play area to 2030

6. Cemetery

(i) To receive an update.

Cllr Phillips advised members that he will be meeting with the Visit Ely Guides at the Cemetery.

There was no other update to report.

7. Christmas Lights

(i) To receive an update

Members noted and approved the Deputy Clerk's update that had been circulated with the minutes. The anchor point fixings for the lights had been tested and all passed. The lights will commence being put up on the 26th October. The Deputy Clerk suggested that members go along when the volunteers are out and about to show their support. The Mayor said he would like to arrange a time to meet the volunteers with the Mayoress. The Deputy Clerk will arrange this.

8. Local Needs Housing.

To discuss request to install solar panels.

The Deputy Clerk reported a resident had requested permission to install solar panels, members had no objection to this request.

9. Sessions House.

(i) To discuss any issues arising.

There were no issues arising.

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

(i) Maltings* – To receive update.

Members noted and approved the Deputy Clerk's Maltings update that had been circulated with the agenda.

This included:-

The hall floor will be sanded and polished in January. During this time the venue will be closed for a week and it is hoped the Kempen Room will be decorated during this time by the Estates team.

The green room will be decorated, and a replacement sofa obtained, new carpet tiles laid.

The area in front of the disabled toilet, will have new carpet tiles laid.

The toilets will be decorated, with push taps added and new worktop.

The kitchen and bar floor needs replacing. Quotes are being obtained for this.

After a very long process and after obtaining planning permission the new windows have been installed which are a vast improvement. A hanging poster display has been purchased so as not to cover them all with posters.

New artificial plants will be purchased for the Foyer and the old purple ones disposed of.

Additional chairs will be purchased to replace old broken ones.

Quotes still in process of being obtained for the doors. Although it does seem possible to put a sensor type door opener for disabled access – a quote is awaited for this. This will be funded from the £50k allocated from CIL.

A quote has been received for lighting (2 further to be obtained) which would cover the electrical installation work required to convert from the current generic lighting to LED based systems and a selection of fixtures to replace the main part of the current stock. This would give a full colour wash of light covering the whole stage, 6 refocus able "specials" that can be used to pick out performers and areas, and lights to colour the back wall of the stage. This will be a maximum of £20,570 and funded from £50k CIL which is already allocated. Later a second phase could be undertaken, that would improve the options to people hiring the venue. These include several moving lights, some fixed back lighting and a hazer. Some of these items could be recharged to hirers as an optional extra from the basic setup. The cost of this would be a further £20k.

(ii) To receive an update on the Maltings being registered as a Community Asset.

Cllr Moss-Eccardt reported that although no response had been received from ECDC regarding their thoughts on the Maltings being registered as a Community Asset, he would proceed to make the application for the whole complex. Members agreed unanimously to this.

(iv) Maltings Cottage – To receive an update.

No further update at present to report.

(vi) Maltings restaurant – to receive any updates.

No updates to report.

Agenda item 11 was taken after agenda item 3 to allow participation from Mr G Hughes. At 7.10pm Cllr Morgan proposed to adjourn the meeting this was seconded by Cllr Moss-Eccardt and unanimously agreed by members.

11. Ribe 70th Anniversary link artwork discussion

Cllr Banyard gave a brief background of the twinning link that Ely has with Ribe. 2026 will mark the 70th anniversary of the link. To commemorate this the Ely-Ribe Association would like to commission a piece of public art which will be owned by the City of Ely Council. The Association, after exploring a different number of options, have concluded that some form of inscribed stone would be an ideal piece of art. They have made contact with a local artist who specialises in this type of work. The project will take 12-15 months to complete.

Mr Hughes explained that this project will not be as big as that of the tapestry, which was commissioned 17 years ago by the Association at a cost of £10k. He advised that council members could be included in the design of the stone. The final cost depends on a number of factors including size and complexity. He would like to see something simple but striking that could include a pictorial image as well as words. The Association would like to request £5k from the Council for this project. However, Mr Hughes explained that this amount includes a contingency, as at present they do not have a clear definition of the project. The proposal is as follows:-

1. That the Assets Committee recommends to the Full Council that it should work with the Ely-Ribe Association to deliver this project in time for the 70th anniversary of the twinning in September 2026.
2. That the committee also recommends a budget allocation of £5,000, to progress the project during the 2025-26 financial year.

Cllr Morgan thanked Mr Hughes for attending the meeting and the committee would now reconvene to discuss the proposal.

The meeting reconvened at 7.23pm

Members discussed the proposal in detail, and it was felt that the project does not have consideration to the impact on the environment and to use a recycled piece of stone would be a better option. Members also felt that Beech trees could be planted within the City and these mirrored in Ribe with Oak trees. Cllr Novick would also like the youth of Ely involved in the project. They felt £5k was a lot of money in the current financial climate.

Members concluded that they felt the decision was for Full Council to make and therefore this matter will be discussed at the next Full council meeting on the 21st October 2024.

12. To discuss ideas to be put forward for inclusion in the Strategic plan.

Members agreed to put forward the following ideas

Obtain additional burial land.

Obtain energy efficient surveys for council buildings.

Play area in Queen Adelaide.

Investment in cemetery buildings after full survey has been carried out in 2025/26.

Make play areas more inclusive.

13. Date of next meeting:

Monday 20th January 2025 at 7pm

The meeting closed at 8.25pm