



**CITY OF ELY COUNCIL
ASSETS COMMITTEE**

MINUTES OF A MEETING

HELD ON TUESDAY 18TH OCTOBER 2022 AT 7.00 PM AT SESSION HOUSE, LYNN ROAD, ELY.

PRESENT: Mrs S Jay– Deputy Clerk to the Council ***Bold font indicates voting member of committee***

Cllr C Phillips Cllr V Ganivet Cllr C Whelan The Mayor - Cllr R Morgan

Cllr M Wade (substitute Cllr for Cllr I Lindsay)

Not present: Cllr D Edge

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from **Cllr I Lindsay** and **Cllr R Pitt**

2. To receive declarations of interests

There were no declarations of interest.

3. To approve the minutes of the last meeting held on the 6th September 2022 and matters arising.

The minutes of the last meeting held on the 6th September 2022 were agreed by members and signed by the Chairman. Pages A46 & A47 refer.

Matter arising:- Cllr Whelan advised the article on the refurbishment of the Paradise play area had been put on Facebook.

4. Update on council buildings becoming Carbon Neutral

Cllr Ganivet reported that the cost of a survey on the buildings was not eligible for CIL funding and therefore she was looking for other avenues of funding. She also reported she is going to ask a plumber to look at the Council's boilers, to see in their opinion, how much longer they will last. This may help in applying for potential funding to replace them with a non-fossil fuel system. Cllr Wade had obtained a ballpark figure of £50k to replace the system at Oliver Cromwell's House. The Mayor reported that the Cathedral are looking at decarbonisation and will keep the Council in the loop on how they progress. Cllr Ganivet said that if they were able to share any sources of funding that they come across, this would be very much appreciated.

5. Recreation Areas

(i) To note budget update, dated 11th October 2022 and to set budget for 2023/24

Members noted the budget update dated the 11th October 2022, there were no significant variances.

Members agreed to set the budget for 2023/24 as per the budget circulated with the agenda dated 11th October 2022.

(ii) To discuss request for additional lighting at St Johns Road Skate Park

The Deputy Clerk informed members that a request had been received to install lighting at the Skate Park on St John's Road, to lengthen the use of the facility in the winter months. Members had concerns with this request due to potential noise late at night and that it may encourage anti-social behaviour. The Deputy Clerk advised that at the very least the Council would need to consult local residents as to what their thoughts on lighting the facility would be. As street lighting is a responsibility of the Climate and Environment committee, it was decided to refer the matter to them, in order to ascertain if the provision of lighting would be appropriate and how it could be funded.

(iii) To discuss a replacement piece of equipment for St John's Play area

The Deputy Clerk reported the climbing tower/slide unit at St John's Play area needs replacement and that she is in the process of obtaining quotations. The amount required to replace this will be in the region of £10k. Members agreed to approach the CIL Sub-Committee for funding.

(v) To approve cost of replacement gate for Paradise Play area

The Deputy Clerk advised that the self-closing gate at the Paradise Play area is in need of replacement at a cost of £884.00. Members unanimously agreed to this purchase and to approach the CIL Sub-Committee for funding.

(iv) To discuss request from Estates Manager to remove goals at St Johns and replace with 5 a side goal posts to prevent the grass from being damaged

The Deputy Clerk reported the Estates Manager would like to install smaller goals, closer together which would then only be suitable for younger children to use, preventing as much damage to the grass. Members rejected this idea as this would exclude older children and adults from using the pitch.

(vi) To discuss purchase of picnic benches for Paradise and High Barns Play areas

The Deputy Clerk reported that both the Paradise and High Barns Play areas lack sufficient seating. There had previously been wooden benches in the past at these areas but these had been removed over time due to deterioration. She suggested that recycled plastic picnic benches with extended tops, be purchased at a cost of £522.00 each. Members agreed to approach the CIL Sub-Committee for funding.

6. Cemetery

(i) To note budget update, dated 11th October 2022 and to set budget for 2023/24

Members noted the budget update dated the 11th October 2022, there were no significant variances. Members agreed to set the budget for 2023/24 as per the budget circulated with the agenda dated 11th October 2022. The Deputy Clerk reported the budget includes the provision of a full time Estates Technician which will replace the part time winter / full time summer Estates Technician position

(ii) To receive an update on Chapel

Cllr Phillips would like to see the Estates Manager implement the minor changes previously requested to the Chapel. The Deputy Clerk will contact him and request this. Members agreed ideally in the long term the Chapel requires complete refurbishment.

7. Christmas Lights –

(i) To note budget update, dated 11th October 2022 and to set budget for 2023/24

Members noted the budget update dated the 11th October 2022, there were no significant variances. Members agreed to set the budget for 2023/24 as per the budget circulated with the agenda dated 11th October 2022.

(ii) To note minutes of meeting held on the 11th October 2022

Members noted the minutes of the meeting held on the 11th October. The Deputy Clerk reported she hoped Councillors would go along and support the volunteers, who commence putting the lights up this coming weekend for 5 weeks, excluding Remembrance weekend. She said it is necessary to recruit new volunteers that are willing to be IPAF trained. People with engineering or electrical experience would be ideal. Posters advertising for volunteers have been put in the Council's notice boards. Cllr C Whelan offered to put the poster on Facebook.

8. Local Needs Housing

(i) To note budget update, dated 11th October 2022 and to set budget for 2023/24

Members noted the budget update dated the 11th October 2022, there were no significant variances. Members agreed to set the budget for 2023/24 as per the budget circulated with the agenda dated 11th October 2022.

9. Sessions House

Nothing to report.

10. The Maltings Complex -to receive updates on:

(i) Maltings – To discuss the widows that face the river

The Deputy Clerk reported she had now obtained 3 quotes for replacement windows the cheapest for Sash Windows being £21925.00. An application for funding for this amount has been made to ECDC's Growth and Infrastructure fund, for which a decision is awaited. An application for Listed Building consent will be submitted in due course.

(ii) To note budget updates for Maltings, restaurant & cottage dated 11th October 2022 and to set budget for 2023/24

Members noted the budget update dated the 11th October 2022, no significant variances that had not been previously approved.

Members agreed to set the budget for 2023/24 as per the budget circulated with the agenda dated 11th October 2022. The Deputy Clerk advised that an additional full time Event Planner had been budgeted for. This will prevent the build-up of hours that existing staff currently accrue. Members expressed concerns with the budget deficit and that it is not sustainable.

(iii) Maltings Cottage

Nothing to report.

11. Date of next meeting:

Monday 12th December 2022 at 7pm.

The meeting closed at 7.52 pm