



**CITY OF ELY COUNCIL
ASSETS COMMITTEE**

MINUTES OF A MEETING

HELD ON MONDAY 19TH MAY 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 L Fox

Cllr R Ward

Cllr R Denness

Cllr M Wade

Cllr R Moss-Eccardt.

1. Apologies for absence.

There were no apologies.

2. To receive declarations of interests.

There were no declarations of interest.

3. To approve the minutes of the last meeting held on the 20th January 2025 and matters arising.

The minutes of the last meeting held on the 20th January 2025 were agreed by members and signed by the Chairman. Pages A77, A78 & A79 refer.

Item 11 – The Mayor reported that the position of the Ribe anniversary stone had been agreed and will be on the wall adjacent to reception. The artist is currently preparing a draft design.

4. To note and approve the terms of reference.

Members appointed a Vice Chair under this item: - Cllr Fox was proposed by Cllr Moss-Eccardt and seconded by The Mayor, Cllr Banyard, and was unanimously approved by members.

Cllr Fox requested that an addition to the Terms of Reference be added, regarding the committee's responsibility to ensure the buildings are energy efficient. Cllr Fox will send the wording for this item to be added to the Deputy Clerk.

Cllr Phillips advised he would be requesting a meeting of the Governance Working Group to discuss a revision to the Council's Standing Orders as to how the Chairs of committees are elected.

5. To note budget updates for Cemetery, Recreation, Christmas Lights, Local Needs Housing and the Maltings complex dated 13th May 2025.

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

6. Recreation Areas.

(i) To consider quotations for new equipment for High Barns play area

Members noted the quotations that had been circulated with the agenda. The Deputy Clerk will check the access for inclusivity to the playhouse included within the quote and circulate the response to members. If acceptable, members unanimously agreed to place an order with Wicksteed for £ 24184.23.

(ii) To consider new piece of equipment for St John's play area.

Members discussed the quote for the Wicksteed Horse and agreed to place an order for this to replace the Burma Bridge piece of equipment located at St Johns play area at a cost of £9213.65. As this is a unique piece of equipment and only available from Wicksteed's Heritage range, no further quotes will be obtained. Cllr Fox requested that a Tarzan type swing also be installed. To accommodate this the Deputy Clerk advised the fence could be extended to include the corner to the rear right hand side of the play area. Members agreed to this suggestion. The Deputy Clerk will obtain quotes to extend the fence and for the equipment. These will be circulated to members via email for approval. These projects will be funded from the CIL allocation for Recreation Areas.

7. Cemetery

(i) To receive an update.

Cllr Philips updated members on the progress of the Sensory Garden and also the Woodland burial area. A water feature and associated paving was suggested to members for the Sensory Garden, who thought this was a lovely idea. The Deputy Clerk and Estates Manager will move this idea forward. For the Woodland burial area, an archway, signage, bench, and associated planting will be provided to enhance the area. There will be the option for families to purchase wooden grave markers with each plot. To preserve uniformity, only grave markers supplied through the council will be permitted for this area. No artificial flowers or wreaths of any type will be permitted and shall be removed if found. Once complete the area will be publicised.

8. Christmas Lights

(i) To receive an update

The Deputy Clerk reported that she will be meeting with the lead volunteer to discuss the lights for this year and to place an order with Festive Lights for Business as these will be compatible with existing lights.

9. Local Needs Housing

(i) To approve rent increase as per the RPI applicable at the end of January 2025 (3.6%). Equating to £1.92 per month, total rent will be £55.22 per month.

Cllr Morgan proposed the Local Needs Housing rent be increased by 3.6% from 1st July, this proposal was seconded by Cllr Phillips and unanimously agreed by members.

(ii) To consider resident's request

Members considered the request for the replacement of gates to allow for a car to be parked in the rear garden of a property and to also gravel the grassed area to the side of the house. Members refused both these requests as it was felt inappropriate for a car to be parked in the rear garden and gravel would spoil the landscaping of the estate.

10. To consider advice received from the Councillor's Solicitor regarding purchase of The Maltings Complex and Oliver Cromwell House

Members noted the response from the Solicitor circulated with the agenda and the attachments, emailed for further information by the Deputy Clerk. After a lengthy discussion members agreed it was necessary to engage the services of a property agent to discuss what the Council would like to achieve with the District Council in purchasing the Maltings Complex and Oliver Cromwell House. Cllrs Moss-Eccardt and Wade will provide detailed wording on how to move forward with this.

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

(i) Maltings – To receive update.

Members noted the update circulated with the agenda. Three quotations had been received for a new website, members agreed to proceed with the cheapest at £1250 with Profit-Gen. Three quotations had been received for replacement flooring in the Kitchen, Bar, outside disabled toilet, and entrance. Members unanimously agreed to proceed with the quotation from Glasswells, at a cost of £10245.00 plus the cost of disconnecting and reconnecting the kitchen appliances by Caterfix.

(ii) To discuss replacement of boilers and to approach CIL committee for funding

The Deputy Clerk advised the Maltings gas boilers need replacement soon as they are leaking. Members agreed to proceed with a tender process for the replacement of the boilers and associated replacement radiators and to request £80k from the CIL sub-committee to fund this project. The Deputy Clerk raised the matter of how the replacement of gas boilers, fits in with the Council's Climate and Environment Action plan. Cllr Fox advised that as these need replacing very soon there would be no time to explore alternatives. Members unanimously agreed.

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

Cllr Moss-Eccardt advised members that as discussions are now taking place with regards to the purchase of the buildings, now is not the right time to move forward with registering the Maltings complex as a community asset. Members were all in favour of this suggestion.

(iv) Maltings Cottage – To receive an update.

The Maltings cottage was discussed under item 10.

(vi) Maltings restaurant – to receive any updates.

No updates to report.

12. Date of next meeting:

11th August 2025 at 7pm

The meeting closed at 8.25 pm.