



CITY OF ELY COUNCIL ASSETS COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF A MEETING

HELD ON MONDAY 20TH JANUARY 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.

Cllr R Morgan **Cllr L Fox** **Cllr R Ward** Cllr M Banyard

1. Apologies for absence.

Apologies had been received from **The Mayor, Cllr C Phillips, Cllr S Sandhu, Cllr M Wade and Cllr R Moss-Eccardt.**

2. To receive declarations of interests.

There were no declarations of interest.

3. To approve the minutes of the last meeting held on the 15th October 2024 and matters arising.

The minutes of the last meeting held on the 15th October 2024 were agreed by members and signed by the Chairman. Pages A74, A75 & A76 refer.

There were no matters arising.

4. To note budget updates for Cemetery, Recreation, Christmas Lights, Local Needs Housing and the Maltings complex dated 14th January 2025.

Members noted the budget updates dated 14th January 2025. There were no significant variances.

5. Recreation Areas.

(i) To receive an update

Following on from the PiPA audit, the Deputy Clerk advised she is currently arranging to meet with play industry representatives to move forward the improvement of accessibility within the council's play areas, starting with High Barns. Once quotes have been received for this area these will be brought to committee.

(ii) Members agreed to increase the cemetery fees for 2025/26 by

6. Cemetery

(i) To receive an update.

Spaces within the cremation sections will last for around another 7 years. To extend this time and offer an alternative to the existing traditional cremation plots, a woodland cremation burial area will be created with a pathway through the trees starting from near the Garden of Remembrance. Ashes would be interred alongside the path, marked with a grave marker (not headstone). The location of the ashes could be recorded by inserting a microchip and read on appropriate software. The Deputy Clerk is currently investigating the options available for this. The pathway would be marked by a lectern at each end. Members unanimously agreed to approach the CIL committee for funding of £8K for this project.

(ii) To approve increase to Cemetery fees for 2025/26

Members unanimously agreed to increase the cemetery fees for 2025/26 by 3% in line with the precept increase

7. Christmas Lights

(i) To receive an update

Members all agreed that the Christmas lights and tree looked fantastic. There had been a problem with the tree which resulted in it being replaced with no additional cost to the council. The committee expressed their gratitude to the Christmas Lights volunteers and council staff for all the hard work they put in each year in providing the lights.

8. Local Needs Housing.

No issues to report.

9. Sessions House.

(i) To receive an update

The additional air conditioning units have been installed in Session House.

Cllr Morgan raised the issue of the portico pillars peeling. Members agreed to budget for repainting of the Sessions House for 2026/27.

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

(i) Maltings* – To receive update.

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

Cllr Banyard reported that a bus had hit a Maltings neighbour's property. The Clerk is arranging for the Venue Manager to arrange a meeting with the bus companies to address the matter and set out procedures that will be followed in future.

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

As Cllr Moss-Eccardt was not present there was no update received.

(iv) Maltings Cottage – To receive an update.

Members noted the update that had been circulated with the agenda and that a copy of the Zurich report should be received from ECDC in due course.

(vi) Maltings restaurant – to receive any updates.

No updates to report.

11. Ribe 70th Anniversary link artwork discussion.

Cllr Banyard updated members on the ongoing discussion with the Ribe Association regarding the 70th anniversary artwork stone.

Members unanimously agreed that the Ribe Association should accept the £3900 offered as a grant to enable them to move forward with commissioning the stone. If they decline the offer and the Council proceeds with the order, then 3 quotes must be obtained by the association, to comply with Council's financial regulations. Cllr Fox agreed to assist with the final design of the stone with Cllr Banyard.

Members agreed to the positioning of the stone within the floor, in front of the tapestry. This is subject to permission from ECDC as the Landlord. The Deputy Clerk will make an enquiry regarding this. The stone will need to be professionally laid as this will not be a responsibility of the Council's Estates team to carry out.

The request to name the Foyer the Ribe Room was considered. Members agreed that the Foyer can be named the Ribe Foyer not Ribe Room as it is a Foyer and not a room. The naming is in Commemoration of the 70th Anniversary and no ownership of the Foyer will be given to the Ribe Association. This is subject to approval by Full Council.

The Deputy Clerk will arrange a meeting with representatives from the Ribe Association, Cllr Banyard, Cllr Morgan and the Maltings Venue Manager to move the matter forward. Members agreed that 7 trees should be planted to commemorate the 70th anniversary in addition to the stone. Cllrs Ward and Fox will look at locations for these and the costs involved.

The Deputy Clerk will clarify the budget set for the Twinning artwork as this was lowered to £3900 from the original amount that was discussed of £5000. If any monies are left, then the trees could come from this or alternatively be budgeted for in 2026/27.

12. Date of next meeting:

To be advised.

The meeting closed at 8.05 pm