



CITY OF ELY COUNCIL
ASSETS COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF A MEETING
HELD ON MONDAY 21ST MARCH 2022 AT 7.00 PM AT THE MALTINGS, SHIP LANE, ELY

PRESENT: Mrs S Jay– Deputy Clerk to the Council

Cllr R Morgan **Cllr M Rouse** **Cllr Denness**
Cllr C Phillips **Cllr V Ganivet** Cllr I Lindsay

Bold font indicates voting member of committee

Before the meeting commenced Members held a minute's silence in memory of Cllr Arnie Arnold who suddenly passed away on the 5th March 2022.

Cllr Phillips then gave a tribute to Cllr Arnold. He said the Assets Committee was Arnie's greatest interest and members recognised the work he had undertaken at the Maltings. Cllr Phillips said he knew him best of all from the cemetery. He had eagerly stepped up to be the Friends of Ely Cemetery Chairman. He had been very excited to find the 'forgotten' headstones and was very interested in the stories behind the names. He had introduced hedgehog and insect hotels to the cemetery and led the open days with considerable knowledge. He hopes the 'Friends' will continue and build on the great foundations that Arnie had laid. Cllr Philips considered him to be not only a colleague but also a friend and felt that he was a better person for knowing him.

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from the Mayor - Cllr Austen.

2. To receive declarations of interests

There were no declarations of interests received.

3. To approve the minutes of the last meeting held on the 31st January 2022 and matters arising.

The minutes of the last meeting held on the 31st January 2022 were agreed by members and signed by the Chairman. Pages A32, A33 & A34 refer.

Matters Arising: Page A33, Item 5 (iii) The Deputy Clerk confirmed she had emailed ECDC to enquire if the Hopkins Homes play area is finished and how the decision on what equipment is put into new play areas is arrived at. She had received a response from an officer advising they were looking in to the matter. Page A34, Item 10 (iii) Cllr Morgan advised he and Cllr Rouse are waiting for the date of a meeting with ECDC to be confirmed.

4. Recreation & Cemetery –

(i) To receive report from Lead Member

Cllr Phillips reported the regular meetings with the Deputy Clerk and the Estates Manager continue with good ideas and thoughts being discussed. Cost for the refurbishment of the Chapel will be obtained in due course, but the major cost will be for the tiled floor. He also reported that he had found the grave of Horace Eyres Price which is buried in the Cathedral section of the cemetery. He was the first (1905) Anglican Bishop of Fukien in southeast China. When he returned to England, he became Assistant Bishop of Ely. He died in Ely in 1941.

5. Recreation Areas

(i) To note budget update, dated 10th March 2022

Members noted the budget update dated the 10th March 2022, there were no significant variances.

(ii) To receive an update regarding the Park Play Area

The Deputy Clerk reported the installation for the new equipment should be on the 30th March 2022.

Cllr Rouse proposed that in view of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted, regarding agenda item 5 (iii), that this be considered in private and that the power of exclusion of the public under Section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 be exercised. This was seconded by Cllr Morgan and members agreed to go into Committee at the end of the meeting.

(iii) To note Paradise Tender Summary and approve recommendation.

(iv) To discuss New Barns recreation area

Cllr Phillips reported that he, the Estates Manager, and Deputy Clerk had looked at the New Barns recreation area to see if it could accommodate a Splash Pad. It was felt that as it is very overlooked by houses and passers-by it would not be suitable, located close to the road. Further back it would put it in close proximity to the allotments and cemetery. Members unanimously agreed that this is not an appropriate site for a splash pad and is therefore not necessary to take the matter any further with the Church Commissioners to seek approval.

(v) To discuss quote for Stuntney Play area

The Deputy Clerk reported 2 quotes have been received for Stuntney Play area hard standing. Members agreed to accept the cheaper of these from Grays Surfacing at a cost of £7020. Stuntney Village Council have £2904.00 to put towards this work. Members agreed the balance would be paid from the Recreation renewal/additional/repairs budget.

6. Cemetery

(i) To note budget update, dated 10th March 2022

Members noted the budget update dated the 10th March 2022, there were no significant variances.

(ii) Friends of Ely Cemetery

Cllr Phillips advised that the Friends of Ely Cemetery had been dependant on the enthusiasm of Arnie and Alison Arnold, he thought that he would wait a while and then contact the members regarding a meeting.

7. Christmas Lights –

(i) To note the budget update, dated 10th March 2022

Members noted the budget update dated the 10th March 2022, there were no significant variances.

8. Sessions House

Cllr Rouse advised the Allotments have trophies that they would like to display in Sessions House. He said the Town Criers gown could also be displayed, helping to tell the story of Ely.

Members agreed to allow for the Court room to be hired out free of charge to The Kokopelli Wind Quartet for a concert in aid of the Ukrainian refugee crisis.

If the concert is in the evening or at a weekend members agreed a councillor will be required to volunteer to be a key holder. Any other applications for buildings to be hired out free of charge will be assessed on a case-by-case basis.

Members agreed to hold the next Assets Committee meeting in Sessions House, as attendance was generally small and therefore enabled social distancing. This will be reviewed if attendance increases. However, due to numbers it was felt it was not suitable to hold Full Council or any larger meetings there.

9. Local Needs Housing

(i) To discuss any issues

Cllr Lindsay reported that an acoustic enclosure is to be installed to mitigate the noise from the heat pumps at the Larkfield Centre.

(ii) To note budget updates dated 10th March 2022

Members noted the budget update dated the 10th March 2022. There were no significant variances.

(iii) To approve rent increase as per the RPI applicable in January (7.8%) to be implemented on 1st July, as per the terms of the lease.

Members unanimously approved the annual rent increase as per the RPI applicable in January (7.8%) to be implemented on 1st July, as per the terms of the lease.

10. The Maltings Complex -to receive updates on:

(i) Maltings – progress with improvements and to consider quotes for sound system, new urinals and water softener.

The Deputy Clerk informed members she had received the following quotes: Urinals £2050.00, Water Softener £5842.00, Sound System £24846.90 these added to the lighting currently being upgraded in the hall at a cost of £24281.68 totals £57020.58. Members agreed to request CIL funding of 20% (£11404.12) which will bring the total to £45616.46 leaving a balance of £1383.54 from the £47000 allocated from general reserves. Members agreed to use this balance to replace some of the blown panels in the windows. As the quote for the sound system is bespoke and had been very difficult to obtain, members agreed it was not necessary to obtain a further quotation. A demo of this equipment will be carried out at the Annual Parish Meeting on the 29th March, should this be successful an order will be placed. The order for the urinals and water softener will be placed once CIL funding has been confirmed. It had also been very difficult to obtain quotes for these and therefore to be able to progress with the work members agreed no further quotations need to be obtained.

Cllr Rouse said it had been cold in the hall when he had attended an event recently. The Deputy Clerk will request the Estates Manager look at the heating controls and advise the Maltings staff how to operate these.

(ii) To note budget updates dated 10th March 2022 for Maltings, restaurant & cottage

Members noted the budget update dated the 10th March 2022, there were no significant variances.

(iii) Maltings Cottage

A date is still to be arranged to discuss the cottage with ECDC.

(iv) Maltings Restaurant

Cllr Morgan reported the Clerk will be meeting shortly with the tenant to discuss the garden.

11. Any other business

There was no any other business.

12. Date of next meeting:

Tuesday 3rd May @ 7 pm

The meeting closed at 8.12 pm

