



CITY OF ELY COUNCIL
ASSETS COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF A VIRTUAL MEETING
HELD ON TUESDAY 27TH APRIL 2021 AT 7.00 PM

PRESENT: Mrs S Jay – Deputy Clerk to the Council
The Mayor, Cllr S Austen
Cllr I Lindsay

Cllr R Morgan

Cllr A Arnold

Cllr M Rouse

Bold font indicates voting member of committee

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from **Cllr Phillips** and Cllr Every.

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 22nd March 2021 and matters arising.

The minutes of the last meeting held on 22nd March 2021 were agreed by members and taken as signed by the Chairman. Pages A17 & A18 refer.

There were no matters arising.

4. Recreation & Cemetery –

(i) To receive report from Lead Member

Cllrs noted Cllr Phillips' report that had been circulated with the agenda.

Cllr Rouse suggested that the new Sensory Garden could commemorate the Royal Jubilee in 2022. Members agreed to discuss this at a later date.

The Deputy Clerk reported there is a problem with items being left on graves that are not permitted as per the rules of the cemetery, which can cause a health and safety risk to staff when maintenance is being carried out. Members agreed that notices will be put on each of these graves requesting that any items should be removed by 30th June 2021, or only left in the headstone section of the grave and not spill over into the surrounding area. Any items left after this date will be removed.

(ii) To approve quote for leased vehicle

Members approved the quote for a replacement leased van. This will replace the 2 vans that are due for renewal, in October. Although, it would have been preferable to replace the current vans with an electric version, at the present time these were not available, with the equivalent towing capacity.

5. Recreation Areas

(i) To note the budget update, dated 19th April 2021

Members noted the budget update dated the 19th April 2021, there were no significant variances.

6. Cemetery

(i) To note the budget update, dated 19th April 2021

Members noted the budget update dated the 19th April 2021, there were no significant variances.

(ii) Update from Friends of Ely Cemetery

Cllr Arnold reported the group has had 3 new volunteers come forward. Plans are progressing for the open day on the 29th May 2021 which will include a children's trail. A hot water urn had been donated by Thorlabs for the event. More forgotten headstones have been unearthed and will be laid with the others that have been found in due course.

7. Christmas Lights –

(i) To note the budget update, dated 19th April 2021

Members noted the budget update dated the 19th April 2021, there were no significant variances.

8. Local Need Housing Scheme issues and to note budget update dated 19th April 2021

There were no issues to report. Members noted the budget update dated 19th April 2021, there were no significant variances.

9. Sessions House

(i) To note budget update dated 19th April 2021

Members noted the budget update dated the 19th April 2021, there were no significant variances.

10. The Maltings Complex -to receive updates on:

(i) Maltings

To make the foyer areas brighter and more inviting, it was agreed to paint the ceiling and all woodwork a lighter colour such as light grey or white. This will be carried out as soon as possible.

(i.i) Update on procurement of seating.

The Deputy Clerk reported that a specification for the tender for the seating was reaching completion. Once finalised this will enable quotations to be obtained.

Members noted the agreements and recommendations from the Seating Working Group. These being:

1. The WP would go to the FC with a paper to request from CIL as follows:

Option A: The full amount of the costs for the chairs of £80K.

Option B: The WP would request the cost for the community event chairs, approximately £40K (as determined by the research).

If Option B is agreed, fund raising would raise the balance.

2. The WP would work with the costed development plan (including the refurbishment/replacement of all the other facilities) and start a campaign to do this, underpinned by current resources and fundraising.

3. Funding would be a feature of this Working Party and a strategic plan would be put together to do it.

(ii) To note budget updates dated 19th April 2021 for the Maltings, restaurant & cottage

Members noted the budget updates dated 19th April 2021, there were no significant variances.

(iii) Tapestry

Cllr Morgan updated members of a meeting that had taken place earlier in the day between himself, the Deputy Clerk, The Maltings Venue Manager and Cllr Lindsay and a representative from the Ely Ribe Twinning committee. It was agreed to explore the option and costs of installing better lighting directed at the tapestry and if needed, anti-reflective glass. Also, educational visits and talks will be introduced, in conjunction with Visit Ely. The room will be renamed the Ribe Room or similar.

(iv) To approve ADeC memorandum of agreement

Members approved the memorandum of agreement dated 1st April 2021 that had been circulated with the agenda.

(v) Maltings Cottage – to receive an update

Cllr Morgan advised members a meeting has been arranged for the 11th May between himself, the Deputy Clerk and the architect, to discuss the possible options the Council has agreed for the cottage. The Conservation Officer will also be invited to attend.

(vi) Maltings Restaurant

The tenant had requested to extend his seating area in line with railings, on the grass, under the Willow Trees. Members approved this request subject to approval from the Landlord – ECDC.

11. Any Other Business

Cllr Morgan thanked the Deputy Clerk for her work in transferring the email system over from Gmail to Office 365. He requested that these thanks be included in the minutes of this meeting.

12. Date of next meeting; Monday 21st June 2021 @ 7pm

The meeting closed at 7.45pm

Due to enforced social distancing caused by the Coronavirus, this meeting took place by video communication, accessed by the Zoom meetings facility.