



**MINUTES OF MEETING OF THE CITY OF ELY COUNCIL HELD AT 7.00 PM ON MONDAY,
8TH JUNE 2026 AT THE MALTINGS, SHIP LANE, ELY**

PRESENT: Mrs T Coulson – Clerk to the Council

Cllr R Denness, Mayor/Chairman	Cllr C Phillips
Cllr M Wade	Cllr R Morgan
Cllr M Banyard	Cllr R Ward
Cllr Ní Dhónaill	Cllr R Trent

Cllr D Warman
Cllr M Hucker
Cllr P Coutts

1. APOLOGIES AND REASONS FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cllrs Whelan, Sandhu, Moss-Eccardt and Bebu-Vijianu. The reasons for their absences were accepted.

2. COUNCILLOR REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATIONS

There were no requests for dispensations.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

There were no declarations of interest.

4. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING HELD ON THE 27TH APRIL 2026 AND MATTERS ARISING AND MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL COUNCIL MEETING AND MAYOR MAKING HELD ON THE 11TH MAY 2026 AND MATTERS ARISING

Minutes of the last meeting held on the 27th April 2026 were proposed by Cllr Banyard that they be agreed and signed as a true record. This was seconded by Cllr Coutts and unanimously approved. They were signed by the Chairman. Pages 2219, 2220, 2221, 2222, 2223, 2224 and 2225 refer. Matters arising:- Page 2219, item 5 – Cllr Banyard confirmed he had written to both Bishop Dagmar and the Dean. The minutes of the Annual Council Meeting and Mayor Making, held on the 11th May 2026 were proposed by Cllr Morgan that they be agreed and signed as a true record, subject to the addition of Chettisham in the second paragraph and the correction of eight years to seven years, with regard to how long Cllr Denness had served on the council. This was seconded by Cllr Warman and unanimously approved. Pages 2226, 2227, 2228, 2229 and 2230 refer. There were no matters arising.

5. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman said that being Mayor was lovely. Ely and its residents look different from this perspective. She said it felt like being a curator, caring for things for a time. The role is time-consuming, with many events, meetings and discussions. She did wonder how it fits around councillors' other commitments. That said, other Mayors show it is possible; for example, the Mayor of St Ives is a full-time senior teacher.

She had invited colleagues to one-to-one meetings and was grateful to those she had already met, for their helpful input and perspective on the Council. She will be arranging two more meetings, and the invitation remained open to anyone who had not yet responded.

5. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS Continued

She wanted everyone to know that she had been diagnosed with Multiple Sclerosis. It was not expected to have a major impact, but it does affect her mobility and cognitive abilities at times. Her treatment is intensive and she had just finished one course and will have a second in a year. It has suppressed her immune system so it can rebuild more healthily. It is chemotherapy.

The Deputy Mayor is aware, and the Office staff have long known and been generous and supportive.

Jenny Wright, Canon at the Cathedral, had kindly agreed to be the Mayor's chaplain this year. She sees her as an independent source of support and a sounding board. She said she was not a practising Christian, but recognised the place of faith in all its forms in our community, in line with the Council's commitment to inclusivity.

Although she had only been Mayor for a month, she could already see how Ely is regarded by others. Our predecessors built strong links with towns and cities, US base staff and others. Some may doubt the ceremonial role of the Mayor, but she was now certain it is vital in connecting our communities and fostering understanding and friendship.

She said that as everyone was equal on the Council, though they do have different roles. Everyone brings unique experience and skills, and all share the values behind our policies and statements. We all represent residents, and when we speak in Council meetings, we give them a voice. Out of respect for residents and one another, please speak at Full Council and Committee meetings only when invited by the chair. It also makes minute-writing easier.

It is still early in the year, and we have all had the chance to choose our committees. We should focus our efforts within those committees, except where work is cross-cutting, such as the strategic plan.

A point raised in her one-to-one meetings is the need to give councillors dates early so they can put them in their diaries and improve turnout. Alongside existing meeting dates, she asked members to note the 14th February as the provisional date for Chinese New Year celebrations, featuring Lion Dancing, in support of the Mayor's charities: Ely Foodbank and Princess of Wales Hospital. More dates will follow, including an event where councillors can show appreciation for staff. Much of the Council's work is unseen by councillors; meetings are only the tip of the iceberg, supported by hard-working and dedicated staff teams.

She said this was the final year of the term, and elections will take place in May 2027. In 2023, only 9 candidates stood for 15 seats, so there was no election; the 9 were elected unopposed and the remaining 6 seats were filled by co-option. This time, she expected elections to be contested and political. Campaigning as an independent is difficult; candidates linked to a political party and its campaign machinery generally have a better chance of success. She felt everyone must decide what they wanted to do about that.

In the meantime, however, members must get on with business and make use of the remaining time with the Council, shaped by the councillors currently in place.

6. QUESTION TIME

As there were no members of the public present, there were no questions raised.

7. REPORTS FROM COUNTY COUNCILLORS AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

Written reports were received from County Cllrs C Whelan and A Whelan and from District Cllrs C Whelan, A Whelan, Trent, Wade, Holtzmann, Colbert and Akinwale were noted. Cllr Coutts had noticed the finance available for the

8. MAYOR'S ENGAGEMENTS & REPORT

The past Mayor had attended the following engagements before the Annual Council Meeting;- Ely Folk Festival AGM; King's School Spring Concert; Haddenham Primary School annexe opening;

The Mayor had attended the St Ives Mayor Making; the annual Ribe Association lunch; visit to Ely by the High Sheriff, Francis Burkitt, who she took to Oliver Cromwell's House and Ely Museum; King's School Prizegiving; meeting regarding the Ely North hub; Ely Cinema's first anniversary celebration; meeting of Needham Trinity Foundation; Graduation Ceremony for RAF Alconbury and RAF Molesworth; the Joan Mann Special Sports Day at RAF Mildenhall and the High Sheriff's Garden Party.

The Deputy Mayor had attended the opening of the Knife Angel.

The Ambassador, Cllr Banyard had attended the St Ives Mayor Making both along with the Mayor.

9. PLANNING

Cllr Morgan as the Planning Committee Chairman gave a report on the planning meetings which had been held since the last meeting and prior to this meeting

10. INFORMATION ONLY ITEMS

The following information only items were received and noted:-

Street Naming & Numbering – The Byre, Maple Farm, West Fen Road, Ely; Holly House, 35A Forehill, Ely

Letter from ECDC regarding confirmation that they had received a nomination for The Fountain Public House, to be listed as an 'asset of community value' (ACV)

11. COMMITTEE REPORTS

(i) PERSONNEL, FINANCE & GOVERNANCE – Cllr Ní Dhónaill presented a report of a meeting held on the 1st June 2026, which was noted and approved. Cllr Ní Dhónaill was reappointed as the Chairman, with Cllr Hucker appointed as the Vice-Chairman. The terms of reference were approved. It had been agreed to discuss at the next meeting any possible suggestions for expenditure and to consider longer term budgeting for the Local Government Reorganisation. There will be an informal meeting to discuss suggestions that could be put forward to the next meeting. A long standing debt of £644 was agreed to be written off. Members noted and approved the report from the Internal Auditor's visit on the 6th May 2026. It was agreed that the suggestion to increase the level of the fidelity cover was not necessary due to a higher level of spending this year. It was agreed to accept the recommendations from the Governance Working Group to defer the decision with regard to a Youth Lead and having a youth representative or Mayor's Cadet until after the elections in May 2027. The recommendation to change CIL from a sub-committee to a committee and that the membership would be the Mayor (as Chairman), immediate past Mayor and the Chairs of the other four committees was unanimously approved. The draft Strategic Plan consultation had now gone live on the Council's website and Facebook. The remaining aims from this Plan had been allocated and Cllr Hucker will be updating the allocation list. Ely Pride will be held on the 8th August with the Council having a stall. A community meeting had been held with residents and other representatives to discuss the progress with the shop and community centre at the Hopkins Homes site. It was unanimously agreed to re-appoint the independent internal auditor for the financial year 2026/27. It was unanimously agreed to remove councillor addresses from the contact sheet from the 20th June, when they will no longer be required to be shown on the register of interest. The annual review of the Council's Policies and Procedures was noted and approved and the two new policies for the Management of Risk

11. COMMITTEE REPORTS

(i) PERSONNEL, FINANCE & GOVERNANCE Continued

and the Freedom of Information also being approved and adopted. The recommendations from this review will be implemented. The Chairman will sign all the approved policies and procedures. Cllr Ní Dhónaill asked if anyone wished to be appointed as the Council's designated Councillor for Child and Vulnerable Adult Protection. This role was not filled. The annual review of the Risk Management Procedures was unanimously approved. This document format will be reviewed and amended for next year.

(ii) CLIMATE & ENVIRONMENT – Cllr Warman presented a report of a meeting held on the 18th May 2026, which was noted and approved. Cllr Whelan had been appointed as the Chairman with Cllr Warman as the Vice-Chairman. Cllr Coutts had been appointed as the Highways Lead. The terms of reference were approved. Members of the Action Plan Sub-Group will be appointed at the next meeting. The plans to widen the footpath on the eastern side of High Barns was noted. This will be funded by Cambs County Council. The installation of the solar lighting between Ely Leisure Centre and Alexander Chase was discussed. Two further companies had been identified and it was agreed to seek quotes for this work from them. Some members were concerned that the structure report for the pathway had not been independent and it was agreed to obtain an independent survey of the path. This will be rediscussed at the next Full Council meeting. Cllr Banyard informed members of a meeting with regard to the bus services with the Combined Authority at the end of June.

(iii) ASSETS – Cllr Banyard presented a report of a meeting held on the 12th May, which was noted and approved. Cllr Banyard had been appointed as the Chairman with Cllr Bebu-Vijianu as the Vice-Chairman. The terms of reference were approved. The updates regarding the recreation areas, the cemetery and Christmas lights were noted. High Barns play area - the wet pour under the older pieces of equipment needs cutting back and re-edging due to shrinkage. There is also an area that needs joining. A quote for this work had been requested which will be circulated to members. Members agreed that only the one quote for this work will be required as the work is specialised. It was agreed to inform all Local Needs Housing residents that well maintained hedges, under 60 cm high could remain, even though there is a restrictive covenant preventing them. It was agreed to move forward with the registrars hiring Sessions House as a wedding venue. The stair lift in the court room will be removed. Members agreed the quotation for remedial works to the fire doors at the Maltings to ensure they will align with current fire safety guidance and best practice. This was for a sum of £10,740 plus VAT. They also agreed a further quote of £900 plus VAT to refit the front doors. It had taken considerable time to obtain these quotes and they had been the only ones obtained due to the specialism of the works.

(iv) TOURISM – Cllr Phillips presented a report of a meeting held on the 2nd June 2026, which was noted and approved. Cllr Phillips was appointed as the Chairman but the appointment of the Vice-Chairman was deferred until the next meeting. The terms of reference were approved. The update from on tourism and events was noted. The Armed Forces Day will take place on the 20th June. The update on the building work was also noted. Cllr Wade suggested that the Tourism and Events Manager should present to the Council on the work that has been undertaken with the Local Visitor Economic Partnership and explain what this will bring to the Council and the City.

12. REPORTS FROM EXTERNAL MEETINGS

Cllr Banyard updated members on the Ribe twinning 70th anniversary and confirmed that there would be 23 visitors from Ribe, attending the three day celebrations in Ely.

Cllrs Phillips and Denness had attended a Needham Trinity Foundation meeting.

Cllr Morgan informed members of the upcoming annual summer quiz of Prickwillow Village Council.

13. ANNUAL RETURN FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31ST MARCH 2026 – ANNUAL GOVERNANCE AND ACCOUNTABILITY RETURN (AGAR) *

(i) To note the Annual Internal Audit Report 2025/26

Cllr Morgan proposed the Annual Internal Audit Report 2025/26 be noted and approved. This was seconded by Cllr Hucker and unanimously approved.

(ii) To approve the Annual Governance Statement 2025/26

Cllr Morgan proposed all the statements in the Annual Governance Statement 2025/26 be ticked as yes and that the Statement was approved. This was seconded by Cllr Hucker and unanimously approved. The Clerk ticked all the yes boxes and this was then signed and dated by the Chairman and the Clerk.

(iii) To approve Accounting Statement for 2025/26

Cllr Hucker proposed the Accounting Statement for 2025/26 and the balance sheet be approved. This was seconded by Cllr Morgan and unanimously approved. This was then signed and dated by the Responsible Financial Officer and the Chairman.

(iv) To confirm dates for the Period of Elector's Rights 2026

The dates for the Period of Elector's Rights 2026 were noted.

14. TO APPROVE AMENDED COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP LIST FOR 2026/27 FOLLOWING ELECTION OF COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Cllr Morgan proposed the amended committee membership list for 2026/27 following the election of committee chairs be approved. This was seconded by Cllr Warman and unanimously approved.

15. FINANCE

Cllr Morgan proposed these all be approved, which was seconded by Cllr Banyard and unanimously approved.

Direct debit payments and BACS payments

ECDC	2548.00	Paid by direct debit
ECDC	221.00	Paid by direct debit
ECDC	157.00	Paid by direct debit
ECDC	508.00	Paid by direct debit
ECDC	510.00	Paid by direct debit
ECDC	2548.00	Paid by direct debit
ECDC	221.00	Paid by direct debit
ECDC	157.00	Paid by direct debit
ECDC	508.00	Paid by direct debit
ECDC	510.00	Paid by direct debit
British Telecommunications	83.16	Paid by direct debit
British Telecommunications	83.16	Paid by direct debit
Cellair Ltd	82.80	Paid by direct debit
FuelGenie	287.94	Paid by direct debit
Kennett Equipment Leasing Ltd	205.86	Paid by direct debit
Kennett Equipment Leasing Ltd	205.86	Paid by direct debit
British Telecommunications	358.45	Paid by direct debit
Cybertill Ltd	79.25	Paid by direct debit
Francotyp Postalia Ltd	250.00	Paid by direct debit
TotalEnergies Gas & Power Ltd	270.84	Paid by direct debit
TotalEnergies Gas & Power Ltd	606.63	Paid by direct debit

15. FINANCE Continued

TotalEnergies Gas & Power Ltd	4717.80	Paid by direct debit
TotalEnergies Gas & Power Ltd	32.72	Paid by direct debit
TotalEnergies Gas & Power Ltd	128.56	Paid by direct debit
Francotyp Postalia Ltd	64.80	Paid by direct debit
Bidfood Ltd	872.87	Paid by direct debit
Barclaycard	1200.97	Paid by direct debit
SSE Energy Solutions Ltd	47.02	Paid by direct debit
Greene King Brewing & Retail Ltd	2321.70	Paid by direct debit
Cellair Ltd	82.80	Paid by direct debit
British Telecommunications	83.16	Paid by direct debit
British Telecommunications	83.16	Paid by direct debit
Bidfood Ltd	1674.10	Paid by direct debit
Barclays	77.65	Paid by direct debit
Lex Autolease Ltd	1121.31	Paid by direct debit
Greene King Brewing & Retail Ltd	797.95	Paid by direct debit
FuelGenie	327.79	Paid by direct debit
Securitas Security Services Ltd	718.38	Paid by BACS
Thurlow Nunn Standen Ltd	14760.00	Paid by BACS
Compass IT Support Ltd	49.50	Paid by BACS
Clara L Mora	40.00	Paid by BACS
Kevin Robinson Ltd	313.20	Paid by BACS
PJP Cambridge Ltd	360.00	Paid by BACS
House of Marbles	588.48	Paid by BACS
V Rudkin	332.75	Paid by BACS
Oliver Theobald	650.00	Paid by BACS
Studio Nova Ltd	36.00	Paid by BACS
Advanced Thinking Systems Ltd	504.00	Paid by BACS
E Long	132.60	Paid by BACS
Anglian Water Business	120.76	Paid by BACS
Gordon Harrison	3878.42	Paid by BACS
Pocock & Shaw	192.00	Paid by BACS
CamAlarms Ltd	749.60	Paid by BACS
Stark Building Materials UK Ltd	41.22	Paid by BACS
RGP Security Services Ltd	252.00	Paid by BACS
Mr C L Berry	99.00	Paid by BACS
Shefs	904.00	Paid by BACS
City Cycle Centre	42.19	Paid by BACS
Ely Skip Hire Ltd	414.00	Paid by BACS
Aztek Services Ltd	660.00	Paid by BACS
H J Heelis	397.50	Paid by BACS
SIS Global Seating Ltd	690.16	Paid by BACS
Martin and Mortimer Ltd	3120.00	Paid by BACS
Ellgia Ltd	344.30	Paid by BACS
Kara Lumley	250.00	Paid by BACS
Thurlow Nunn Standen Ltd	1803.58	Paid by BACS
J White	300.00	Paid by BACS
Greenworks Washrooms Ltd	1714.49	Paid by BACS
East Cambs District Council	8001.00	Paid by BACS
SSP Direct	117.48	Paid by BACS

15. FINANCE Continued

RBK (Ely) Ltd	720.00	Paid by BACS
We Are Blueshed Ltd	9819.61	Paid by BACS
1Ely Ltd	84.00	Paid by BACS
Rolling Center Ltd	72.12	Paid by BACS
Oliver Theobald	50.00	Paid by BACS
CAPALC	50.00	Paid by BACS
G & G Gallo Enterprises Ltd	766.13	Paid by BACS
Speedy Asset Services Ltd	319.85	Paid by BACS
RBK (Ely) Ltd	405.00	Paid by BACS
Aztek Services Ltd	187.20	Paid by BACS
Clara L Mora	112.00	Paid by BACS
Wicken Coronation Band	250.00	Paid by BACS
H Pettit	100.00	Paid by BACS
Trade UK Ltd	265.35	Paid by BACS
Chambers & Fenner Ltd	132.00	Paid by BACS
Huntingdonshire Music Society	250.00	Paid by BACS
RGP Security Services Ltd	214.20	Paid by BACS
Mr W S Bartle	400.00	Paid by BACS
Grocer's Brokers Ltd	165.00	Paid by BACS
Calico Cottage	498.24	Paid by BACS
Konica Minolta Bus Solutions Ltd	403.45	Paid by BACS
Amazon Payments UK Ltd	1216.43	Paid by BACS
Pen & Sword Books Ltd	505.97	Paid by BACS
RBK (Ely) Ltd	2594.00	Paid by BACS
CamAlarms Ltd	173.28	Paid by BACS
Thurlow Nunn Standen Ltd	25.85	Paid by BACS
EDF Energy Customers Ltd	189.60	Paid by BACS
Thompson Media Partners Ltd	225.00	Paid by BACS
Miss V E Hopkins	19.78	Paid by BACS
Cambridge Art	927.60	Paid by BACS
Elyi Magazine	175.00	Paid by BACS
Mr C L Berry	99.00	Paid by BACS
Studio Nova Ltd	36.00	Paid by BACS
Securitas Security Services Lt	152.98	Paid by BACS
British Telecommunications	362.84	Paid by direct debit
Cybertill Ltd	79.25	Paid by direct debit
ESPO	45.48	Paid by BACS
John Audus Ltd	492.00	Paid by BACS
Yandell Publishing Ltd	1625.76	Paid by BACS
Arco Ltd	180.63	Paid by BACS
Ellgia Ltd	971.61	Paid by BACS
Ely Museum	1124.00	Paid by BACS
We Are Blueshed Ltd	216.00	Paid by BACS
Minerva Publications	358.80	Paid by BACS
C L Mora	144.00	Paid by BACS
Darren Wailes	600.00	Paid by BACS
City Cycle Centre	32.23	Paid by BACS
Ely Tool Hire Ltd	504.62	Paid by BACS
Human Capital Department Ltd	189.00	Paid by BACS
ICCM	110.00	Paid by BACS

15. FINANCE Continued

Virgin Media Ltd	77.32	Paid by direct debit
Virgin Media Ltd	77.32	Paid by direct debit
Churches Fire Security Ltd	182.64	Paid by BACS
Simpson's Nurseries Ltd	94.47	Paid by BACS
RGP Security Services Ltd	138.60	Paid by BACS

The following invoices had been paid prior to the meeting

Miss L Howell	74.70	114808
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The following invoices had not been paid prior to the meeting

C Tyler	4.20	114809
S Thompson	16.61	114810
A Reddick	20.00	114811

Payments relating to staff since meeting on the 27th April 2026

Salaries and wages	£42,366.94
Inland Revenue (tax & NI)	£15,227.11
Pension fund payments	£11,821.45

Members noted and approved the bank reconciliation for the period ending 30th April 2026.

The meeting closed at 8.20 pm.