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**MINUTES OF MEETING OF THE CITY OF ELY COUNCIL HELD AT 7.00 PM ON MONDAY,  
27TH JULY 2026 AT THE MALTINGS, SHIP LANE, ELY**

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**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 R Moss-Eccardt                                           | Cllr Bebu-Vijianu |
| <i>County Cllr A Whelan</i>                                   |                   |
| <i>Mrs A Bennett, Tourism &amp; Events Manager, Visit Ely</i> |                   |

Cllr C Whelan  
Cllr M Hucker  
Cllr P Coutts  
Cllr S Sandhu

**1. APOLOGIES AND REASONS FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received from Cllr Warman. The reason for her absence was accepted.

**2. COUNCILLOR REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATIONS**

There were no requests for dispensations.

**3. DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS**

Cllr Whelan said that under item 14, she would declare that she was a County Councillor, but would have no reason to be involved in this project.

**4. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING HELD ON THE 8TH JUNE 2026 AND MATTERS ARISING**

Minutes of the last meeting held on the 8th June 2026 were proposed by Cllr Denness that they be agreed and signed as a true record, subject to a correction regarding the ambassador's attendance at an event under Mayor's Engagements and Report. This was seconded by Cllr Banyard and unanimously approved. They were signed by the Chairman. Pages 2231, 2232, 2233, 2234, 2235, 2236, 2237 and 2238 refer. There were no matters arising.

**5. UPDATE FROM MRS ANNA BENNETT, TOURISM AND EVENTS MANAGER, VISIT ELY ON THE LOCAL VISITOR ECONOMY PARTNERSHIP (LVEP)**

Mrs Bennett explained to the members what a Local Visitor Economy Partnership (LVEP) was, what implications it would have for the council and how it would benefit both the council and the city. She provided handouts with further information and a diagram showing how the LVEP was made up of all the organisations involved. The Chairman thanked her for her presentation and agreed this would be beneficial to both the Council and the city.

**6. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Chairman informed members the Local Government Reorganisation and Strategic Plan Working Group had recently met and it had been agreed that a letter should be sent by the Chairman to the leaders

## **6. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS Continued .....**

and Chief Executives of ECDC and Cambs County Council and also the Combined Authority. This letter would request that the Council be involved in any discussions with regard to the LGR.

It was also agreed that a survey regarding the LGR would be sent out to all staff and councillors to allow everyone to have an input into the discussion on how the council moves forward.

## **7. QUESTION TIME**

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

## **8. REPORTS FROM COUNTY COUNCILLORS AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS**

Written reports were received from County Cllrs C Whelan and A Whelan and from District Cllr C Whelan which were noted.

*County Cllr A Whelan and Mrs A Bennett left the meeting at 7.37 pm.*

## **9. MAYOR'S ENGAGEMENTS & REPORT**

The Mayor had attended the Unforgotten tea party; the Mothers' Union tea party; Arts Festival Concert; opened Highfields Fete; opened the Armed Forces Day Visit Ely event; Huntingdon and Godmanchester Town Twinning Dinner; the installation of the new Bishop of Ely and Reception; the Bishop's Garden Party; Pos+Ability Charity AGM; Viva Theatre Company Award ceremony; NSPCC Garden Party; Ely Choral Society Concert; opened Ely Aquafest; attended KD Theatre Company's performance of The Little Mermaid; Mayor's Charities Co-ordination Meeting; Ely College Presentations Evening; the Royal Anglian Regiment Reunion; Mock interviews at Bishop Laney; Ely Ribe Association Garden Party; Gateway Project Visit and the EPL Language School Graduation.

The Deputy Mayor had attended the Huntingdon Town Council Mayor Making and

The Ambassadors had attended the Army Cadet family event at Waterbeach, Cllr Banyard and the Installation of the Bishop, Cllr Phillips.

## **10. 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

## **11. INFORMATION ONLY ITEMS**

The following information only items were received and noted:-

Street Naming & Numbering – Chestnut Walk, Prickwillow – Cllr Morgan informed members that Prickwillow Village Council were appealing against this new street name.

Road Closures:- Lynn Road, Ely as lies between Orchid Fields and Cottongrass Lane (S278 entrance construction) – 1 -31.8.26; Lynn Road as lies outside Brick Kiln Farm (new water connection) – 26 – 28.8.26; Soham Road A142, Stuntney, Ely as lies between Ben's Yard and M&S Simply Food, Soham (carriageway resurfacing) – 1 – 15.8.26; Ely Footpath 23 (footbridge maintenance) 7.9 -2.10.26; Back Lane (stop tap replacement), Ely – 23 – 25.9.26

## **12. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

(i) PERSONNEL, FINANCE & GOVERNANCE – No report as Committee had not met. The next meeting will be on the 24th August. Cllr Phillips reminded members about the Ely Pride event on the 8th August. He thanked the Inclusivity Working Group for their input and hard work and for those members who had agreed to be on the council's stall on the day.

(ii) CLIMATE & ENVIRONMENT – No report as Committee had not met. The next meeting will be on the 10th August. The Clerk had tabled an email regarding a request from the Royal British Legion for an additional inscription to be added to the war memorial. Members had no objections to this and a quotation

## **12. COMMITTEE REPORTS continued .....**

would be obtained for this work. The Clerk will ask the RBL what their policy is for adding additional names.

(iii) ASSETS – No report as Committee had not met. The next meeting will be held on the 3rd August. Cllr Banyard informed members the skate park at St John's Road had been temporarily closed due to some maintenance issues. This will be discussed further at the next meeting.

(iv) TOURISM – No report as Committee had not met. The next meeting will be held on the 17th August.

(v) CIL – The Chairman presented a report of a meeting held on the 15th June 2026, which was noted and approved. The terms of reference and the application procedure were agreed. An application for planning costs for a splash pad was considered. It was agreed that further clarification on several points would be requested before the application could be considered. This information has now been received and the application will be considered at the next CIL Committee meeting.

## **13. REPORTS FROM EXTERNAL MEETINGS**

Executive Review Meeting – notes of a meeting held on the 14th July 2026 were noted.

Ely/Ribe Association – minutes of a meeting held on 18th June 2026 were noted.

## **14. REQUEST FROM CAMBS COUNTY COUNCIL REGARDING USE OF CCTV COLUMNS TO ALLOW FOR IMPROVEMENTS TO MOBILE COVERAGE**

Cllr Banyard proposed the Council agree to move forward with this project to improve mobile coverage within the city centre. This was seconded by Cllr Morgan and unanimously approved. This will of course be subject to the additions to the CCTV columns not affecting the CCTV system.

## **15. TO APPROVE THE MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE COUNCIL AND ELY COMMUNITY CINEMA**

Cllr Hucker had proposed amendments to the agreement. Cllr Moss-Eccardt proposed that this be agreed in principle subject to the amended version being circulated to all members for approval. If all in agreement this would then be sent to the Ely Community Cinema for their comments. It was hoped the new agreement would commence on the 1st September. This was seconded by Cllr Morgan and unanimously approved.

## **16. UPDATE ON CIL PROJECT FOR THE SOLAR LIGHTS – ALEXANDER CHASE TO WEST FEN ROAD**

Cllrs Whelan and Trent updated members on this project. Three quotes had been requested, with two being received. It was felt that the lights should now go down the middle of the pathway at the same spacing as proposed when going along the edge of the pathway. It was felt this was a better option following the survey which had been undertaken. Cllr Trent proposed the quote received from Solar Eye at a cost of £20,119.11 plus VAT, which was the cheaper quote, be accepted. This was seconded by Cllr Ní Dhónaill and unanimously approved.

## **PUBLIC BODIES (ADMISSION TO MEETINGS) ACT 1960 EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND THE PUBLIC**

Cllr Denness proposed to resolve that in accordance with Section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 and by reason of the confidential nature of the remainder of the business, the Press and the Public be excluded from the Meeting. This proposal was seconded by Cllr Banyard and unanimously agreed by councillors. There were no members of the press or public present.

*Due to the commercially sensitive nature of this item it was discussed in Committee at the end of the meeting.*

**17. TO CONSIDER TENDERS FOR WORK TO OLIVER CROMWELL'S HOUSE AND TO APPOINT CONTRACTOR**

Cllr Phillips and the Clerk went through the tender analysis report provided by Martin and Mortimer Ltd. Cllr Phillips proposed we accept their recommendation to appoint Brown & Ralph at a cost of £114,808.43 plus VAT. This was seconded by Cllr Morgan and unanimously approved.

**18. TO CONSIDER FURTHER REQUEST FROM CIL FUNDS FOR ADDITIONAL FUNDING FOR WORK TO OLIVER CROMWELL'S HOUSE**

Cllr Banyard proposed that the CIL allocation of £60,000 for the repair works to Oliver Cromwell's House be increased to £115,000, due to the cost of the accepted quote for the work. This was seconded by Cllr Moss-Eccardt and unanimously approved.

*Due to the commercially sensitive nature of this item it was discussed in Committee at the end of the meeting.*

**19. TO CONSIDER REQUEST FROM TENANT REGARDING LEASE**

Cllr Ní Dhónaill proposed the Council approve their request in principle subject to a new lease being issued. This was seconded by Cllr Morgan and approved, with two abstentions.

*Item 20 was taken before items 17, 18 and 19.*

**20. FINANCE**

Cllr Sandhu proposed these all be approved, which was seconded by Cllr Morgan 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 |
| Francotyp Postalia Ltd        | 64.80   | Paid by direct debit |
| TotalEnergies Gas & Power Ltd | 285.71  | Paid by direct debit |
| TotalEnergies Gas & Power Ltd | 498.15  | Paid by direct debit |
| TotalEnergies Gas & Power Ltd | 5689.03 | Paid by direct debit |
| TotalEnergies Gas & Power Ltd | 32.90   | Paid by direct debit |
| TotalEnergies Gas & Power Ltd | 124.49  | Paid by direct debit |
| British Telecommunications    | 163.02  | Paid by direct debit |
| British Telecommunications    | 77.04   | Paid by direct debit |
| British Telecommunications    | 362.84  | Paid by direct debit |
| ESPO                          | 615.04  | Paid by direct debit |
| ESPO                          | 243.79  | Paid by direct debit |
| ESPO                          | 168.28  | Paid by direct debit |
| ESPO                          | 250.95  | Paid by direct debit |

**20. FINANCE Continued .....**

|                                  |         |                      |
|----------------------------------|---------|----------------------|
| SSE Energy Solutions Ltd         | 40.62   | Paid by direct debit |
| Greene King Brewing & Retail Ltd | 1688.18 | Paid by direct debit |
| Barclaycard                      | 1156.96 | Paid by direct debit |
| FuelGenie                        | 362.00  | Paid by direct debit |
| Cybertill Ltd                    | 79.25   | Paid by direct debit |
| ESPO                             | 288.13  | Paid by direct debit |
| ESPO                             | 99.84   | Paid by direct debit |
| ESPO                             | 189.58  | Paid by direct debit |
| ESPO                             | 205.76  | Paid by direct debit |
| Greene King Brewing & Retail Ltd | 110.13  | Paid by direct debit |
| Greene King Brewing & Retail Ltd | 449.55  | Paid by direct debit |
| Greene King Brewing & Retail Ltd | 599.61  | Paid by direct debit |
| Cellair Ltd                      | 55.20   | Paid by direct debit |
| Lex Autolease Ltd                | 1121.31 | Paid by direct debit |
| Barclays                         | 47.26   | Paid by direct debit |
| Bidfood Ltd                      | 1419.76 | Paid by direct debit |
| Francotyp Postalia Ltd           | 250.00  | Paid by direct debit |
| SSE Energy Solutions Ltd         | 35.29   | Paid by direct debit |
| TotalEnergies Gas & Power Ltd    | 339.71  | Paid by direct debit |
| TotalEnergies Gas & Power Ltd    | 486.71  | Paid by direct debit |
| TotalEnergies Gas & Power Ltd    | 5544.16 | Paid by direct debit |
| TotalEnergies Gas & Power Ltd    | 32.26   | Paid by direct debit |
| TotalEnergies Gas & Power Ltd    | 105.97  | Paid by direct debit |
| Virgin Media                     | 77.32   | Paid by direct debit |
| Virgin Media                     | 77.32   | Paid by direct debit |
| Kennett Equipment Leasing Ltd    | 205.86  | Paid by direct debit |
| Barclaycard                      | 1078.71 | Paid by direct debit |
| ESPO                             | 267.36  | Paid by direct debit |
| ESPO                             | 108.68  | Paid by direct debit |
| ESPO                             | 136.62  | Paid by direct debit |
| Cellair Ltd                      | 82.80   | Paid by direct debit |
| Greene King Brewing & Retail Ltd | 1761.26 | Paid by direct debit |
| Epos Now Ltd                     | 72.00   | Paid by direct debit |
| Advanced Thinking Systems Ltd    | 504.00  | Paid by BACS         |
| GTW Media Ltd                    | 180.00  | Paid by BACS         |
| K & M Lighting Services Ltd      | 180.00  | Paid by BACS         |
| EPOS Now Ltd                     | 316.90  | Paid by BACS         |
| Anglia Sprayers Ltd              | 25.85   | Paid by BACS         |
| ESPO                             | 55.02   | Paid by BACS         |
| Amazon Payments UK Ltd           | 460.49  | Paid by BACS         |
| HMRC                             | 1905.44 | Paid by BACS         |
| Trade UK Ltd                     | 63.81   | Paid by BACS         |
| RBK (Ely) Ltd                    | 180.00  | Paid by BACS         |
| Arco Ltd                         | 112.99  | Paid by BACS         |
| Nisbets Ltd                      | 146.96  | Paid by BACS         |
| G & G Gallo Enterprises Ltd      | 1094.70 | Paid by BACS         |
| Ely Skip Hire Ltd                | 414.00  | Paid by BACS         |
| Konica Minolta Bus Solutions Ltd | 166.44  | Paid by BACS         |

**20. FINANCE Continued .....**

|                                    |         |              |
|------------------------------------|---------|--------------|
| Thompson Media Partners Ltd        | 270.00  | Paid by BACS |
| Mr C L Berry                       | 750.00  | Paid by BACS |
| L Howell                           | 70.73   | Paid by BACS |
| Compass IT Support Ltd             | 33.00   | Paid by BACS |
| Gordon Harrison                    | 98.28   | Paid by BACS |
| Cambridge Wind Band                | 250.00  | Paid by BACS |
| Harper Collins Publishers          | 203.37  | Paid by BACS |
| Harper Collins Publishers          | 4.50    | Paid by BACS |
| J Goodge                           | 35.00   | Paid by BACS |
| John Wiley & Sons Ltd              | 142.90  | Paid by BACS |
| Middle Fen & Mere Internal D Board | 170.10  | Paid by BACS |
| Newmarket Community Arts           | 300.00  | Paid by BACS |
| Mrs N Booth                        | 373.30  | Paid by BACS |
| NSPCC Ely District                 | 35.00   | Paid by BACS |
| RGP Security Services Ltd          | 252.00  | Paid by BACS |
| Shefs                              | 6360.00 | Paid by BACS |
| Zaun Fencing Ltd                   | 1133.24 | Paid by BACS |
| Grantanbrycg                       | 500.00  | Paid by BACS |
| Horncastle Education               | 197.28  | Paid by BACS |
| RHS Horticultural Services         | 5366.40 | Paid by BACS |
| Pride in Ely CIO                   | 25.00   | Paid by BACS |
| Shefs                              | 2052.00 | Paid by BACS |
| SSP Direct                         | 97.20   | Paid by BACS |
| Cambridge Marketing Ltd            | 114.00  | Paid by BACS |
| Thompson Media Partners Ltd        | 270.00  | Paid by BACS |
| Cambridge Marketing Ltd            | 354.00  | Paid by BACS |
| G & G Gallo Enterprises Ltd        | 726.50  | Paid by BACS |
| Innovate Media Ltd                 | 450.00  | Paid by BACS |
| City Cycle Centre                  | 78.25   | Paid by BACS |
| CSD Brass                          | 250.00  | Paid by BACS |
| City of Cambridge Brass Band       | 250.00  | Paid by BACS |
| Xtreme Brewery                     | 387.79  | Paid by BACS |
| Westair Reproductions Ltd          | 880.92  | Paid by BACS |
| Eden Farm Hulleys                  | 325.66  | Paid by BACS |
| Simpsons Nurseries Ltd             | 51.70   | Paid by BACS |
| Mr C L Berry                       | 99.00   | Paid by BACS |
| Ely Tool Hire Ltd                  | 374.40  | Paid by BACS |
| Arco Ltd                           | 184.47  | Paid by BACS |
| Konica Minolta Bus Solutions Ltd   | 197.82  | Paid by BACS |
| Konica Minolta Bus Solutions Ltd   | 126.17  | Paid by BACS |
| Soham Pest Control                 | 99.00   | Paid by BACS |
| Martin and Mortimer Ltd            | 3078.00 | Paid by BACS |
| Cooler Aid Ltd                     | 75.12   | Paid by BACS |
| Ellgia Ltd                         | 270.38  | Paid by BACS |
| Human Capital Department           | 189.00  | Paid by BACS |
| Studio Nova Ltd                    | 36.00   | Paid by BACS |
| Advanced Thinking Systems Ltd      | 504.00  | Paid by BACS |
| S Bradley                          | 350.00  | Paid by BACS |
| We Are Blueshed Ltd                | 336.00  | Paid by BACS |

**20. FINANCE Continued .....**

|                                  |          |                      |
|----------------------------------|----------|----------------------|
| Eden Farm Hulleys                | 325.66   | Paid by BACS         |
| SIS Global Seating Ltd           | 82.68    | Paid by BACS         |
| Page Fine Jewellery              | 330.00   | Paid by BACS         |
| ECDC                             | 1322.05  | Paid by BACS         |
| Soham Comrades Band              | 250.00   | Paid by BACS         |
| MLCS Ltd                         | 750.00   | Paid by BACS         |
| Cooler Aid Ltd                   | 99.22    | Paid by BACS         |
| Pocock & Shaw                    | 192.00   | Paid by BACS         |
| 1Ely Ltd                         | 180.00   | Paid by BACS         |
| Millennium Pest Control Ltd      | 80.90    | Paid by BACS         |
| Fen Farm Supplies Ltd            | 7.35     | Paid by BACS         |
| S Bradley                        | 350.00   | Paid by BACS         |
| RGP Security Services Ltd        | 277.20   | Paid by BACS         |
| Ely Cathedral Enterprises Ltd    | 78.90    | Paid by BACS         |
| Yellow Publications Ltd          | 148.50   | Paid by BACS         |
| Amazon Payments UK Ltd           | 652.91   | Paid by BACS         |
| Trade UK Ltd                     | 109.53   | Paid by BACS         |
| Stark Building Materials UK Ltd  | 173.16   | Paid by BACS         |
| Cooler Aid Ltd                   | 163.22   | Paid by BACS         |
| Konica Minolta Bus Solutions Ltd | 32.80    | Paid by BACS         |
| Anglian Water                    | 81.96    | Paid by BACS         |
| Anglian Water                    | 59.60    | Paid by BACS         |
| Virgin Media Ltd                 | 77.32    | Paid by direct debit |
| Virgin Media Ltd                 | 77.32    | Paid by direct debit |
| Witham Oil & Paint (Soham) Ltd   | 24.46    | Paid by BACS         |
| Kathryn Hayes                    | 150.00   | Paid by BACS         |
| Clara L Mora                     | 88.00    | Paid by BACS         |
| We Are Blueshed Ltd              | 336.00   | Paid by BACS         |
| The Wedding Secret Ltd           | 119.99   | Paid by BACS         |
| Konica Minolta Bus Solutions Ltd | 74.27    | Paid by BACS         |
| S A Wilson                       | 250.00   | Paid by BACS         |
| City of Norwich Brass Band       | 250.00   | Paid by BACS         |
| RGP Security Services Ltd        | 138.60   | Paid by BACS         |
| S Bradley                        | 350.00   | Paid by BACS         |
| Littleport Band                  | 250.00   | Paid by BACS         |
| K & M Lighting Services Ltd      | 96.00    | Paid by BACS         |
| City of Ely Military Band        | 250.00   | Paid by BACS         |
| SIS Global Seating Ltd           | 690.16   | Paid by BACS         |
| Gem Heating Solutions Ltd        | 1459.56  | Paid by BACS         |
| We Are Blueshed Ltd              | 216.00   | Paid by BACS         |
| Ely Museum                       | 10862.50 | Paid by BACS         |
| Two Bad Mice Publishers Ltd      | 263.04   | Paid by BACS         |
| Mr E A Coney                     | 12.00    | Paid by BACS         |
| ECDC                             | 180.00   | Paid by BACS         |
| Sigma Embroidery & Printing      | 258.12   | Paid by BACS         |
| House of Marbles                 | 301.92   | Paid by BACS         |
| C Whelan                         | 101.88   | Paid by BACS         |
| 1Ely Ltd                         | 180.00   | Paid by BACS         |
| Cam Alarms Ltd                   | 270.35   | Paid by BACS         |
| Beechdean Dairies Ltd            | 996.00   | Paid by BACS         |

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.....  
CHAIRMAN  
14th September 2026

**20. FINANCE Continued .....**

|      |        |              |
|------|--------|--------------|
| ESPO | 113.40 | Paid by BACS |
|------|--------|--------------|

The following invoices had not been paid prior to the meeting

|            |       |        |
|------------|-------|--------|
| L Pridmore | 14.65 | 114812 |
|------------|-------|--------|

|       |       |        |
|-------|-------|--------|
| S Jay | 16.00 | 114813 |
|-------|-------|--------|

**Payments relating to staff since meeting on the 8th June 2026**

|                    |                   |                   |
|--------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Salaries and wages | £48,199.60 (June) | £45,296.38 (July) |
|--------------------|-------------------|-------------------|

|                           |            |            |
|---------------------------|------------|------------|
| Inland Revenue (tax & NI) | £14,493.05 | £16,368.29 |
|---------------------------|------------|------------|

|                       |           |            |
|-----------------------|-----------|------------|
| Pension fund payments | £11435.42 | £12,514.88 |
|-----------------------|-----------|------------|

Members noted and approved the bank reconciliation for the period ending 31st May 2026.

*The meeting closed at 9.00 pm.*