

**CITY OF ELY COUNCIL
PERSONNEL, FINANCE AND GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF A MEETING HELD AT 7.00 PM ON
24TH AUGUST 2026 AT SESSIONS HOUSE, LYNN ROAD, ELY**

PRESENT: Mrs T Coulson – Clerk to the Council

Bold indicates a voting member of the Committee

Cllr C Ní Dhónaill

Cllr M Hucker

Cllr R Trent

Cllr R Morgan

Cllr R Denness

Cllr C Phillips

Cllr M Banyard

Cllr C Bebu-Vijianu

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from **Cllrs Sandhu and Moss-Eccardt**.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr Banyard declared a non-pecuniary interest in item 13, No 3, Pos+Ability as he is the Chairman of the charity. He took no part in the discussion of this application and completed a declaration of interest form 252.

3. MINUTES OF THE LAST PERSONNEL, FINANCE AND GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE MEETING (HELD ON THE 1ST JUNE 2026) AND MATTERS ARISING

Minutes of the last Personnel, Finance and Governance Committee meeting held on the 1st June 2026, were agreed as a true record. They were signed by the Chairman. Pages PFG 187, 188 and 189 refer. Matters arising; Page 189, item 18 – Cllr Hucker said he was still working on the risk management procedures.

4. BUDGET UPDATE AND EXPLANATION OF RESERVES

The budget up to the 31st July 2026 was noted. There were no significant variances that councillors had concerns with. The Clerk had provided a detailed explanation of the reserves held by the council. These were discussed at great length and it was agreed that there should be a Reserves Policy, which Cllr Hucker agreed to draft. The Clerk will provide for the next meeting details of why all the amounts are in the earmarked reserves. It was felt that perhaps these should be reviewed every two years to ensure they should remain in this allocation.

Item 13 was taken before item 5 due to the amount of applications being considered.

5. TO CONSIDER PROPOSALS FOR BUDGET FOR 2027/28 FROM INFORMAL MEETING AND TO ALLOCATE ANY FELT APPROPRIATE TO THE COMMITTEES FOR CONSIDERATION OF INCLUSION INTO THEIR BUDGET FOR 2027/28

The list of a possible 15 projects for consideration were discussed. The Clerk had provided her comments on each project and it was agreed that the projects would be allocated to the appropriate Committee and be requested that they consider whether these are something they think would be a viable project and whether they wished to include within their budgets for 2027/28. Two of the projects were removed from the list as one is already provided and the other is already moving forward.

6. UPDATE FROM THE GOVERNANCE WORKING GROUP

The Working Group had not met.

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COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN
26TH OCTOBER 2026

7. UPDATE FROM THE COUNCIL'S LOCAL GOVERNMENT REORGANISATION AND STRATEGIC PLAN WORKING GROUP

The Working Group had met on the 23rd July 2026. Cllr Hucker reported he had summarised the comments received with regard to the public consultation on the draft Strategic Plan. He felt that none of these would result in the document needing any amendments. It was therefore agreed that Full Council would be requested to formally adopt the Strategic Plan. The Mayor reported that she had written to the Chief Executives and Leaders as agreed and had received some responses. She will give an update at the next Full Council meeting. Cllr Denness proposed Cllr Hucker be formally appointed as a member of the Communications & PR Working Group. This was seconded by Cllr Ní Dhónaill and unanimously approved.

8. UPDATE FROM THE INCLUSIVITY WORKING GROUP

Cllr Phillips thanked all the members that had represented the council and attended Ely Pride. He thanked Cllr Whelan for the new council banner, which she and County Cllr Alison Whelan had designed and had printed. Members thanked Cllr Phillips for all his hard work.

9. UPDATE FROM THE NORTH ELY HUB AND COMMUNITY WORKING GROUP

The Working Group had not met. Cllr Morgan had provided an update with regard to the North Ely developments which was noted.

10. UPDATE FROM THE COMMUNICATIONS & PR WORKING GROUP

The Working Group had not met. Cllr Trent informed members they were meeting tomorrow to discuss the draft consultation questionnaire that they were preparing for obtaining parishioners views on what they wanted to be provided in Ely. This would be brought to the next Full Council meeting for approval.

11. TO CONSIDER AND APPROVE HOT WEATHER WORKING POLICY

Cllr Hucker proposed the Hot Weather Working Policy be recommended to Full Council for formal adoption. This was seconded by Cllr Morgan and unanimously approved.

12. TO CONSIDER AN EMAIL FROM BUSINESS KNOWLEDGE XCHANGE RE SPONSORSHIP OF EVENT

Cllr Ní Dhónaill proposed the council agrees to sponsoring this event with the free hire of 40 tables, as requested. This was seconded by Cllr Hucker and unanimously approved.

Item 13 was considered after item 4 due to the amount of applications being considered.

13. TO CONSIDER GRANT APPLICATIONS FOR 2026/2027

Members considered the grant applications for 2026/2027. Due to the large amount of applications and the total sum requested, it was agreed that the underspend from the previous year's grant budget allocation would be added to this year's allocation of £18,000 to a total amount of £23,426 if required. A list of recommendations for awards will be proposed to the next Full Council meeting, which are attached to and form part of the minutes of this meeting.

14. HEALTH AND SAFETY ISSUES

There were no health and safety issues.

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COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN
26TH OCTOBER 2026

15. PERSONNEL ISSUES

The Clerk informed members the local government pay increase for 2026/27 had been agreed at 3.3%. This was noted by members. She also reminded members that several of them had outstanding training that needed to be completed. The Deputy Clerk will circulate a list of who has outstanding training to ensure that this is completed as soon as possible.

16. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on the 26th October 2026.

The meeting closed at 9.09 pm.

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COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN
26TH OCTOBER 2026



**CITY OF ELY COUNCIL - 2026/2027 FINANCIAL YEAR
PERSONNEL, FINANCE AND GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE
APPLICATIONS FOR GRANT AWARDS**

<u>APPLICANT</u>	<u>Requested</u>	<u>Recommended</u>
1. Voluntary & Community Action East Cambs (VCAEC)	£1649.95	£1649.95
2. Ely Foodbank	£1000	£1000
3. Pos+Ability	£2000	£2000 but will be informed that future applications will not be considered for any element of room hire and they must seek other avenues for running costs
4. Ely Splash Pad	£1400	No award as did not meet criteria
5. The Princess of Wales Hospital (Ely) Charitable Trust	£1525	£1525
6. Prickwillow Village CIC	£2523	No award as CIC to fold soon. The Clerk will suggest they consider whether they should offer the phone box back to the council
7. The Friends of Ely St John's	£1000	£1000
8. City of Ely Amateur Swimming Club	£6000	No award as felt they had funds available for what they had requested
9. Diversity Tennis CIC	£2500	£2500
10. Highfield Friends and Parents Assoc	£1000	£1000
11. East of England Ambulance Service Charity – Ely Community First Responders	£2500	£2500
12. Ely Methodist Church	£500	£500
13. Ely Arts Festival	£free hire of SH for 6 sessions free hire of maltings for 1 session and £600 for outreach programme	free hire for 6 sessions at SH and 1 session at Maltings plus £600 for outreach programme
14. Friends of Jubilee Gardens Ely	£1620	No award as felt ECDC should be responsible for this work or at least covering the cost of it
15. Chill & Chat Café (Countess Church)	£2600	£500
16. Cambridgeshire Artistic Roller Skating Club	£1000	£1000 but will be informed that future applications will not be considered for any element of room hire and they must seek other avenues for running costs

17. All In Sound	£1000	£1000
18. Friends of the Lantern School	£20000	No award as felt the amount requested exceed the total grant budget and was too large a project. Also felt the application did not give specific costs for any elements of the project proposed
19. Cambridgeshire Cricket Ltd	£1000	£1000 towards the Super 1's disability hub and should not be spent on hire costs and they must seek other avenues for running costs
20. Youth Ely Hub CIO	£1000	£1000
21. Littleport and District Timebank	£1210	No award as felt did not meet criteria as not within parish. Recommend they contact Littleport Town Council for a grant
22. Cruse Bereavement Support	£915	£915 but will be informed that future applications will not be considered for any element of room hire and they must seek other avenues for running costs
TOTAL REQUESTED	£54,542.95	
RECOMMENDED AMOUNT BE AWARDED		£19,689.95