



**CITY OF ELY COUNCIL
ASSETS COMMITTEE**

MINUTES OF A MEETING

HELD ON MONDAY 3RD AUGUST 2026 AT 7.00 PM AT SESSIONS HOUSE, LYNN ROAD, ELY.

PRESENT: Mrs S Jay– Deputy Clerk to the Council

Bold font indicates voting member of committee.

The Mayor, Cllr R Denness

Cllr M Banyard

Cllr R Moss-Eccardt

Cllr C Bebu-Vijianu

Cllr R Morgan

Cllr P Coutts

Cllr R Ward

Cllr M Hucker

Cllr C Phillips

Cllr R Trent

1. Apologies for absence.

There were no apologies received.

2. To receive declarations of interests.

There were no declarations of interest.

3. To approve the minutes of the last meeting held on the 12th May 2026 and matters arising.

The minutes of the last meeting held on the 12th May 2026 were agreed by members and signed as true record by the Chairman. Pages A91, A92 & A93 refer.

Matters arising – Item 5. Members agreed that Cllr Phillips can continue as the lead member for the Cemetery following his nomination as Chair of the Tourism committee which resulted in him no longer being a member of the Assets committee.

4. To note budget updates for Cemetery, Recreation, Christmas Lights, Local Needs Housing and the Maltings complex dated 31st July 2026.

Members noted the budget updates dated 31st July 2026 for Cemetery, Recreation, Christmas Lights, Local Needs Housing and the Maltings complex and were advised to note any variances within them.

5. Recreation Areas - To receive an update.

i) Skate Park

Members noted the estimates received to repair the Skate Park. Cllr Moss-Eccardt proposed that the Estates Team should provide interim repairs at an estimated cost of £10k, this proposal was seconded by Cllr Coutts and unanimously agreed by members. This will enable the facility to continue to be provided, whilst the Communications & PR working group consult with residents and groups as to the type of facility they would like as a replacement. Cllr Trent will take this consultation forward.

ii) To discuss request for use of recreation area for fitness boot camps

Members discussed a request to use St Johns Recreation area for commercial fitness boot camps. Allowing a business to operate from this space may not only set a precedent for similar requests in the future, but could also restrict residents' ability to use the area for informal recreation such as children's play, football etc.

Therefore, in considering this request members agreed not to permit it for the requested use as it is important to preserve the space primarily for the benefit and enjoyment of residents rather than for commercial use.

iii)High Barns

The Deputy Clerk reported the repairs to the wet pour will be started in the next few weeks.

iv) To note issue with complaint regarding Paradise Play area

The Deputy Clerk informed members regarding a complaint about ball games in Paradise play area. When Palace Green Homes finished the adjacent development, it was agreed the original fence would be reinstated that borders the perimeter and the new houses. Unfortunately, this did not happen, however they have now agreed to do this which should prevent the issue with ball games.

6. Cemetery to receive an update.

Cllr Phillips and the Deputy Clerk updated members on the new woodland burial area and the Sensory Garden. The sundial is now in place.

7. Christmas Lights - to receive an update.

The Deputy Clerk reported additional Christmas lights have been ordered at a cost of £4066.17 from Festive Lights. As the lights match the existing connections it is not possible to obtain these elsewhere or obtain additional quotes. Everything is going to plan for this year's display.

8. To note schedule of maintenance supplied by Estates Manager

Members noted the maintenance schedule circulated with the agenda. Cllr Banyard advised members he would be looking to implement a more detailed schedule of works to enable a maintenance plan for future budgeting for the council's buildings.

9. Local Needs Housing – to discuss a matter relating to the lease.

The Deputy Clerk updated members regarding the issue with a breach of the lease and that following a letter to the homeowner, they have agreed to complete the removal of the wall and fence. Any breach of hedges more than 60cm in height will be followed up in the autumn.

10. Sessions House.

Update regarding Cambridgeshire Registrars and hire of Sessions House.

The registrars have agreed to hire Sessions House. A duty manager will be provided from casual staff. The Deputy Clerk advised she is due to meet with the registrars to show them the building again and finalise details.

11. Scout Hall

The Scout Group had requested formal permission to hire their hall to local groups. Members agreed to this request as per the advice from the council's Solicitor in that despite the covenant in the lease restricting such use, the council will not take enforcement action against the Scouts. An email will be sent to the Scouts advising of this.

12. To receive update regarding the purchase of Maltings Complex and Oliver Cromwell House

ECDC are due to appoint a property solicitor to then deal with the sale of the buildings to City of Ely Council.

13. The Maltings Complex.

The fire doors and repairs to front doors of the Maltings are due to be repaired shortly. There may be a slight increase to the cost of this due to a variation to the work planned. The new kitchen floor will be laid this week.

The Deputy Clerk, Cllr Banyard and the Venue Manager will look at disabled access options for the stage.

14. Date of next meeting:

Monday 5th October 2026 at 7pm.

The meeting closed at 7.45 pm.