



CITY OF ELY COUNCIL
ASSETS COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF A MEETING

HELD ON MONDAY 31ST JANUARY 2022 AT 7.00 PM AT THE MALTINGS, SHIP LANE, ELY

PRESENT: Mrs S Jay– Deputy Clerk to the Council

Cllr R Morgan **Cllr A Arnold** **Cllr M Rouse**

Cllr C Phillips **Cllr V Ganivet**

Bold font indicates voting member of committee

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from the Mayor - Cllr Austen and **Cllr Denness**.

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 13th December 2021 and matters arising.

The minutes of the last meeting held on the 13th December 2021 were agreed by members and signed by the Chairman. Pages A30 & A31 refer. There were no matters arising.

4. Recreation & Cemetery –

(i) To receive report from Lead Member

Cllr Phillips reported that he had met with the Deputy Clerk and the Estates Manager to look at the possible improvements that could be made to the Chapel. The pews do not belong to the original building and are deteriorating at the bases. These could be replaced with stacking chairs which would give greater flexibility. The altar was sat on a raised platform which made it look out of proportion with the room. The platform has now been removed and stored. The hymn books could be replaced or stored as many families now have order of services printed.

The floor needs repairing, which can be done in house, and the lighting needs improving. The building is in a reasonable state of repair. Cllr Phillips would like to see the Chapel open more for people to visit. The Deputy Clerk advised that it had been reopened recently for 2 days a week, as staff are on site.

Cllr Arnold advised the 'Friends of Ely Cemetery' may be able to offer volunteers to help trial opening the Chapel on a Saturday morning if required. Members agreed to ask for visitors' opinions regarding any improvements or changes to the Chapel, when the next 'Friends of Ely Cemetery' open day takes place.

The Deputy Clerk will arrange to have the bible repaired/rebound for historical preservation.

Cllr Philips also advise that it would be fitting to have a memorial remembering all those buried in unmarked graves in the cemetery. The Deputy Clerk will look at the options available for this.

5. Recreation Areas

(i) To note budget update, dated 24th January 2022

Members noted the budget update dated the 24th January 2022, there were no significant variances.

(ii) To receive an update regarding the Park Play Area

The Deputy Clerk reported the installation for the new equipment should be the week commencing the 28th March 2022.

(iii) To receive an update re quotes for the Paradise Play Area

The Deputy Clerk reported that she had commenced the procurement process through an ESPO Framework Agreement 115_21. She had received interest from 5 companies. The closing date for the tender documents to be submitted is the 28th February, after which scoring will need to take place. She requested that Cllrs Phillips and Arnold join her to undertake this process. Members agreed to this suggestion.

Cllr Rouse said that the amount of thought the Deputy Clerk puts into the refurbishment of play areas is much appreciated. He then went on to say that he had been made aware of the play area installation at the Hopkins homes site by the developer, was unimaginative with very limited equipment and he wondered what the process was in deciding what equipment is purchased for new play areas. The Deputy Clerk advised that the City of Ely are not consulted by the developer or ECDC regarding new play areas. She also advised that the Council had not been approached with regards to taking on any new play areas once the developments are finished. Members agreed ECDC should be approached to see if the Hopkins Homes play area is finished and how the decision on what equipment is installed into new play areas is arrived at.

6. Cemetery

(i) To note budget update, dated 24th January 2022

Members noted the budget update dated the 24th January 2022, there were no significant variances. The Deputy Clerk informed members the cemetery fees need to be reviewed from 1st April 2022. Members unanimously agreed to increase these by 3.43%, in line with the increase in the precept for 2022/23.

(ii) Update from Friends of Ely Cemetery

Cllr Arnold reported that the Friends will be planning for an open day in May.

7. Christmas Lights –

(i) To note the budget update, dated 24th January 2022

Members noted the budget update dated the 24th January 2022, there were no significant variances.

(ii) To note minutes of Christmas Lights Sub Committee meeting held on the 25th January 2022

Members noted the minutes of the meeting held on the 25th January 2022. Members fully supported the decision from the Tourism and Town Centre Committee, to no longer fund the Christmas Lights Switch-on based on its pre-covid format, but to build on the community event that was held last year which will also benefit local traders.

8. Sessions House

Cllr Morgan had advised at the last meeting he had raised the possibility of holding the Assets meeting at Sessions House, however the Deputy Clerk had informed him that the room is currently being hired out by the NHS and is therefore set up for their use. Also, the chamber can only hold about 7 socially distanced people around the table and as it is not known how many people will attend the Assets meeting, as the public can also attend.

9. Local Needs Housing Scheme issues and note the budget update, dated 24th January 2022

Members noted the budget update date the 24th January 2022. There were no significant variances.

10. The Maltings Complex -to receive updates on:

(i) Maltings

The Deputy Clerk gave a detailed update on the progress with the improvements to the Maltings. This includes:- the hall lighting, this is due to be installed in February, the disabled toilet is nearing completion of the refurbishment, a meeting regarding a plan for installation of the seating is due to take place shortly, the outside lighting is fixed, the stage curtains have been ordered and new wheels are due to be put on the kitchen equipment. Quotations are being sourced for new windows for the foyer and Kempen Room, however the conservation officer will be consulted on the type of window permitted. Quotes for the water softener are in the process of being obtained and new urinals are needed in the gents toilets. The Deputy Clerk will look at the lighting for the foyer and boarding over with plasterboard in due course. Members thanked the Deputy Clerk for her work with the Maltings and managing to keep track of everything that needs doing.

(ii) To note budget updates dated 24th January 2022 for Maltings, restaurant & cottage

Members noted the budget update dated the 24th January 2022, there were no significant variances.

(iii) Maltings Cottage

Cllr Morgan had written to the Leader of ECDC expressing his concern with the delays of the past three years. He also requested the District Council return the last two years rent from the cottage, and formally complete former Cllr W Burton's, 2012 proposal by giving the City of Ely Council the freehold estate of the Maltings Complex to include The Maltings, the restaurant and the cottage. This matter had been passed to the Chief Executive who had responded advising that the issues have spanned three years and reiterates the need to try to solve the 'impasse' as soon as practically possible. He therefore requested that the Mayor formally writes a letter proposing Cllr Morgan's suggestion as an unambiguous starting point for the way forward.

(iv) Maltings Restaurant

Nothing to report.

11. Any other business

There was no any other business.

12. Date of next meeting:

Monday 21st March at 7pm

The meeting closed at 8.10 pm