



**DRAFT MINUTES OF ELTON PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD IN HIGHGATE HALL ON TUESDAY
12TH SEPTEMBER 2023 COMMENCING AT 7:30 PM**

PRESENT: Councillors Tim Cummins, Malcolm McCann, Ian Ross (Chair), Kathryn Taylor, Paul Willson

IN ATTENDANCE: Kerry Rew, Clerk; County Cllr Simon Bywater, District Cllr Beuttell; three members of the public

		ACTION
	Cllr Ross welcomed everyone to the meeting.	
1.	APOLOGIES: Cllr Strowbridge	
2.	DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST: There were no declarations of interest in items on the agenda.	
3.	PUBLIC FORUM: There were no comments from members of the public.	
4.	MINUTES OF MEETING 11TH JULY 2023: Proposed Cllr Cummins, seconded Cllr McCann and APPROVED as a true record.	
5.	CO-OPTION BALLOT: Following his personal statement at the July meeting, councillors voted on the co-option of Justin (Lenny) Hawkesford to fill the casual vacancy following the resignation of Sylvi Ranford in April 2023. ALL IN FAVOUR. Mr Hawkesford was duly co-opted. As he was unable to attend the meeting Mr Hawkesford will sign the Declaration of Acceptance of Office at the next meeting on 10th October and take up his position on the council on that date.	
6.	CANDIDATE SUBMISSIONS: Two applications have been received so far for the casual vacancies arising from the resignations of Richard Donoyou and Richard Smith in June 2023. Neither candidate was available to attend the meeting so personal presentations were deferred until 10th October.	
7.	FINANCE: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Following submission of the application to Unity Trust Bank in July, Clerk advised that the account switch was refused by Barclays. There is now an official complaint in process with Barclays who have still not provided an explanation for the refusal. In an attempt to overcome the issue a mandate change request has been delivered to Barclays so that all signatories will be identical on both the Unity and the Barclays account. Once this has been confirmed it was suggested that a cheque could be raised from the Barclays account to pay in monies to the new Unity current account. 2. Cashflow update for August was circulated by the Clerk to all prior to the meeting for information. Spreadsheet attached showing income, expenditure, and YTD balance. Payments were received from HMRC for the VAT refund claim of £1661.84, and HDC for grass cutting contribution of £813.70. The invoice to CCC for grass cutting contribution of £805.39 has been chased for payment. 	

	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. There were 5 payments presented for authorisation per the Schedule of Payments below. AGREED 4. Prior to the meeting Cllr Ross circulated a list of the most popular projects suggested by residents and councillors for inclusion in the forecast. The forecast expenditure has been duly updated (attached) to reflect this. It was noted that this is not a closed list and further suggestions from residents, community groups, as well as councillors will be welcome, especially as the next round of LHI applications will open at the end of October. 	
<p>8.</p>	<p>PLANNING & PLANNING APPLICATIONS:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Land at including 2 Stocks Green (ref 20/00470/LBC) – permission refused by HDC. 2. Peterborough Showground Jez Tuttle, (Transport Assessment Team Manager, CCC) advised Council that two new applications have been submitted by PCC for further development of the Showground site. A meeting has been set up with him on 3rd October to discuss details and traffic issues related to such major developments. District Cllr Beuttell and representatives from Alwalton, Chesterton parishes will also attend. 3. Neighbourhood Plan & HDC Local Plan No action on Elton Neighbourhood Plan. No further information on revision of HDC Local Plan. Following the HDC ‘Call for Sites’ Cllrs Bywater and Beuttell, (as well as Cllr Alban) were keen to ensure a joint approach from the parishes led by the County and District councillors before any contact was made with the developers. It was stressed that individual comments could be misinterpreted or misused and should be avoided. Sir William advised that he had recently met with Shailesh Vara MP, who reiterated his opposition to the Sibson, Newlands, and Haddon Solar developments. It was noted that the developers of the proposed site at Sibson were now more organised and ready to counter previous objections. It was noted that a doubling of the number of houses proposed makes it easier for the Government to achieve their target of homes built and that HDC would have the incentive to increase their income via the ensuing Council Tax. Cllr Ross noted that residents continue to express concern regarding the potential development of Sibson Garden Village and that an understanding of lessons learnt the last time would be of benefit in addressing any confirmed application going forward. 	
<p>9.</p>	<p>CORRESPONDENCE:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A survey has been received from Local Projects at Cambridgeshire County Council asking for an Expression of Interest from potential applicants for the next round of LHI funding opening at the end of October. It was AGREED that a positive reply would be submitted. 2. Public consultation on the Peterborough Local Plan is open until 15th September. Cllr Ross advised that approximately 20,000 houses would be needed in Peterborough between 2023 and 2044, which would be mainly in large urban developments. This therefore calls into question the need for a rural development at Sibson. 3. Consultation documents were received on the Newlands development at Halden’s Parkway (Thrapston) NE/22/00151/FUL to which an objection on behalf of the Parish Council will be submitted by the deadline of 15th September. Whilst this development is a long way from the parish, there would be a considerable impact on traffic 	<p>CLERK</p>

	<p>on the A605 and increased numbers of vehicles diverting through the village.</p> <p>4. Cllr Bywater was thanked for his initiatives regarding the detrimental effects of the cancellation of annual weed spraying and other basic services such as drains maintenance and repairs to footpaths and roads, which he has taken up with CCC and HDC. A later communication from Frank Jordan, Executive Director for Place and Sustainability at CCC would seem to suggest that the policy to cancel annual weed spraying is already under review, possibly because of the early success of Cllr Bywater’s campaign. The Parish Council will draft a response to be submitted to CCC and HDC leaders. Cllr Ross emphasised the importance of reporting any instances of damaged footpaths, blocked drains, excessive weeds causing obstruction etc so that there is a record on the Highways reporting system as well. Any resident may submit a fault report online at Report a highways fault - Cambridgeshire County Council those unable to do so, should contact the Clerk.</p> <p>Clerk to review and chase up all current reports and submit photographs and additional reports regarding the footpaths, drains, and obstructions on Back Lane, Highgate Green, and Hayes Walk. Clerk reported that the lime tree outside 31 Middle Street/Chapel and the dead rowan outside 16 Back Lane should both be dealt with by 20th September.</p> <p>5. Cllr Tim Alban has organised another Joint Parishes meeting on 27th September, which Cllrs Cummins and Ross will attend. Clara Kerr, Chief Planning Officer at HDC will be presenting an update on the Local Plan.</p> <p>6. The expected presentation by the Environment Agency on the Nene Lock Safety Improvements project was cancelled by the EA pending a review of landowner comments.</p> <p>7. Request for volunteers for the winter Community Gritting Scheme was received from CCC. Anyone interested in registering as a volunteer to grit paths (not roads) should contact the Clerk. All grit bins should have been filled; any found empty should be reported online for refilling.</p> <p>8. Resident who reported overgrown bridleway on Greenhill and Clerk have both chased CCC Highways for update, but none received. Clerk to check with resident if bridleway on Greenhill has yet been cleared.</p> <p>9. Communication received from HDC for Expressions of Interest in a pilot scheme for the installation of EV charging points in rural parishes. As the Parish does not own any suitable property for an installation, the information has been passed on to others (Highgate Hall being the most appropriate location). Deadline for submissions 18th September.</p>	<p>IR</p> <p>CLERK</p>
<p>10.</p>	<p>REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS & CLERK</p> <p>1. Clerk’s report – notifications and updates for information:</p> <p>i. Noticeboard location to be confirmed with Village Stores to ensure access to oil tank. Clerk to confirm with Highways that there are no services (water, electricity) in the selected location. Cllrs McCann, Ross, and Clerk to obtain estimates from contractors with suitable equipment to drill tarmac and install safely.</p> <p>ii. Cllrs Cummins and Taylor were requested to use their .gov.uk email address. Cllr Ross to assist with setting up.</p>	

	<p>iii. The driveway of Ailington Leas, Back Lane has not yet been repaired by Anglian Water following the leak and a further leak has occurred. This is suspected to be in the pipe from the drain so surface water entering the drain cannot be carried away causing it to block. The erosion of the verge and road outside Highgate House and Rectory Farm Court causes it to fill with stones and debris during severe rain. Clerk to report to Highways again.</p> <p>It was noted that a resident had kindly cleared the drains on Back Lane and around Stocks Green which had become blocked with weeds and debris following recent storms.</p> <p>iv. Additional signs directing customers to the overflow car park have been placed along Overend following complaints from residents about inconsiderate parking outside the Black Horse. It was suggested that a member of staff could direct customers to this facility before cars are left at the roadside.</p> <p>Sir William advised that Elton Estates has employed a planning consultant who is working with the Conservation Officer and Tree Officer to progress planning for the car park extension. The Parish Council and Cllr Beuttell reiterated their support.</p> <p>v. Councillors were informed of a number of conferences and events in which they were invited to participate. Cllr Ross to attend CAPALC Annual Conference on 15th September and Cambridgeshire Flood Groups Conference on 21st September. Cllr Ross noted the Highgate Hall AGM to take place on 18th September.</p> <p>vi. Confirmation has been received from Cambridgeshire Highways that the LHI bid for traffic calming measures on entry to Wansford Road was successful. Highways' Project Delivery team advised that design documents are currently being drawn up for the give way feature. The council awaits further notification.</p> <p>vii. Another defibrillator has been installed outside the Black Horse. The Parish Council want to thank the Black Horse for hosting, the fundraisers for their efforts, and Adrian Sewter for his services. It was noted that in the last few weeks, there have been three occasions when a defibrillator was taken out of its cabinet as a precaution, though not used.</p> <p>viii. Cllr Ross to follow up fault report regarding tree in Hayes Walk obscuring streetlight.</p> <p>2. Speed Watch/MVAS – prior to the meeting Cllr Ross circulated the latest Speed Watch and MVAS data report (attached). This shows that the raised traffic calming table outside the Black Horse does seem to be having an effect at slowing down drivers.</p> <p>Thanks were extended to the 15 volunteers who have participated in roadside sessions in recent weeks.</p> <p>It was AGREED that a motion would be submitted for the next agenda for the purchase of another solar-powered MVAS and for the purchase of two mounting posts, so that the equipment could be sited on Duck Street and Back Lane, where there are no other suitable mounting points.</p> <p>3. Village greens – re-seeding of the first section has taken well and the next section will be done in the next few weeks per the agreed contract.</p>	
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11.	<p>DATE OF NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING:</p> <p>Tuesday, 10th October 2023</p> <p>The meeting closed at 21:10</p>	

DATE	CHQ No	PAYEE	DETAILS	TOTAL
12/09/2023	102072	Highgate Hall	Room hire July	£20.00
12/09/2023	102073	SMV Contract Services Ltd	Grass cutting August x 2	£840.00
12/09/2023	102074	Ms K Rew	Clerk's salary August 23	£294.72
12/09/2023	102075	Ms K Rew	Clerk's expenses August 23	£27.30
12/09/2023	102076	CAPALC	Annual conference fee Cllr Ross	£75.00