



**DRAFT MINUTES OF ELTON PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD IN HIGHGATE HALL ON TUESDAY
10TH OCTOBER 2023 COMMENCING AT 7:30 PM**

PRESENT: Councillors Tim Cummins, Justin Hawkesford, Malcolm McCann, Ian Ross (Chair), Shirley Strowbridge, Paul Willson

IN ATTENDANCE: Kerry Rew, Clerk; one member of the public

		ACTION
	Cllr Ross welcomed everyone to the meeting.	
1.	APOLOGIES: Cllr Taylor, County Cllr Bywater, District Cllr Beuttell	
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 12TH SEPTEMBER 2023: Proposed Cllr Cummins, seconded Cllr Willson and APPROVED as a true record.	
5.	CANDIDATE SUBMISSIONS: The council has received one application for the casual vacancies arising from the resignations of Richard Donoyou and Richard Smith in June 2023. The candidate was unavailable to attend the meeting, so a personal statement was deferred until 14th November. A second applicant withdrew their submission but is reconsidering and will advise the Clerk accordingly.	
6.	SIGNING OF DECLARATION OF ACCEPTANCE: Following his co-option in September in his absence, Justin Hawkesford signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office and duly joined the meeting. Clerk has notified Democratic Services at HDC. Cllr Hawkesford to complete Disclosable Pecuniary Interests form to be submitted to HDC within 28 days.	
7.	FINANCE: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The mandate change has been confirmed by Barclays, adding Cllrs Ross and McCann as signatories so now both the Unity and the Barclays accounts have identical signatories. Clerk will retry switching the Barclays account. Clerk also to confirm procedure for accessing the Barclays Savings account so those monies may be transferred to a more favourable rate. 2. Cashflow update for September was circulated by the Clerk to all prior to the meeting for information. Spreadsheet attached showing income, expenditure, and YTD balance. Payment received from CCC for grass cutting contribution of £805.39. 3. There were 3 payments presented for authorisation per the Schedule of Payments below. AGREED 4. Clerk has received precept request for 2024/25 from HDC to be submitted by 15th December 2023. 	

	<p>2. Councillors were notified of HDC Town & Parish Council training sessions on Development Management (i.e., planning) taking place in person and online on 30th October or 6th November at 18:00 – 20:00. Only two in-person places are available, but there is no limit to Zoom attendees. Councillors to confirm to Clerk if they wish to attend.</p> <p>3. Clerk advised that Elton’s Local Highways Officer will no longer be Les Middleton. Alex Edgoose will take up the post in October, with Les Middleton caretaking in the meantime. This is likely to cause some further backlog and delays.</p> <p>4. A survey was received from CCC Highways on the impact of the revised weed control policy (cancellation of annual weed spraying). Councillors to review questions and submit comments to Clerk – reply - deadline 20th October.</p> <p>5. Negative comments have been received from some residents at the unsightly state of the Hayes Walk wildflower area. Cllr Strowbridge advised this is now also considerably larger than when originally sown, apparently without consultation. Clerk to ascertain from HDC when area is to be cut and tidied as was previously advised (due in October) and to check contract whether SMV should be cutting any of this area.</p> <p>6. Notification received that the Elton Society AGM will be held on 20th October. Clerk and Cllr Ross will attend on behalf of the Parish Council to encourage wider participation in Council actions, and promotion of the website, especially for use by other groups. Cllr Ross advised that Elton Society is keen to recruit volunteers on their organising committee.</p> <p>7. A consultation document has been received from North Northants CC on their Greenway Strategy and Rushden to Wellingborough proposed route. Councillors to review and send any comments to the Clerk. Deadline 1st November.</p>	<p>ALL</p> <p>ALL</p> <p>CLERK</p> <p>ALL</p>
<p>10.</p>	<p>REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS & CLERK</p> <p>1. Clerk’s report – notifications and updates for information:</p> <p>i. The Expression of Interest for LHI funding 2024 – 25 was submitted to CCC. Application forms are due in October. Consideration to be given to budget and precept for next year.</p> <p>ii. It is hoped that the noticeboard will be installed by a resident with the necessary contractors and equipment in the next few weeks. Outcome of Clerk’s request to Highways regarding utilities in the designated location still pending.</p> <p>iii. Two councillors have yet to set up their personal .gov.uk email address and were again requested to do so. Clerk to arrange email address for Cllr Hawkesford.</p> <p>iv. Clerk has arranged a meeting between the resident of Ailington Leas, Back Lane and engineer David Crowther of CCC Highways Drainage and Resilience team on 11th October. Cllr Ross also to attend. Investigation by Anglian Water indicated that entire length of pipe as far as soakaway at end of Back Lane is silted up and therefore storm water is not flowing away during heavy rain but backing up onto drive.</p> <p>v. Having placed additional signs on Overend to the Black Horse overflow car park, complaints were received about the position of the signs (vehicles misdirected into Carysfort Close) and the number of signs spoiling the village appearance. Signs will be</p>	<p>TC/KT</p>

	<p>amended and repositioned to make the overflow car park entrance clearer.</p> <p>vi. During September and October, a number of engagement sessions for councils were held by HDC on the garden waste subscription service which is to be introduced from 1st April 2024. All households wishing to have a garden waste bin emptied will then be required to pay an annual subscription of £57. A list of frequently asked questions about this service can be found at Frequently Asked Questions Sept23.pdf or contact the Clerk.</p> <p>vii. Cllr Ross attended an on-site meeting on Wansford Road with Ross Lewis (Assistant Project Manager) and Matheus Souza from CCC Highways Project Delivery team on 3rd October to discuss the give-way feature. A design and cost estimate were subsequently submitted and circulated to all councillors prior to the meeting. This suggests moving the feature further into the village, meaning it would be closer to the junctions at Highgate Green and Overend and possibly less effective. The costs, and therefore the Council's contribution, have also considerably increased from those originally envisaged. Cllr Ross to draft a response to Highways querying the relocation and increases, to be reviewed by all.</p> <p>viii. Clerk chased up all outstanding issues submitted via Les Middleton, on the annual walkabout, and online, and submitted another five, including excessive weed growth and blocked drains. The lime tree in Middle Street was cut back on 22nd September, but the dead rowan on Back Lane which should have been removed at the same time, was overlooked and so has been re-reported. The dilapidated sign on Highgate Green has also been reported again. Cllr Cummins requested that the overgrown towpath from Elton Lock to Warmington Lock should be pursued urgently with North Northants, who have failed to respond to Clerk's previous reports.</p> <p>ix. It was agreed that the Clerk should request a further grass cut to be carried out by SMV. It was noted that the second re-seeding on the greens has taken well.</p> <p>x. Further to the suggestion that the Council should provide a poppy wreath for Remembrance Day the following motion was submitted: <i>Elton Parish Council will donate £30.00 to the Royal British Legion, to be collected by All Saints PCC, Elton, for the reuse of a Royal British Legion poppy wreath at the 2023 Remembrance Day service.</i> Proposed Cllr Ross, seconded Cllr Cummins - APPROVED.</p> <p>2. Speed Watch/MVAS – prior to the meeting Cllr Ross circulated the latest Speed Watch and MVAS data report (attached). One roadside session had taken place with more to follow during October. The data from the Evolis speed sign shows an average of 3130 vehicles per day passing along Overend with 2% travelling above 35 mph. Motion: <i>Elton Parish Council will purchase an Evolis Vision radar speed sign with solar power from ElanCity at a purchase price of £2,250 excluding delivery and VAT. Elton Parish Council will purchase two posts from CCC Highways for mounting MVAS in Duck Street and Back Lane at a cost of approximately £300 each.</i> Proposed Cllr Ross, seconded Cllr McCann – APPROVED. It was noted that there may be some financial advantage if purchase of the Evolis sign can be</p>	
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	<p>combined with another parish (Chesterton and Stibbington have expressed interest) as there is presently a promotional offer available. Clerk to obtain definitive costs for posts and installation. Location of posts to be approved by Highways.</p> <p>3. Reports from councillors – Cllr Ross advised that the Chapel's Expression of Interest for CCC's Capital Fund has successfully progressed to the next stage.</p>	
11.	<p>DATE OF NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING:</p> <p>Tuesday, 14th November 2023</p> <p>The meeting closed at 21:21</p>	

DATE	CHQ No	PAYEE	DETAILS	TOTAL
10/10/2023	102077	Ms K Rew	Clerk's salary September 23	£294.72
10/10/2023	102078	Ms K Rew	Clerk's salary September 23	£58.54
10/10/2023	102079	SMV Contract Services	1 x grass cut September & reseeding greens	£765.00