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**APPROVED MINUTES OF ELTON PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD IN HIGHGATE HALL ON TUESDAY
11TH JUNE 2024 COMMENCING AT 7:30 PM**

PRESENT: Councillors Tim Cummins, Justin Hawkesford, Malcolm McCann, Ian Ross (Chair), Jan Speechley, Shirley Strowbridge, Kathryn Taylor, Brett Walsh, Paul Willson

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

		ACTION
	Cllr Ross welcomed everyone to the meeting.	
1.	APOLOGIES: none	
2.	DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST: Cllr Taylor declared an interest in the Lincs Reservoir Project.	
3.	PUBLIC FORUM: Residents of Brawn Way expressed concern regarding the sudden appearance of a sign on the gate into Berry Leas field from Brawn Way and questioned the reasons behind it. The sign states that access will be prohibited, and the correct footpath should be used instead. It was felt that the action was antagonistic and raised suspicions. Residents made clear that the gate had been used for many years including by those not resident in Brawn Way. It was noted that the field was used by the air ambulance as it gave deliberately easy and safe access to homes nearby. The Landowner Deposit submitted in 2022 acknowledges the existing official public right of way footpaths, and states that no other foot paths ('ways') on the land are public footpaths ('dedicated as highways'). Residents requested continued use of the gate and hope that the notice will be removed. Residents requested the Parish Council to engage with Elton Estates to try to resolve the issue. If not resolved, the matter will be discussed further at the next meeting.	
4.	COUNTY & DISTRICT COUNCILLORS' UPDATE: Cllrs Beuttell and Bywater noted that a representative for Phoenix Sustainable Investments has contacted County, District and Parish councils regarding the Sibson Garden Community development. As yet, there is only a new website. District and County councillors are not engaging in any discussions with the developers and no planning application has yet been submitted to HDC. Cllr Bywater emphasised the importance of submitting comments as and when there <u>IS</u> a public consultation. It was noted that the appeal has been entered for the Haddon Solar Farm and the Planning Inspectorate will decide the process. Cllr Bywater announced that after a successful campaign, CCC will recommence weed spraying throughout the County on 26th June. The Parish Council was encouraged to submit photos and comments regarding areas of	

	<p>greatest concern for treatment as time and budget will restrict where this is carried out.</p> <p>It was noted that 2024/25 LHI bid announcements are behind schedule and have been delayed until the end of June.</p> <p>Cllr Bywater was involved with interviewing for the post of Chief Fire Officer of Peterborough and Cambridgeshire, and the appointment is now with the Fire Authority for ratification.</p>	
5.	<p>MINUTES OF MEETING 14TH MAY 2024:</p> <p>Proposed Cllr McCann, seconded Cllr Cummins and APPROVED as a true record.</p>	
6.	<p>FINANCE:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The monthly cashflow update was circulated prior to the meeting and presented by the Clerk. It was noted that Cambridgeshire County Council's contribution to grass cutting costs has been received. 2. There were three payments presented for authorisation per the schedule below. AGREED. Payments for electricity, grass cutting, and Clerk's salary were made since the last meeting and also appear on this schedule. 3. Model Financial Regulations May 2024 update, as revised by NALC, were reviewed, and duly adopted. RESOLVED 4. The Annual Governance Statement and AGAR Accounting Statement were circulated for approval by full council, and duly signed by the Clerk and Chair. Clerk will submit to external auditors and post on the website, together with the Notice of Public Rights, allowing members of the public to view the accounts. 5. Projects submitted by residents for inclusion in forecast expenditure were agreed as follows: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. Bench to replace that to be removed from Chapel Lane, possibly made from recycled material. Approximate cost £500 APPROVED ii. Noticeboard inside the bus shelter for use by residents to avoid unsightly posting of notices on the outside. Allowance of £150 APPROVED iii. Maintenance of trees, allowance of £1500 initially for minimal amount of work APPROVED. iv. Allocation of £700 for solar MVAS battery to be removed from budget. <p>Other projects as submitted still to be costed for later inclusion.</p>	ALL
7.	<p>PLANNING & PLANNING APPLICATIONS:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Haddon Solar Park 22/00668/FUL pending appeal as noted. Previous objections to be resubmitted. 2. No updates regarding Titchmarsh solar farm 3. Planning Permission Consultation – 21 River Lane (ref 24/00935/HHFUL) to submit recommendation for approval. 4. Consultation – Former The Smithy, Overend (Ref 24/00561/FUL & 24/00562/LBC) – comments submitted since last meeting stating conditional approval subject to resolution of parking issues. Meeting of Highgate Hall Committee on 24th June to discuss further. 5. Noted: Lincolnshire Reservoir public consultation open until 9th August 6. Noted that Parish Council has been contacted by Athene Communications representing Phoenix Sustainable Investments 	

	requesting a meeting regarding Sibson Garden Community. Meeting declined for the present.	
8.	<p>CORRESPONDENCE:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Noted refresher defibrillator training taking place on 6th July at Highgate Hall. 2. Noted the appointment of a new Local Highways Officer. 3. CCC fully funded opportunity to install Electric Vehicle overnight charging in parish car parks has been extended to other alternative community spaces. Expressions of interest to be submitted by 5th July should Highgate Hall be interested. 4. Response from Environment Agency regarding the postponed parish consultation meeting about River Nene lock safety improvements received since last meeting. No confirmed date given, but EA requested dates of upcoming PC meetings, supplied by Clerk. 5. Enquiries received from residents regarding availability of allotment space. Carried over to next meeting for discussion. 6. Comments received again about noise and parking issues at Black Horse. Apparently, a check carried out by an Environmental Officer stated that noise levels were within allowed limits. No progress on car park extension due to some potential heritage and conservation concerns. Cllr Ross to follow up with Elton Estates. 	IR
9.	<p>REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS & CLERK</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Clerk's report – notifications and updates for information: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. Updated Internal Risk Assessment circulated prior to the meeting for review and adoption. Proposed Cllr McCann, seconded Cllr Cummins RESOLVED ii. NALC update to <i>Good Councillors Guide</i> circulated to all councillors iii. No new pricing information received from current brokers, Love Energy for electricity contract renewal. Clerk has obtained prices directly from SSE, and (on recommendation from other parish clerks), has obtained pricing from one alternative broker, and is awaiting pricing from another. Details to be circulated. iv. Notification of 20 mph speed limit build schedule awaited from CCC Highways. Further clarification required due to a 'partial objection' from a resident during the public consultation. (Resident questioned why Overend had not been included in scheme, but otherwise was in support of proposal). Cllr Ross to follow up. v. Installation of the new Parish Council noticeboard on the shop wall was approved by all parties and will be done by the Estate handyman on 12th June. This will allow space for the posting of legally required documents which was previously unavailable. The Church will also be able to use some of the space, having kindly given up their own noticeboard in this location. vi. Works to deal with the blocked and broken drains, and leak from Ailington Leas, Back Lane are still awaited. vii. Highways online fault reports update: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Potholes outside church filled viii. Mowing by SMV and HDC continuing per schedules. ix. Clerk awaiting further tree maintenance report prior to circulation of information and estimates for possible works on the greens. It was noted that other trees on CCC land require attention also. 	<p>CLERK</p> <p>IR</p> <p>CLERK</p>

	<p>x. The Parish Council thanked Les Ranford for kindly repainting the telephone box which has been done to an excellent standard and greatly enhances the appearance of the village.</p> <p>xi. The Clerk reported that the Payne Family bench outside the school has been completely refurbished by the family and re-installed, now facing the view across the field. The Parish Council thanked the family for their contribution towards maintaining the village.</p> <p>2. Wildflowers/bio-diversity project – Cllr Speechley to canvas Wansford Road residents for views on wildflower sowing. Report to be prepared on conservation of young trees and habitat in the Spinney.</p> <p>3. National Landscape – Nene Valley Strategy meeting took place on 23rd May attended by Cllrs Ross and Speechley. Cllr Speechley advised that Parish Online offers a free 90-day trial for parish mapping, which could be useful for mapping the biodiversity around the village.</p> <p>4. A605/B671 safety concerns – Cllr Speechley advised that written confirmation has been received for the works to be carried out at the junction.</p> <p>5. Fly tipping – Fly tip now removed from the Gated Road along with the bench from Chapel Lane. Cllr Walsh still awaiting signs from HDC.</p> <p>6. Speed Watch/MVAS – latest Speed Watch and MVAS data report (attached) circulated by Cllr Ross prior to the meeting.</p> <p>7. Flood Group update – Cllr Speechley noted that the National Flood Forum Flood Resilience drop-in event, on 5th June was well attended and found to be very useful by residents. A meeting of the Elton Flood Group, members only, will be held on 20th June, 7:30 pm Highgate Hall.</p> <p>8. Neighbourhood Plan update – nothing to report</p> <p>9. Reports from councillors –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Cllr Cummins advised that a new landing stage has been built at The Moorings ii. Cllr Speechley attended a Huntingdonshire Futures 'Environmental Innovation' launch event on 4th June and noted that ecology report grants are available. iii. Cllr Ross to attend next Elton Quarry liaison meeting; other councillors also invited. 	JS
10.	<p>DATE OF NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING: Tuesday, 9th July 2024</p> <p>The meeting closed at 21:33</p>	

DATE	TRANSACTION	PAYEE	DETAILS	TOTAL
Approved payments since last meeting				
17/05/2024	B/P	SMV Contract Services Ltd	2nd cut May	£420.00
26/05/2024	D/D	SSE Energy Solutions	April Electricity account	£94.46
01/06/2024	S/O	Ms K Rew	Clerk's salary May 24	
For authorisation this meeting				
11/06/2024	B/P	Ms K Rew	Clerk's expenses May 24	£22.40
11/06/2024	B/P	Peterborough Accountancy	Internal audit 23/24 & payroll 24/25	£150.00
11/06/2024	B/P	SMV Contract Services Ltd	1 x cut June 6th	£420.00
				£592.40