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DRAFT MINUTES OF ELTON PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD IN HIGHGATE HALL ON TUESDAY 9TH JULY 2024 COMMENCING AT 7:30 PM

PRESENT: Councillors Tim Cummins, Malcolm McCann, Ian Ross (Chair), Jan Speechley, 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 Hawkesford, Cllr Taylor, Cllr Walsh; County Cllr Bywater, District Cllr Beuttell	
2.	DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST: Cllr Ross declared an interest in the Elton Society funding request, and the response of Highgate Hall Trustees to The Smithy planning application amendment.	
3.	PUBLIC FORUM: Resident advised that the hedge outside the Back Lane allotments is blocking the pavement. Clerk confirmed that allotment holders will be cutting the hedge back in the next week. The same resident also advised that the footpath on Duck Street from the Coach House up to Red Bridge is overgrown on the hedge side. Clerk to request SMV to cut this when next mowing the roadside grass verge.	
4.	COUNTY & DISTRICT COUNCILLORS' UPDATE: There were no representatives present.	
5.	MINUTES OF MEETING 11TH JUNE 2024: Proposed Cllr Cummins, seconded Cllr Willson and APPROVED as a true record.	
6.	FINANCE: <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 PKF Littlejohn, the external auditors, have acknowledged receipt of the AGAR documents. 2. There were four 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. The budget update was circulated by Cllr Ross prior to the meeting for review and adoption. Proposed Cllr McCann, seconded Cllr Speechley. RESOLVED Agreed document attached. 	
7.	PLANNING & PLANNING APPLICATIONS: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Consultation amendment – Former The Smithy, Overend (Ref 24/00561/FUL & 24/00562/LBC) – the amendment gives the impression that there is an agreement for staff and customers to 	

	<p>park in Highgate Hall. This was discussed by the Trustees of the Highgate Hall Committee at their meeting on 24th June and was rejected. Parish Council to resubmit recommendation for approval of café conditional on parking arrangements by 16th July.</p>	
<p>8.</p>	<p>CORRESPONDENCE:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Consultation documents received for DMMO to record a bridleway across land near Bullock Road – agreed no comments to be submitted. 2. Noted enquiries received from residents regarding availability of land for allotment use. Parish does not own any land to be able to pursue. 3. Noted reports from residents about increase in dog fouling, particularly in the Hayes Walk area. Clerk to request additional, more visible signage from HDC. Clerk to enquire about siting and cost of emptying dog waste bin. Proposal to be added to September agenda. 4. A request was received from Elton Society for <i>permission to plant bulbs in various locations</i> and for <i>funding up to £250</i> on submission of receipts. RESOLVED Subject to confirmation of locations where permission may be required from Cambridgeshire County Council. Cllr Speechley to liaise with Richard Whitticase (ES Chair) for the planting to be listed in the Elton Nature Recovery Strategy. 5. Notification received from HDC about a shop front grant scheme. This is available to all businesses with a frontage and details circulated to those in the village. 6. The schedule for surface dressing Oundle Road has continually changed. Work was completed on 9th July to remove cats’ eyes prior to resurfacing, which is now advertised as commencing 11th July. 7. The announcement of successful LHI bids for 2024/25 is likely to follow the September Highways & Transport Committee meeting. 8. Cllr Ross confirmed an update from the Highways officer responsible for the Wansford Road calming scheme. A road safety audit has been completed and a speed survey is still awaited, prior to Cambridgeshire Highways confirming the design of the project. 	<p>JS</p>
<p>9.</p>	<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. Clerk has obtained a noticeboard free of charge APPROVED for use in the bus shelter and will arrange installation. ii. Details of electricity contract renewal pricing were circulated prior to the meeting for comparison. It was AGREED to renew with SSE directly for two years at a fixed price of approximately £79 (plus VAT) per month with effect from 1st September 2024. iii. No update on 20 mph speed limit build schedule from CCC Highways. iv. Works have been completed outside Ailington Leas, Back Lane to replace the broken drain. v. Residents report that the footpath between Elton Lock and Warmington is again completely overgrown. Clerk to follow up with North Northamptonshire Council. vi. Highways faults reported online: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> - Repainting of solid white line along footpath in School Lane - Overgrown lime tree on Middle Street vii. Clerk to chase SMV regarding resowing and repair of green. viii. No update regarding tree maintenance 	

2. **Brawn Way – gate to Berry Leas field** – Sir William Proby has requested a meeting with the Parish Council. Cllr Ross to confirm date.
3. **Chapel closure** – Following a meeting attended by Cllr Ross and the Clerk with representatives of the Chapel and Methodist Circuit, a request was made on behalf of Chapel members that the Parish Council (acting as entity) apply to HDC to register the Chapel as a Community Asset. Whilst community activities have been running for over a year, there is no guarantee that HDC will agree the application nor is there a commitment for the Parish Council to take on any responsibilities if the application is successful. As a Community Asset, the community would have six months to make a bid for the Chapel before it goes on the open market. The Methodist Circuit deemed it morally correct to give the community the opportunity to act should there be any interest. It was AGREED that the Parish Council would submit an application to HDC **RESOLVED**
4. **Wildflowers/bio-diversity project** – Cllr Speechley received 11 responses to the survey of Wansford Road residents about sowing wildflowers on the verge. 7 residents were in favour, and 4 against. Cllr Speechley to review taking both for and against into consideration. Cllr Speechley will meet the LHO on 12 July to discuss location and tree maintenance on Wansford Road.
Meeting with tree expert to discuss trees around the village in general but specifically the Spinney with a view to including this area in the Elton Nature Recovery project using trees as a starting point for mapping village biodiversity.
5. **Local Nature Recovery Strategy** – feedback submitted to survey of priority findings by Cllr Speechley based on Elton’s earlier submission. Following the village Open Day, 10 residents have signed up to be involved with village survey and mapping.
6. **Parish Online** – Cllr Speechley advised that subscription costs £72 per annum based on population. Suggested taking advantage of 90-day free trial to evaluate during mapping exercise of local nature then following up with proposal in September. **RESOLVED**
7. **National Landscape** – strategy to be driven by individual parish LNRS plans to form basis of respective biodiversity policies and feeding into CCC and HDC policies. Parishes within the Rockingham Forest National Landscape vision will work collectively towards a group application.
8. **A605/B671 safety concerns** – Cllr Speechley advised that cleaning works have been carried out at the junction and the foliage will be cut back at a later date. New bollards at junction and solar bollards on traffic island awaited.
There was no update on the crossing from CCC.
9. **Elton Quarry** – Cllr Ross attended a Liaison meeting on 9th July.
10. **Speed Watch/MVAS** – latest Speed Watch and MVAS data report (attached) circulated by Cllr Ross prior to the meeting.
11. **Flood Action Group update** – Cllr Speechley advised that the next meeting of the members-only group with representatives from the National Flood Forum will be held on 17th July at 7:30 pm in Highgate Hall. Cllr Speechley is still chasing CCC for their attendance.
12. **Neighbourhood Plan update** – no update
13. **Reports from councillors** – no further reports

10.	DATE OF NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING: Tuesday, 10th September 2024 The meeting closed at 21:27	
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DATE	TRANSACTION	PAYEE	DETAILS	TOTAL
Approved payments since last meeting				
24/06/2024	B/P	SMV Contract Services Ltd	2nd cut June	£420.00
26/06/2024	D/D	SSE Energy Solutions	May electricity account	£97.61
30/06/2024		Unity Bank	Service charges	£18.00
01/07/2024	S/O	Ms K Rew	Clerk's salary June 24	
Payments for authorisation this meeting				
09/07/2024	B/P	Highgate Hall	Room hire May & June	£40.00
09/07/2024	B/P	M J Fray	Contribution to removal of hazardous waste	£200.00
09/07/2024	B/P	Community First Insurance	3 of 3 year LTA insurance renewal	£249.51
09/07/2024	B/P	Ms K Rew	Clerk's expenses June 24	£22.80

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