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**APPROVED MINUTES OF ELTON PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD IN HIGHGATE HALL ON TUESDAY
13TH JANUARY 2026 COMMENCING AT 7:30 PM**

PRESENT: Councillors Tim Cummins, Malcolm McCann, Michelle Lay, Ian Ross (Chair), Jan Speechley, Shirley Strowbridge, Paul Willson

IN ATTENDANCE: County Cllr Bywater, District Cllr Beuttell; Kerry Rew, Clerk; one member of the public

	Cllr Ross welcomed everyone to the meeting.	ACTION
1.	APOLOGIES: Cllr Taylor, Cllr Walsh	
2.	DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST: There were no declarations of interest.	
3.	PUBLIC FORUM: There were no comments from members of the public.	
4.	COUNTY & DISTRICT COUNCILLORS' UPDATE: Cllr Beuttell noted the rejection of the Haddon Solar appeal. The meeting was advised that HDC would be holding a special meeting of Full Council on 14th January to discuss whether local elections should be postponed due to local government reorganisation proposals. Both Cllr Beuttell and Cllr Bywater felt that it was important to maintain democratic accountability and that the elections should go ahead as planned. This sentiment was echoed by the Parish Councillors. It was noted that HDC has the capacity to deal with the process and officers are ready to do so. Peterborough City Council has already voted for postponement, and South Cambridgeshire is also likely to vote to defer. Town and parish council elections will still go ahead whatever the decision, which could cause an unnecessary financial burden if costs are not shared with the District. Cllr Bywater advised that Cambridgeshire CC was in the process of setting their budget. This reveals a significant shortfall and cost savings would be necessary to achieve balance. Cllr Bywater confirmed that an informal multi-agency Teams meeting would take place on 20th January between representatives from North Northants Council, Peterborough City Council, Cambridgeshire Highways, Cambridgeshire CC, HDC and Elton PC to discuss the impacts of speculative developments along the A605.	
5.	MINUTES OF EXTRAORDINARY MEETING 1ST DECEMBER 2025: Proposed Cllr Cummins, seconded Cllr Speechley and APPROVED as a true record.	
6.	MINUTES OF MEETING 9 DECEMBER 2025: Proposed Cllr Willson, seconded Cllr Cummins and APPROVED as a true record.	

7.	FINANCE: 1. The monthly cashflow update was circulated prior to the meeting and presented by the Clerk. The meeting noted receipt of £433.16 quarterly interest from the savings account, and receipt of £31 contribution from Lutton Parish Council towards Clerk's annual membership of SLCC. 2. There were five payments presented for authorisation per the schedule below*. AGREED. Since the last meeting there were four pre-authorised payments: Clerk's salary December, bank charge December, electricity November, hall hire November & December. 3. Further to the suggestion by Cllr Taylor, Cllr Ross issued supplementary information about reinforcing the 20-mph speed limit on Back Lane with additional roundels and adding 'children crossing' warning signs. It was unanimously agreed that the Parish Council should submit an LHI application to this effect by the January 16th deadline. RESOLVED 4. Cllr Ross proposed a revision to the budget for 2025/26. Seconded Cllr McCann and unanimously AGREED. 5. Cllr Ross proposed a budget for 2026/27. Seconded Cllr Cummins and unanimously AGREED. 6. Based on the above budget considerations, Cllr Ross proposed that the Precept for 2026/27 should remain the same at £17000. Seconded Cllr Strowbridge and unanimously AGREED. RESOLVED. Clerk to submit precept request to HDC by 16th January.	
8.	PLANNING & PLANNING APPLICATIONS: 1. 25/01436/FUL 3 & 4 Sheepwalk Cottages – following late representations by Elton Parish Council and neighbours the referral to HDC Development Management Committee meeting on 15th December was withdrawn. The Applicants have since submitted a further amendment. 2. Planning Permission Consultation - 5 Overend 25/02383/HHFUL – the deadline for submission of comments was 8th January. EPC submitted a recommendation of approval. 3. Planning Permission Consultation Keepers Cottage 3 Chapel Lane - 25/02389/HHFUL – the deadline for submission of comments was 9 January. Following visits by Cllrs Cummins and Ross to 1 Chapel Lane, and 3 Chapel Lane, to allow for revisions EPC submitted a recommendation of approval. 4. The consultation window on the HDC Draft Local Plan to 2046 closed on 17 December with comments on the Preferred Options and Sustainability Appraisal duly submitted by EPC. It was noted that to date there have 112 objections to proposed warehousing development at Haddon which is significantly more than on any other part of the Plan. 5. Planning Inspectorate Appeal – Land east of Billing Brook & north & south of Peterborough Road, Haddon (ref 25/00652/FUL) – the appeal was dismissed for a second time by the planning inspector on 12th December, who found that there had <i>"been insufficient evidence to demonstrate that the proposal would avoid harm to the safe operation of aircraft"</i>, and noting <i>"the potentially catastrophic consequences of serious harm to aircraft"</i>. 6. It is understood that STAUNCH wish to challenge the decision of North Northants Council granting permission for further warehousing at Halden's Parkway, Thrapston.	

9.	CORRESPONDENCE: 1. It was noted that an online survey has been conducted by the Police and Crime Commissioner for Cambridgeshire and Peterborough about police funding for 2026/27. 2. The announcement by the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) on local elections was discussed earlier in the meeting at Item 4. 3. The meeting was notified of correspondence from the Building Inspector at 3C Shared Services to Sir William Proby on 22nd October 2025 stating: <i>“Dangerous Structure at Elton Mill, Stocks Green, Elton: Concern has been expressed on the condition of the above structure. An inspection has been carried out and whilst it is not considered to be immediately dangerous you are advised to carry out remedial work to prevent further deterioration.”</i> 4. The meeting was notified that the Methodist Circuit had advised that the Chapel may once again be used for activities. In order for this to be viable, it would require at least two separate groups to use it regularly. They would need their own public liability insurance, or this may be arranged through Elton Parish Council’s insurance. An Expression of Interest application has been submitted by the Chapel Challenge Group to the Heritage Lottery Fund, although an offer to purchase the Chapel (subject to contract) has also been submitted.	
10.	REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS & CLERK 1. Clerk’s report – notifications and updates for information: i. Highways fault reports - Blocked drains and flooding in Middle Street successfully dealt with by Cllr Speechley; Clerk has re-reported broken ‘no through road’ sign at the end of Chapel Lane; Cllr Ross to report potholes on Overend at entrance to Church footpath ii. Clerk advised that a decision was necessary to appoint a new contractor or renew the current grass cutting contract for 2026. Clerk to revisit tenders from 2025. 2. Wildflowers/bio-diversity project – Cllr Speechley reported that the planned sowing in Chapel Lane has been postponed. Cllr Speechley to recontact Parochial Church Council about applying for a Church Conservation Award. 3. Flood Action Group update – Cllr Speechley reported that discussions with the Nene Rivers Trust, the landowner and tenant farmer are ongoing about clearing vegetation around Island House. A significant tree has been removed from the river. Work is in hand to conduct a CCTV survey of a pipe on a property in River Lane. 4. Cllr Ross advised that a follow up meeting of North Northamptonshire town and parish councils hosted by Oundle Town Council is to take place in February about the A605. Minutes of the 21st November meeting and a draft letter to NNC and Cambridgeshire Highways have now been produced. 5. Speed Watch/MVAS – Reports for November and December were circulated prior to the meeting. It was noted that traffic flow through Duck Street is very low with an average of just over 500 vehicles per day with weekend road closures on the A1 giving a notable increase to over 800.	

	Driver compliance on Highgate Green continues to be good with less than 2% of vehicles exceeding 30 mph and 53% adhering to the 20-mph speed limit. There has been a significant reduction in speeding on Wansford Road, partly due to having turned the radar speed sign to face outbound traffic, and even more so since the installation of the 40-mph buffer zone and the inbound 'Give Way' traffic island. It was noted that the radar speed sign is partially obstructing the priority sign. The radar speed sign and solar panel will be relocated to Overend. With consent from Cambridgeshire Highways the priority lane warning sign could be swapped to the pole presently used for the radar speed sign to increase visibility for incoming vehicles. Some residents have reported drivers braking suddenly when coming upon the traffic island; this will be reported to Cambridgeshire Highways. 6. Reports from Councillors – There were no additional reports.	
11.	DATE OF NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING: Tuesday, 10th February 2026 The meeting closed at 20:50	

DATE	PAYEE	DETAILS	TOTAL
Approved payments since last meeting			
12/12/2025	Highgate Hall	Room hire 3 x November, 2 x December	£100.00
22/12/2025	SSE Energy	Electricity supply November	£126.16
31/12/2025	Unity Trust Bank	Service charge December	£6.00
04/01/2026	Ms K Rew	Clerk's salary December	
*Payments for authorisation this meeting			
14/01/2026	Ms K Rew	Clerk's expenses December 2025	£23.00
14/01/2025	Defib Store	2 x sets replacement pads	£153.60
14/01/2025	Cllr I Ross	Local Plan printing expenses	£46.90
14/01/2026	Huntingdonshire District Council	Dog waste bin emptying 2025/26	£303.17
14/01/2026	Systra Ltd	Traffic survey report	£1,800.00