



www.eltonparishcouncil.gov.uk

**DRAFT MINUTES OF ELTON PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD IN HIGHGATE HALL ON TUESDAY
10TH FEBRUARY 2026 COMMENCING AT 7:30 PM**

PRESENT: Councillors Malcolm McCann, Ian Ross (Chair), Shirley Strowbridge, Kathryn Taylor, Brett Walsh, Paul Willson

IN ATTENDANCE: District Cllr Beuttell; Kerry Rew, Clerk; four members of the public

	Cllr Ross welcomed everyone to the meeting.	ACTION
1.	APOLOGIES: Cllr Cummins, Cllr Lay, Cllr Speechley, County Cllr Bywater	
2.	DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST: There were no declarations of interest.	
3.	PUBLIC FORUM: A resident reported that the streetlight in the passage between Brawn Way and Back Lane is not functioning. A resident volunteered to clean the road signs around the village.	
4.	COUNTY & DISTRICT COUNCILLORS' UPDATE: Cllr Beuttell advised that there had been a follow up meeting on 27th January with Highways about the improvements to the A47 from Wansford to Castor/Ailsworth roundabout. Amongst others present were Paul Bristow, Mayor of the Combined Authority and a representative for Sam Carling MP. Investigations into safety measures (proposed left turn only from junctions) are ongoing. Cllr Beuttell will report further, hopefully by the end of March. Cllr Beuttell also reported on the Local Government Reorganisation briefing hosted by HDC on 6th February. Options under consideration could have a significant impact on services and it is important for residents to participate in the public consultation. A drop-in session attended by HDC executives was suggested. Clerk to ascertain venue availability and Cllr Beuttell to liaise with HDC colleagues. Cllr Bywater advised by email that Cambridgeshire CC budget setting meeting was being held on 10th February. Cllr Bywater reported on the multi-agency Teams meeting on 20th January with representatives from North Northants Council, Peterborough City Council, Cambridgeshire Highways, Cambridgeshire CC, including Cllr Ian Ross, Cllr Marge Beuttell, and Cllr Simon Fairhall from NNC to discuss the impacts of cumulative development along the A605. All three councils agreed to establish an officers' working group to investigate the concerns raised and to explore traffic assessments and wider impacts. PCC will be coordinating this work. A follow up meeting will be held on 3rd June 2026 to review progress. During the meeting it was confirmed that Cambridgeshire County Council Transport Assessment Team was not directly consulted on the two warehousing applications at Titchmarsh and Thrapston as these applications are within the North Northamptonshire district and therefore	

	fall outside the Cambridgeshire border. As Cambridgeshire County Council is not the Local Highways Authority for this area, it was not formally consulted as a statutory consultee.	
7.3	With approval from councillors Item 7.3 was moved up the agenda to allow for reports by Cllr Kate Jackson of Wittering Parish Council, and Cllr Richard Clarke of Wansford Parish Council regarding the alternative site for three thousand houses at West Wittering proposed in the Peterborough Local Plan review. This site has been put forward due to the substantial number of objections for the site originally proposed at Ailsworth and Castor. Having previously commented on the Peterborough Local Plan, Elton Parish Council (along with any Elton residents who have previously commented) was contacted as a consultee. Cllr Jackson advised that Wittering residents are genuinely concerned by the proposal and have set up an action group. Objections to the proposed site are mainly because of infrastructure concerns, with developments also proposed south of Stamford and at Kings Cliffe. The current water supply in Wittering is at capacity, and there are concerns about the gas pipe, the loss of leisure amenity at Grange Farm, properties overlooking the airfield, significant archeology in the area, and risks to wildlife. Furthermore of the 180 properties recently built at Wittering, not all have yet been sold. There is no employment at Wittering, so most of the new population would presumably be travelling to Peterborough. Wittering will be holding drop-in sessions for the public on Wednesday, 18th February 18:00 – 21:00 and on Friday, 20th February 10:30 – 16:30 in the Parish Hall. Cllr Clarke from Wansford confirmed that their concerns are similar, particularly due to the scrapping of A47 dualling. National Highways have confirmed there is no long-term plan for the A1 so a development of this size would be unconscionable without modification of the A47/A1 junction given that there are already structural issues with the bridges over the A1. Thornough Parish Council has voiced concern, especially due to flood risk. Easton-on-the-Hill Parish Council has expressed concern, whilst recognizing the need for housing. Elton Parish Council will advise residents of the proposal and encourage participation in the public consultation which is open until 5th March. The Parish Council will submit comments concerning the impact of traffic on outlying villages, and the potential direct impact on Elton.	
5.	MINUTES OF MEETING 13TH JANUARY 2026: Proposed Cllr McCann, seconded Cllr Walsh and APPROVED as a true record.	
6.	FINANCE: 1. The monthly cashflow update was circulated prior to the meeting and presented by the Clerk. 2. There were six payments presented for authorisation per the schedule below*. AGREED. Since the last meeting there were three pre-authorised payments: Clerk's salary January, bank charge January, electricity December. 3. The meeting was notified of an increase in the Section 137 expenditure limit up from £11.10 to £11.60 per elector. 4. The Clerk confirmed submission of LHI funding application for additional speed reducing measures on Back Lane. 5. The meeting noted a further reduction in the savings account interest rate down to 1.95%.	
7.	PLANNING & PLANNING APPLICATIONS: 1. Planning Permission Consultation 26/00136/HHFUL - 37 Duck Street	

	The Parish Council will comment before 19th February deadline recommending approval. 2. Planning Permission Consultation – 26/00157/HHFUL – 33 Duck Street The Parish Council will comment before 19th February deadline recommending approval.	
8.	CORRESPONDENCE: 1. Councillors were reminded of the nominations procedure prior to parish and town council elections on Thursday, 7th May when <u>all seats on the Parish Council become vacant</u>. All current councillors (and any other members of the electorate) wishing to stand in the elections must submit nomination papers during the period 30th March to 9th April. Downloadable forms are available from the Clerk. Any resident interested in standing should contact the Clerk for further information. 2. The meeting was notified of the STAUNCH GoFundMe campaign to fund legal action challenging the NNC decision for more warehousing at Haldens Parkway, Thrapston Fundraiser by STAUNCH Campaign : WILDLIFE NOT WAREHOUSES - STAUNCH Campaign 3. Further to the family request to plant a memorial tree on one of the village greens, an inspection was made of the lime tree which was thought to have died and might therefore be replaced. It appears that the tree may be recovering. Clerk to report back to family. 4. HDC Local Government Reorganisation briefing – covered by Cllr Beuttell at Item 4. Detailed information distributed to councillors prior to the meeting. Notification will be sent out on EltonPE8 email to residents. 5. A resident reported concern about late night noise disturbance from The Black Horse and questioned whether there had been any changes to licence. Cllr Ross to follow up. Any residents concerned are advised to keep a record of the dates and times of any disturbances so that more detail may be provided to the landlord. 6. A resident reported concern about the condition of the grass verge in School Lane. It was confirmed that the Parish Council intends to reinstate the posts along the verge to prevent such damage subject to consultation with residents and the school.	
9.	REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS & CLERK 1. Clerk's report – notifications and updates for information: i. Highways fault reports – no update regarding broken 'no through road' sign at the end of Chapel Lane; Clerk reported potholes in Back Lane, Highgate Green and Middle Street ii. Clerk contacted five contractors to tender for 2026 grass cutting contract. Two responded. Clerk to circulate details to councillors for approval at next meeting. iii. The meeting formally noted the installation of three new benches and thanked Keith Joyce for his work. 2. Wildflowers/bio-diversity project – Cllr Speechley reported via email that the suggestion for a replacement tree in Back Lane was initially rejected by CCC but following a considered argument for the PC's choice of species it was subsequently approved. Two crab apples will be planted on the verge by CCC Highways, one outside number 8 and one outside Rutland House pending utilities checks. Chapel Lane scheduled for wildflower sowing middle to end March weather permitting.	

	Swift boxes donated by Ingrebourne Valley (Elton Quarry) are due for delivery end March. 3. Flood Action Group update – Cllr Speechley reported via email that a Deputy volunteer has been appointed to co-ordinate in an emergency in her absence. An application has been submitted to CCC for a grant for a storage shed for the flood kit. Clerk has added the contents to the asset register. At a recent meeting the Highgate Hall Committee approved location of the box in the hall car park. CCTV work to check pipes is anticipated in River Lane/Stocks Green in the coming weeks, weather permitting. Anglian Water cleared the vegetation around the pumping station on 10th February. An update has been requested from EA regarding the lock reversal process. 4. Update to multi-agency meeting about the A605 covered by Cllr Bywater at Item 4 earlier in the meeting. Cllr Ross advised that the office of Sam Carling MP made contact to arrange a walkabout visit to the village to see for himself some of the traffic concerns highlighted. This has been arranged to take place with Cllr Ross and the Clerk on Friday, 6th March. 5. Speed Watch/MVAS – It was noted at the last meeting that the radar speed sign is partially obstructing the priority sign on Wansford Road. The sign will be relocated to Overend. It was reported that the batteries in the oldest speed sign purchased in 2022 are fading in less than a week, so a set of new batteries will be purchased. These can be obtained at a much keener price online than from the supplier. 6. Reports from Councillors Cllr McCann advised that there will be a classic car meeting on the green on 14th June. It was noted that the grass around the green opposite Lyncott, Back Lane and 2 Duck Street has been badly damaged by contractors' vehicles and will require taping off for re-seeding when weather permits.	
10.	DATE OF NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING: Tuesday, 10th March 2026 The meeting closed at 21:04	

DATE	PAYEE	DETAILS	TOTAL
Approved payments since last meeting			
21/01/2026	SSE Energy	Electricity supply December	£139.22
31/01/2026	Unity Trust Bank	Fee January 2026	£6.00
02/02/2026	Ms K Rew	Clerk's salary January 2026	
*Payments for authorisation this meeting			
10/02/2026	Ms K Rew	Clerk's expenses January 2026	£21.60
10/02/2026	Elan City	2-year extended warranty MVAS	£238.80
10/02/2026	Highgate Hall	Hall hire December & January PC meetings	£40.00
10/02/2026	Parish Online	Annual mapping software renewal	£72.00
10/02/2026	Open Spaces Society	Annual membership renewal	£45.00
10/02/2026	Cllr J Speechley	Travel expenses - flood group meeting	£23.76