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

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

IN ATTENDANCE: Kerry Rew, Clerk; three members of the public

	Cllr Ross welcomed everyone to the meeting.	ACTION
1.	APOLOGIES: Cllr Cummins, Cllr Lay, Cllr Taylor, County Cllr Bywater, District Cllr Beuttell	
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: None present - no updates from County or District.	
5.	MINUTES OF MEETING 10TH FEBRUARY 2026: Proposed Cllr Walsh, seconded Cllr McCann 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 four payments presented for authorisation per the schedule below*. AGREED. Since the last meeting there were three pre-authorised payments: Clerk's salary February, bank charge February, electricity January. 3. The meeting noted receipt of confirmation of precept set at £17000	
7.	PLANNING & PLANNING APPLICATIONS: 1. The meeting noted Elton Parish Council's response to the Peterborough Local Plan review of an alternative site for housing development at West Wittering submitted on 5th March. EPC commented that site was unsuitable for large scale residential development due to separation from Peterborough and inadequate infrastructure.	
8.	CORRESPONDENCE: 1. The meeting was notified of correspondence to Sam Carling MP from concerned residents about the dangers of the A605/B671 junction. 2. The meeting was reminded of the Peterborough City Council survey 'Shaping the Future of Peterborough City Centre' deadline for comments 12th March. 3. Residents were reminded about the Government consultation on proposals for Local Government Reorganisation in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough. EPC will submit comment in support of Option E (a standalone unitary authority of Huntingdonshire). Information to	

	be circulated via PE8 email, noticeboards, and parish council website. Residents are encouraged to comment on the proposals which represent a significant change in the structure of local government and the potential changes may have important implications for the parish. To have your say go to: https://consult.communities.gov.uk/local-government-reorganisation/cambridgeshire-and-peterborough/consultation/ Deadline 26th March 4. The meeting was updated on the STAUNCH campaign against the North Northamptonshire planning permission granted to IM Properties for warehousing development on the A605 at Thrapston/Titchmarsh. The High Court Hearing for the Judicial Review will take place on 24-25 June. STAUNCH is still fund raising to pay for the barrister and legal team. The Council was asked to comment on whether EPC should donate. For discussion at next meeting. 5. Councillors were reminded about a free online information session offered by CAPALC on 18th March for prospective candidates at the next parish elections on 7th May. Residents are reminded that ALL nine of the current parish councillors must stand down (and then stand for re-election if they so wish), so there is an opportunity for anyone interested in becoming a councillor. 6. It was noted that the A1 will be closed for overnight maintenance between Alconbury and Brampton from 2nd March for three weeks. 7. Further to reports at the last meeting of late night noise disturbance from The Black Horse positive comments were received by the Clerk from residents supporting the business as an important local asset. Cllr Ross confirmed that the licence terms had not changed. Planning permission is granted for the marquee for music until 11:00 pm, though an extension until midnight may be applied for. The council requested that residents are advised in advance of such late extensions.	
9.	REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS & CLERK 1. Clerk's report – notifications and updates for information: i. Highways fault reports –broken 'no through road' sign at the end of Chapel Lane has been replaced; potholes in Back Lane, Highgate Green and Middle Street remain unattended and those in Middle Street have worsened significantly; the faulty streetlight in the Brawn Way passage has been repaired; volunteers were thanked for cleaning the signs at the entry points into the village. ii. Clerk circulated information on the grass cutting tenders for 2026 prior to the meeting. The meeting APPROVED the appointment of Prestige Landscapes for the coming year. Clerk to submit contract and to obtain copies of employers' and public liability insurance certificates. iii. The meeting noted that the wheelie bin on Stocks Green has been replaced by HDC with a new one 2. Wildflowers/bio-diversity project – Cllr Speechley reported that utilities checks in Back Lane are still awaited before CCC will plant replacement crab apple trees. It was noted that the appropriate time for planting will soon be over and could be unlikely now until the Autumn.	

	Adverse weather has not yet allowed for the planned sowing of wildflowers in Chapel Lane. Cllr Speechley pointed out that CCC is conducting no tree management in general. To avoid risk of action against the Parish Council on parish-owned land, it was agreed that an assessment of the trees on the village greens should be carried out as a starting point. Clerk to obtain quotes from qualified contractors for a comprehensive survey to assess overall health and condition and recommendations for remedial work. 3. Flood Action Group update CCTV work to check pipes and outfall in River Lane from Stocks Green delayed due to weather. Cllr Speechley has applied for a Watercourse Management Grant from CCC for River Lane. Cllr Speechley met with representatives of CCC in the hope of obtaining a contribution towards the storage shed for the flood emergency kit. Having cleared the overgrown vegetation around the pumping station, Anglian Water will schedule in regular clearance. A multi-agency meeting is to be held on 12th March at which the surface water flooding issue in Middle Street will be discussed. Nene Rivers Trust will assess tree work at the Island. 1. The Environment Agency will schedule annual reed cutting on the navigable channel as well as at the Island. The embankment has been surveyed and the height deemed satisfactory. It will be monitored by routine checks for any required maintenance. Modelling has been carried out of the Nene at Yarwell, this will influence options for lock reversal mitigation. Options are still being reviewed, and the project is taking a phased approach, with Titchmarsh and Wadenhoe being looked at currently. Yarwell will follow. Annual maintenance will include a grass cut of the flood channel which should aid conveyance during a flood. Cllr Speechley attended a meeting of the Cambridgeshire Flood Group Chairs on 10th March 4. Speed Watch/MVAS – The speed sign on Wansford was relocated to Overend. Data reports were circulated prior to the meeting. 5. Reports from Councillors i. Item covered under 8.7. ii. Cllr Ross reported on the village walkabout with Sam Carling MP on 6th March which Cllr Speechley also attended. Mr Carling has now visited Elton on five occasions. Several residents have written to him regarding concerns about the A605 junction and he has raised the matter with Cambridgeshire County Council. He met some village residents whilst walking around, visited the shop, discussed potholes and reviewed the surface water issue in Middle Street. iii. Cllr Speechley informed the meeting that Northants Ramblers Association had contacted the parish council after hearing from the Environment Agency who wish to temporarily close a footpath (MY11) which originates in Elton (where it is MY8). Whilst the majority of the path is in North Northants, many walkers set out from Elton and would be affected by any closure. The project is intended to create a wetland habitat to benefit wildlife and make space for flood water, which would benefit Elton downstream. EA are in discussion with the landowner to open a footpath diversion	
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	while work is being done. The parish council will respond to the proposals. iv. Cllr McCann advised that a step is broken on the wooden footbridge over the river. Clerk to report to NNC.	
10.	DATE OF NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING: Tuesday, 14th April 2026 – to include Annual Parish Meeting The meeting closed at 21:09	

DATE	PAYEE	DETAILS	TOTAL
Approved payments since last meeting			
21/02/2026	SSE Energy	Electricity supply January	£134.54
28/02/2026	Unity Trust Bank	Fee February 2026	£6.00
02/03/2026	Ms K Rew	Clerk's salary February 2026	
*Payments for authorisation this meeting			
10/03/2026	Ms K Rew	Clerk's expenses February 2026	£21.10
10/03/2026	Parish Council Websites	Website hosting; domain renewal 02/03/27	£314.64
10/03/2026	CPRE	Annual membership renewal	£60.00
10/03/2026	CAPALC	CAPALC affiliation fee, NALC affiliation fee, DPO	£415.84