



www.eltonparishcouncil.gov.uk

**APPROVED MINUTES OF ELTON PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD IN HIGHGATE HALL ON TUESDAY
14TH APRIL 2026 COMMENCING AT 7:42 PM**

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

IN ATTENDANCE: Kerry Rew, Clerk; one member of the public

	Cllr Ross welcomed everyone to the meeting.	ACTION
1.	APOLOGIES: Cllr Cummins	
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: Updates from County and District were presented at the preceding Annual Parish Meeting (see Notes).	
5.	MINUTES OF MEETING 10TH MARCH 2026: Proposed Cllr McCann, seconded Cllr Walsh and APPROVED as a true record.	
6.	FINANCE: - The bank reconciliation for the year ending 31st March 2026 was circulated prior to the meeting. There was a balance of £72860.88 to carry forward. This sum has been accrued due to a number of major projects postponed or completed but yet to be invoiced by Cambridgeshire County Council. - The monthly cashflow update was circulated prior to the meeting and presented by the Clerk. - There were four payments presented for authorisation per the schedule below*. AGREED. Since the last meeting there were four pre-authorised payments: Clerk's salary March, bank charge March, electricity February, grass cut. - The deadline for the completion of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return is 1st July. The Parish will be exempt from external audit this year not having exceeded the £25,000 limit for income and expenditure, although all the documents must be completed for publication on the website and the exercise of public rights. - It was noted that the current electricity supply contract expires on 31st August. Clerk to obtain quotes for renewal.	

7.	PLANNING & PLANNING APPLICATIONS: 1. Planning Permission Consultation - 15 Overend ref 26/00663/HHFUL & 26/00664/LBC Item added following publication of agenda due to late receipt and 5th May deadline for comments. Recommend approval.	
8.	CORRESPONDENCE 1. The meeting approved the request from the defibrillator guardians to hold a spare set of defibrillator pads so that if used they can be immediately replaced without the device going out of operation. The meeting authorised the purchase of 1 x set G5 pads @ £69.00 + VAT RESOLVED 2. The meeting noted EPC comment to the Government consultation on proposals for Local Government Reorganisation in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough in favour of Option E (a standalone unitary authority of Huntingdonshire). HDC's own submission included a proposal to incorporate the new development at Tempsford, Bedfordshire. 3. The meeting noted recent correspondence and local concerns regarding onsite work in a field adjacent to Warmington Services. As there has been no contravention of planning or highways legislation, North Northamptonshire currently have no justification in taking any action against the new landowner. 4. The meeting noted that Bullock Road is scheduled for closure on 6th June for surface dressing. 5. The meeting noted posting of information on website and noticeboard about assistance schemes available to low income households for heating oil support. 6. It was noted that the School Playing Field is closed for essential maintenance.	
9.	REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS & CLERK 1. Clerk's report – notifications and updates for information: i. Highways fault reports – repairs to potholes in Back Lane, Highgate Green and Middle Street still outstanding ii. Cllr Speechley reported broken fencing adjacent to pumping station, River Lane to the Estate iii. Clerk reported vandalism to the Mill building to the Estate iv. The meeting reviewed the first cut carried out by the new contractor. The verge between 7 Stocks Green and the pumping station had been missed. It was agreed that otherwise the work had been most satisfactory. v. Clerk advised that professional arborists have been contacted for quotes to survey the trees on both parish-owned village greens and professional tree surgeons to quote for the work recommended. It is expected that a full report will be ready by the next meeting. vi. Eight of the nine current councillors chose to re-stand in the upcoming local elections on 7th May and have been returned in an uncontested election as there were fewer nominations than seats. Cllr Taylor will retire at the end of her four-year term on 11th May. Cllr Taylor was thanked for her contribution to the Parish Council over this time. A vacancy will therefore exist for a new councillor. vii. The meeting noted that Ingrebourne Valley, operators of Elton Quarry, has delivered another donation of gravel for the	

	bridleway at the sewage works, and for the access road to the Island. 2. Wildflowers/bio-diversity project – see report in Annual Parish Meeting Notes. Cllr Speechley reported that 10 swift boxes have been installed at various properties around the village and donations have been received totalling £95. HDC mowed the wildflower area on Highgate Green and will be reseeding. The small lime tree on Stocks Green has been confirmed as dead. A decision regarding replacement will be considered following completion of a report by an arborist. A wildflower area has been sown in Chapel Lane near the bench, with much positive feedback from residents. 3. Flood Action Group update See report in Annual Parish Meeting Notes. Anglian Water's Complex Risk team is to visit the village to assess the foul water management, which is well above capacity. 4. Speed Watch/MVAS – Roadside sessions will commence in the next week. Data reports from the three MVAS were circulated prior to the meeting. The one on Wansford Road clearly shows the positive impact of the calming measures. 5. Reports from Councillors i. Cllr McCann received an enquiry for permission to install a memorial bench on 'Block' Green. This was agreed in principle on the basis that the family would purchase the same model teak bench as those recently purchased by the Parish Council and would lay a concrete base. Clerk to obtain utilities searches to ascertain where it will be possible to install the bench. ii. Cllr McCann reported offensive graffiti under the lock bridge near the pontoon. Cllr Speechley to report to Environment Agency contact. iii. Cllr McCann again reported the broken step on the wooden footbridge over the river. Clerk to report to NNC. iv. A proposal was received from Cllr Ross that: <i>"Elton Parish Council to donate £100 to the STAUNCH fundraising appeal for the 24-25 June 2026 High Court Judicial Review of the North Northamptonshire Council planning permission granted to IM Properties for warehousing development on the A605 at Thrapston/Titchmarsh"</i> Cllr Willson proposed an amendment to the motion that the donation should be increased to £250; seconded by Cllr Walsh. The revised motion was proposed by Cllr Ross and seconded by Cllr Willson and was carried by a majority. RESOLVED v. Cllr Speechley reported that a meeting had been held between the PC, Northants Ramblers Association and the Environment Agency to discuss the proposed temporary closure and flooding of footpath MY11 to create a wetland habitat. There were concerns regarding the impact on surrounding rights of way and the loss of amenity, although a temporary diversion has now been agreed with the landowner. The Environment Agency has yet to put forward a formal proposal and so NNC has yet to issue any formal notice of closure. However, it was considered appropriate to advise the agencies involved of EPC's objections. Cllr Speechley to draft communication.	
--	--	--

	vi. Cllr Ross updated the meeting about two outstanding Highways projects. Regarding the installation of double yellow lines on the upper part of Middle Street, the contractor is awaiting delivery of the bollards, so a date for work to commence should be notified soon. Regarding the signage installation at Sheepwalk Farm a design is still pending. Once completed and accepted by EPC, work will be scheduled (12 week lead time).	
10.	DATE OF NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING: Tuesday, 12th May 2026 – to include Annual Meeting of the Council The meeting closed at 21:06	

DATE	PAYEE	DETAILS	TOTAL
Approved payments since last meeting			
21/03/2026	SSE Energy	Electricity supply February 2026	£109.26
31/03/2026	Unity Trust Bank	Service charge March 2026	£7.00
01/04/2026	Ms K Rew	Clerk's salary March 26	
01/04/2026	R J Flower Contracting T/A Prestige	Grass cutting 26.03.26	£474.00
*Payments for authorisation this meeting			
14/04/2026	Ms K Rew	Clerk's expenses March 26	£22.10
14/04/2026	Defib Store Ltd	Replacement defib pads	£82.80
14/04/2026	Cllr Speechley	Expenses for Flood Group meeting	£26.35
14/04/2026	Highgate Hall	Feb & Mar PC meeting, Flood Group meeting	£60.00