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**APPROVED MINUTES OF ELTON PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD IN HIGHGATE HALL ON TUESDAY
12TH MAY 2026 COMMENCING AT 7:14 PM**

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

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

	Cllr Ross welcomed everyone to the meeting.	ACTION
1.	APOLOGIES: 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: County and District councillors not present	
5.	MINUTES OF MEETING 14TH APRIL 2026: Proposed Cllr McCann, seconded Cllr Lay and APPROVED as a true record.	
6.	FINANCE: - The monthly cashflow update was circulated prior to the meeting and presented by the Clerk. - The meeting noted receipt of the Precept payment for 2026/27 of £17000. Also, a donation of £95 to the Elton Nature Recovery Group being held temporarily in the savings account. - 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 April, bank charge April, electricity March, grass cut, April hall hire. - Renewal quotes for the electricity supply contract were circulated prior to the meeting. Clerk obtained quotes through a parish councils recommended broker, and directly from the existing supplier SSE. The meeting agreed to renew the contract directly with SSE for 36 months if the price can be confirmed as fixed, and if the contract can be terminated penalty free if costs increase unacceptably. RESOLVED	
7.	PLANNING & PLANNING APPLICATIONS: Planning Permission Consultation - 37 Duck Street ref 26/00551/HHFUL Deadline for comments was 8th May – EPC recommended approval.	

	2. Planning Permission Consultation - Merienda, Greenhill Road ref 26/00660/FUL Deadline for comments was 9th May – EPC recommended refusal.	
8.	CORRESPONDENCE 1. The meeting noted receipt of a notification from Cambridgeshire County Council of a Definitive Map Modification Order from the British Horse Society to record a public bridleway at Billing Brook linking Elton Bridleways 20 and 21. Deadline for representations 3rd June. Cllr Walsh to prepare and circulate objection for consideration based on strong evidence to challenge the Order. 2. The meeting noted that work is scheduled for marking double yellow line parking restrictions and installation of bollards on upper Middle Street on 13th May. 3. The meeting noted that 2-way signals will be placed on Overend for repair and maintenance work by Anglian Water between 14th – 18th May. 4. The meeting noted that the public footpath through the churchyard will be closed on 3rd and 4th June for safety reasons whilst work is carried out to lop a tree.	
9.	REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS & CLERK 1. Clerk's report – notifications and updates for information: 2. Highways fault reports – repairs to potholes in Back Lane, Highgate Green and Middle Street/Rectory Farm Mews remain outstanding, though the large pothole outside the shop has recently been filled. Investigative work regarding the gully outside Rectory Farm Mews is ongoing. Anglian Water attended a burst water main in Middle Street which has apparently been fully resolved. 3. Cllr Speechley to discuss broken fencing adjacent to pumping station with the Estate this week. 4. Vandalism to a doorway in the Mill building has been re-boarded. 5. Graffiti at the lock has been removed from the steel structure but remains on the concrete walls. Cllr Speechley has recontacted the EA. 6. The Clerk notified the meeting that confirmation was received from North Northants Council that the towpath towards Warmington Mill will be mown in May and is scheduled for two cuts per year in May and October. 7. Clerk reported broken step on wooden bridge over river to NNC who have passed it on to the Environment Agency. Cllr Speechley to follow up with EA contact and NNC PRoW officer. 8. The fly tip on Oundle Road approaching Bullock Road was cleared immediately after reporting. 9. Prior to the meeting the Clerk circulated information about a survey and approach to management of the trees on parish-owned land at Stocks Green and 'Block' Green. The meeting agreed to commission a survey and report from a certified arborist on all the trees on the two greens at a cost of £395. Pending the findings of the report, the council will review any work required in order of priority according to safety, health, and future management for discussion at the next meeting in June. RESOLVED 10. The meeting was notified that Cllr Speechley will attend a CAPALC online training session about Public Rights of Way. Cllr Lay was informed of new councillor training date but is unable to attend. No further dates as yet available.	

	11. Wildflowers/bio-diversity project – Cllr Speechley reported that Highgate Green has been resown with a traditional wildflower mix including poppies. HDC contact has passed on the request regarding tree maintenance on HDC land to their Arboricultural Manager for comment. CCC chased about scanning the verge in Back Lane to establish where it may be suitable for new crab apple trees to be planted. All newly installed swift boxes have now been listed on Parish Online mapping and £95 raised in donations is now ringfenced in PC account. 12. Flood Action Group update Teams meeting with CCC to discuss Watercourse Maintenance Grant – CCC to contact a village resident to establish if they can assist in installation of non-return valve on the land pipe to a River Lane property that has an outlet to the River Nene. Costings are required and the CCC Watercourse Maintenance Grant could be increased to accommodate the cost of this work. Resident has asked for a specification for works to submit a quote. Meeting held with HDC's Communities Team who are assisting with purchase of a container for the flood group kit. A 'Match My Project' grant could help but this and other funding options require the group to be a charity or not-for-profit organisation. Cllr Speechley to obtain a full costing for further discussion prior to any submissions. AW Complex Risk Team are due to be undertaking their own CCTV assessment of all foul water pipework in relation to surface water flooding in River Lane. Despite contacting AW via 3 separate routes there is still no date. CCC have offered help via Public Affairs. Nene Rivers Trust is looking for funding to cover cost of work to clear back channels around the Island. AW funding might be available for installation but not surveys or design so further opportunities being sought. Elton Estates also support moving this work forward. Gully work outside Rectory Farm Mews raised by CCC but sub-contracted awaiting response from individual in charge of request. 13. Speed Watch/MVAS – Two roadside sessions have taken place opposite St Botolph's Green, and one outside Highgate Hall, all recording relatively few vehicles during the hour session and almost 100% speed compliance. Data reports from the three MVAS were circulated prior to the meeting all showing good compliance with the speed limit. 14. Reports from Councillors i. Cllr McCann updated the meeting about the installation of a memorial bench on 'Block' Green. Following receipt of utilities searches a suitable location has been identified. Pending purchase of the bench and laying of concrete base. APPROVED ii. Cllr Speechley continues to liaise with Northants Ramblers Association and the Environment Agency to discuss the proposed temporary closure and flooding of footpath MY11 to create a wetland habitat. No further updates.	
10.	DATE OF NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING: Tuesday, 9th June 2026 The meeting closed at 20:33	

DATE	PAYEE	DETAILS	TOTAL
Approved payments since last meeting			
21/04/2026	SSE Energy	Electricity supply March 2026	£103.90
30/04/2026	Unity Trust Bank	Service charge April 2026	£7.00
01/05/2026	Ms K Rew	Clerk's salary April 26	
23/04/2026	Highgate Hall	April PC meeting	£20.00
24/04/2026	R J Flower Contracting T/A Prestige	Grass cutting 16.04.26	£474.00
*Payments for authorisation this meeting			
12/05/2026	Elan City UK	Extended warranty year 1 - MVAS 24/01-0011	£223.10
12/05/2026	CAPALC	PRoW training Cllr Speechley	£35.00
12/05/2026	Ms K Rew	Clerk's expenses April 26	£56.60
12/05/2026	Peterborough Accountancy Service	Internal audit 2025-26 & payroll 2026-27	£150.00
12/05/2026	STAUNCH Campaign donation	Donation towards legal fees A605 warehousing	£250.00