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**DRAFT MINUTES OF ELTON PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD IN HIGHGATE HALL ON TUESDAY 9TH
JUNE 2026 COMMENCING AT 7:30 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; one member 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. Cllr Bywater reported via email that frustratingly the recent meeting of the A605 working group had not been set up as intended and there was only one officer present (from Cambridgeshire County Council); none of the other participants had been invited. Another meeting is to be scheduled in June to be hosted by Cllr Bywater. He also reported that he had been interviewed on BBC Radio Cambridgeshire about the latest published speed data for the A605 at Elton. The data now recognises the A605 as one of the worst roads in Cambridgeshire for speeding. It was a valuable opportunity to highlight residents' ongoing concerns and discuss what further measures can be taken to improve road safety on this stretch of road. He advised that a new Highways Maintenance Manager is to be appointed soon.	
5.	MINUTES OF MEETING 12TH MAY 2026: Proposed Cllr Walsh, seconded Cllr McCann and APPROVED as a true record.	
6.	FINANCE: - 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 had been four pre-authorised payments: Clerk's salary May, bank charge May, electricity April, 1 x grass cut. - Clerk confirmed the renewal of a fixed rate electricity supply contract for 36 months with effect from 1st September with the existing supplier, SSE.	

	4. Clerk advised the meeting that a purchase order had been received from Cambridgeshire County Council for their contribution towards grass cutting of their land throughout the village. The amount should have been an increase on last year's contribution in line with inflation but was in fact less than the contribution for 2025/26. This was queried by the Clerk and a revised purchase order received for £843.69. Although this does not represent the full 3.3% increase anticipated and is less than 25% of the cost to the Parish, the meeting agreed to accept this amount. Clerk to invoice CCC. 5. The meeting noted insurance renewal for Year 2 of the 3-year Long Term Agreement due in July.	
7.	PLANNING & PLANNING APPLICATIONS: 1. EPC submitted a representation challenging the Definitive Map Modification Order to record a public bridleway in Elton on 3rd June. Due to this and other objections, the County Council is obliged to submit these to the Planning Inspector for review. 2. Huntingdonshire District Council opened a consultation regarding some potential additional smaller site allocations in the Local Plan to 2046. None of these would affect Elton though one positive is the announcement of a reserve site at Sapley Park, near Abbots Ripton for 7000 houses which seems to endorse that there would be no need for housing further north such as at Sibson or Chesterton. 3. North Northamptonshire Council has launched its Local Plan Scoping Consultation which runs until 1st July. This includes a call for sites prior to preparation of a new Local Plan.	
8.	CORRESPONDENCE 1. The meeting noted the reminder that all analogue landlines will be switched off by January 2027 and moved to a digital home phone or other type of landline replacement. For most this is straightforward, but for older or vulnerable people, particularly those with telecare alarms or no mobile phone, it can be confusing. Residents can find out more at UK transition from analogue to digital landlines - GOV.UK to help prepare for this switchover. 2. The meeting noted comments from residents about the double yellow line parking restrictions and installation of bollards on upper Middle Street. Some were positive noting that traffic flowed more easily on Middle Street and exiting from driveways was easier, and others observed that more drivers were using School Lane to drop children, and cars were driving over the grass verge causing damage to trees and roots. It was noted that the installation of bollards on the bank in Middle Street had not been specifically requested by EPC but was included in the scheme by Cambridgeshire County Council. The bollards are intended not only to prevent parking on the grass but to emphasise the no parking restriction and to hinder door opening. The Parish Council will write to the School requesting that parents are again reminded to park in the Black Horse car park, or another safe location, and not to use School Lane for dropping off. 3. Notification was received from National Highways that the A1 will be closed overnight 13th – 22nd June for surveying prior to the commencement of permanent culvert repairs at Water Newton in 2027. 4. A design drawing has been received and approved for warning signage at Sheepwalk Farm.	

	5. The meeting noted the Village Open Day and events on Sunday 14th June. 6. The meeting noted BBC news reports about local concerns of speeding on the A605 near Elton, covered above at Item 4 by Cllr Bywater. 7. The meeting noted that the new bench on Stocks Green has been damaged beyond repair due to being hit by a vehicle parked on the green. Cllr Ross to check insurance excess prior to deciding whether to claim for a replacement on the insurance.	
9.	REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS & CLERK 1. Clerk's report – notifications and updates for information: i. The meeting noted that there had been a number of incidents involving visitors to the river over the Bank Holiday weekend to which the police were called. Residents were thanked for clearing litter afterwards. The Clerk was able to arrange for additional collections for the litter bin and the wheelie bin which proved invaluable. ii. Councillors were reminded of the legal requirement to complete Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest forms within 28 days of election. These to be submitted to the Clerk for onward transmission to HDC. iii. It was noted that a number of Highways fault reports have been closed automatically by CCC due to failure to meet their deadline. Potholes on Back Lane and Highgate Green, and the blocked culvert in Duck Street have been re-reported. Details of these sent to Cllr Bywater for discussion with Highways officer. Since the last meeting reports have been submitted about potholes on Overend at the end of the Church footpath, the flattened bollard at the A605/B671 junction, and damaged paving at the end of Pages Passage. iv. The collapse of the Willow Brook bank and damaged fencing has been reported to North Northants Council and Elton Estate. v. The broken fence adjacent to the pumping station at River Lane has been mended. It is hoped this will deter visitors from crossing to the river by this route, which is not a footpath. vi. There has been no progress on removing the remaining graffiti at the Lock. vii. Issues regarding the overgrown footpath between Elton Lock and Warmington covered later in the meeting at Item 9.4 viii. There has been no progress since the last meeting regarding responsibility (Environment Agency, NNC, landowner) for the repair of the footbridge over the river. See also Item 9.4 below ix. Prior to the meeting, the Clerk circulated a full survey and report of the trees on the parish-owned village greens compiled by an arboricultural consultant. This report outlined work required to be carried out to ensure the Parish manages its trees responsibly, reduces the risk to users and neighbouring areas, and carries out its duty of care to ensure that trees do not present an unreasonable	

	hazard. Works were recommended within a 6 – 12-month period according to severity. Clerk to send the report to four certified tree surgeons for competitive quotations to conduct the full scope of works required. Members to receive cost details prior to the next meeting so a tree surgeon may be appointed to complete the works later this year. 2. Wildflowers/bio-diversity project – Cllr Speechley reported that the resowing of Highgate Green with a traditional wildflower mix including poppies is showing signs of growth but is likely to be struggling due to lack of rain. Likewise, the sowing on Chapel Lane has not yet shown signs of growth. There has still been no contact from HDC's Arboricultural Manager. Cllr Speechley will chase using EPC Tree Survey report as example of what EPC is doing to manage and maintain trees on parish-owned greens. Still waiting for CCC response about scanning the verge to establish where it may be suitable for new crab apple trees to be planted. Cllr Speechley to use EPC tree survey report to hasten particularly as CCC recently issued a Woodland Creation survey to assess possibility of hedgerow creation linked to our LNRS (Local Nature Recovery Strategy) and that of Cambs and Peterborough Combined Authority. 3. Flood Action Group update Cllr Speechley reported that a specification for works to install a non-return valve on the land pipe to a River Lane property that has an outlet to the River Nene is still awaited from CCC. CCC have contacted Anglian Water about a structure in manhole cover in field next to pumping station. HDC's 'Match My Project' submission requires costings for a concrete plinth as a base for the flood kit container. Cllr McCann to provide to assist compilation of grant funding proposal. Cllr Speechley to meet Anglian Water Complex Risk Team representative on 11th June. They are due to be undertaking their own CCTV assessment of all foul water pipework in relation to surface water flooding in River Lane. Nene Rivers Trust search for funding to cover cost of work to clear back channels around the Island discussed at meeting on 5th June. Looking at larger scale to spread cost across multiple sites and appeal more to EA investment opportunity. Bespoke recommendations to protect the property pending survey by EA. Investigation for gully work outside Rectory Farm Mews is still awaited from CCC sub-contractor. Cllr Speechley held a meeting with Elton Estates to review land pipes and connectivity at River Lane, Duck St., and drain at St Botolph's Green to aid assessing ownership and to apply pressure to Anglian Water. Also considered removal of metal tank in field near Lock/River Lane. Environment Agency to cut Flood Relief Channel in September 2026 with agreement of Elton Estates. 4. Fotheringhay Wetland Creation/ Footpath MY8/MY11 Elton to Warmington Lock Cllr Speechley met with the EA and Natural England on 5th June. Both parties stated TTRO (Temporary Traffic Regulation Order) applied for, which is a legal order used by local highway authorities	
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	to temporarily restrict or close roads, footpaths, or public rights of way. Since the previous meeting with them the point at which the proposed bank lowering where water will overtop the bank, has been raised so that flooding will take longer to occur. There still appears to be no plan for future maintenance or for a bridge or diversion if and when the path becomes eroded. At the suggestion of CCC's Map Team EPC has written to NNC Map Team requesting further information and to pause the TTRO process. EPC has requested a full update on this proposal and for assurances EPC will be consulted as the plan to flood this footpath seems to have little regard for the impact over time on the Public Right of Way. The order to designate this a footpath was only 6 years ago and was hard fought for, but current maintenance in tackling overgrown vegetation by NNC is a cause for concern. EPC concerns are shared by the Ramblers' Association. A meeting is to take place on 23rd June with North Northants Rights of Way User Group at Kier's offices (contractors for North Northants Council). 5. Speed Watch/MVAS – Data reports from the three MVAS were circulated prior to the meeting all showing good compliance with the speed limit. It was suggested that the radar sign in Duck Street could be turned to face outbound traffic as has been done on Wansford Road in the past. 6. Reports from Councillors i. Cllr McCann requested that the verge outside the Old Bakehouse, Duck Street should be added to the grass cutting schedule. Clerk to confirm with contractor. ii. Cllr Speechley attended a course on Rights of Way legislation. Handout to be circulated to all councillors for information.	
10.	DATE OF NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING: Tuesday, 14th July 2026 The meeting closed at 21:08	

DATE	PAYEE	DETAILS	TOTAL
Approved payments since last meeting			
19/05/2026	R J Flower Contracting T/A Prestige	Grass cutting 12.05.26	£474.00
27/05/2026	SSE Energy	Electricity supply April 2026	£84.08
31/05/2026	Unity Trust Bank	Service charge May 2026	£7.00
01/06/2026	Ms K Rew	Clerk's salary May 26	
*Payments for authorisation this meeting			
09/06/2026	Highgate Hall	May PC meeting, May Flood Group	£40.00
09/06/2026	R J Flower Contracting T/A Prestige	Grass cut 03.06.26	£474.00
09/06/2026	Ms K Rew	Clerk's expenses May 26	£22.40
09/06/2026	SSE Energy	Electricity supply May 2026	£71.56