Ellington Parish Council

Minutes of meeting of Ellington Parish Council held
on **Monday 9th September, 7.30 pm** at the Village Hall, Ellington.

Present: Councillors: Cllrs Norton (Chairman), Hinchliffe (Vice-Chair), Chapman, Lumbers, Crook and Mackenzie
Clerk: Lisa Hazel
County / Disc: Cllr Ian Gardener and Cllr Stephen Cawley

Public: 2 members of the public was present.

Open Forum
A resident asked about the newly installed sign on the lower green. The Clerk highlighted the Parish Council has been contacted by Lady Mary Dinah off Ellington who has been invited to the next meeting.
Maintenance of ditches was raised. It was noted this is on the agenda item: 1793.
The difficulty in booking the Ting Bus was raised. Cllr Ian Gardener confirmed Cambridge Greater Partnership are currently carrying out a consultation into bus services in the region.
The proposed closure of Brampton Road, Grafham was noted. Cllr Ian Gardener provide members with an update on the current position.

1787 To receive apologies for Absence.
Apologies were received from Cllr Schmidt.

1788 Declarations of interest in any agenda item
The following declarations were received:
- Cllr Lumbers item: 1800 (c)
- Cllr Chapman item: 1793 (drainage ditch) + 1794 as a tenant farmer
- Cllr Norton item: 1791.
- Cllr Gardener item: 1794 as the Chairman of Grafham Parish Council.

1789 County and District Councillors Reports
Please see reports attached Appendix:A
Noted Call for Sites is still open for land submission.

1790 To approve the minutes of the meeting held on the 8th of July and the planning meeting held on 29th July 2024
Both minutes were approved as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

It was agreed to take item: 1794 here.

1794 Brampton Road, Grafham - For Information
- **Note temporary road closure to repair bridge 2nd September for 10 weeks. -** NOTED
- **Note proposals for "Quiet Way".**

Cllr Chapman declared an interest in this item.
Cllr Ian Gardener gave an outline of the proposals. It was noted a working group has been formed and there is a petition against the closure. Ellington Parish Council were asked if they would like to join the working group. On a proposition by Cllr Crook and seconded by Cllr Chapman it was agreed Cllr Rob Norton should represent Ellington Parish Council and join the working group as Chair of the Council.

Cllr Norton confirmed he has spoke to residents about the proposals and the feedback from the village is they are against permanent closure of the road especially if the A14 is blocked as this is the most direct route out of the village to Huntingdon. Noted several children in the village attend Hinchingbrooke School and resident(s) work there. Who regularly use the road to access the School. On a proposition by Cllr Mackenzie and seconded by Cllr Lumbers it was agreed Ellington Parish Council would formally raise their objections to the road closure.

Cllr Ian Gardener and Cllr Stephen Cawley left here.

1791 To consider matters arising from the previous minutes / not covered elsewhere on agenda:

- **Village Hal Insurance expenditure of CIL money - update**

Cllr Norton declared an interest in this item as Chairman of the Village Hall.
The Clerk confirmed she has sought clarification and CIL money can not be spent on insurance policies. Confirmed the money is to come out of Parish Councils finances as previously agreed.

- **Ellington Brook bank erosion - update**

Noted the bank erosion is being monitored with no immediate action required. The Clerk confirmed she has received a map from the Environment Agency showing the main river extent for which the Environment Agency have permissive powers to undertake maintenance works.

Vegetation front of pumping station - update

Noted this has now been cut back. The Parish Council's grass cutters are to be asked once the grass has been established to include this in their grass cutting schedule.

- **VH Fixed wiring test - update**

Cllr Norton declared an interest in this item as Chairman of the Village Hall.
Noted the test has now been carried out. Some minor remedial work is required costs of which are to be covered by the Village Hall.

- **A14 Safety Advisory Group Meeting - update**

Cllr Mackenzie confirmed the minutes of the meeting have been circulated to all members. The next meeting is to be held on the 16th of September.

- **LHI Bid(s) - Update**

Noted designs have been drawn up based on recent discussions. A final decision is awaited.

- **Footpath Diversion Order - update**

Noted the judicial review period has ended, and the County Council did not receive any notification that anyone questioned the validity of the Order. Works on the new routes are unlikely to start until late September. After the applicant completes these works, the Rights of Way officer will then need to inspect the new routes. Until such time as the Rights of Way officer has certified that the new routes are set out to a standard suitable for public use, the existing public footpaths should be available for use

1792 Consultations:

HDC Local Plan

- Note Engagement Briefing Sessions 24th or 30th of September 2024

The Clerk provided a brief background to the consultation. Noted briefing sessions are to be held in September. It was agreed this is to be an agenda item for the next meeting to allow members time to attend the briefing sessions and look at the consultation in detail.
Action: Clerk.

Active Travel Hierarchy Consultation

- Consider Parish Council Response

This was discussed in detail and it was unanimously agreed the main routes should be given higher priority. Cllr's Hinchliffe and Mackenzie are to respond on behalf of the Parish Council.

Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Combined Authority Bus Franchising Consultation

- Consider Parish Council Response

Agreed residents should be consulted on this consultation and the Local Plan for their views. The Clerk was asked to draw up a Newsletter to be delivered to all residents

highlighting the Local Plan and Bus Franchising Consultation. This is to be an agenda item for the next meeting. **Acton:Clerk.**

1793 Ellington Thorpe Update(s)

- **Damaged Road Sign**

Noted this has been removed by Highways and a new sign ordered.

- **Overgrown Vegetation**

Noted the overgrown vegetation has now been cut from Ellington, through Ellington Thorpe up to Grafham. The Parish Council were impressed with the quality of work carried out. The Clerk was asked to send a letter of thanks to Highways highlighting the exceptional work undertaken. **Action: Clerk.**

- **Drainage Ditch, Pumping Station, Environment Agency update**

Cllr Chapman declared an interest In this item.
The Clerk confirmed she has received confirmation from the EA that they are not responsible for the drainage ditches around the pumping station. It was noted the ditches have become silted up and blocked with overgrown vegetation. Cllr Chapman as tenant farmer confirmed he would clear the ditch assisted by Cllr Chapman.

1794 Brampton Road, Grafham - For Information

- **Note temporary road closure to repair bridge 2nd September for 10 weeks.**
- **Note proposals for "Quiet Way"**.

Noted this item was taken earlier.

1795 Community Trip

- **Consider option to fund potential future community trip in-conjunction with EPFA**

Noted Cllr Schmidt is not in attendance to provide further details. It was agreed to carry this item forward to the next meeting.

1796 Agree date for Autumn Litter Pick

Agreed the date is to be set for the 9th of November and be combined with the annual Churchyard clear up. Refreshments are to be served afterwards in the village hall. A budget of £50 was set. It was noted Hi-Vis jackets may need to be purchased.

1797 VE Day Bench

- **Consider request for bench to be re-positioned.**

It was confirmed an email has been received from the Branch Secretary for SSAFA Cambs and Beds asking the VE bench be placed in a better position with suggestions of locations. Noted a lot of time and consideration went into the original positioning off the bench with several positions tried before the final location was agreed. The current position provides a nice view looking south down the village. It was unanimously agreed to keep the current position off the bench and to enhance the area around the bench with planting. The Clerk is to convey this too SSAFA. **Action:Clerk.**

1798 Biodiversity Discusion

Noted Parish/town councils have a duty under Section 40 of NERC 2006 as amended under Section 102 of the Environment Act 2021. Government guidance published in May 2023 required all local authorities including town and parish councils to consider what action to take for biodiversity.
The Parish Council undertook a discussion on biodiversity. It was highlighted regular litter picks are undertaken and several new trees have been planted over the years. Noted biodiversity in the village will be increased with the new planting to be undertaken around the VE bench.

1799 Planning

- **PARISH COUNCIL CONSULTATION – APPLICATION REF. 24/01358/HHFUL Erection of single storey extension to rear following demolition of conservatory and internal alterations including removal of existing internal walls - 27 High Street Ellington Huntingdon PE28 0AB**

On a proposition by Cllr Lumbers and seconded by Cllr Chapman it was agreed to respond with 'No Objections".

1800 Finance & Administration:-

a) To receive financial situation of Council and to note bank reconciliation - NOTED

b) Note Marie Currie request for support - NOTED. Agreed not to provide any financial assistance at this time.

c) Consider carrying out new tree survey

Cllr Lumbers declared an interest in this item.

Noted it is recommended tree surveys are carried out every 3 years and a new survey is now due. It was unanimously agreed to appoint Oakbank to carry out a new tree survey as per the last survey. **Action:Clerk.**

d) Note conclusion of External Audit and additional comments

Noted. The additional comments were noted and it was agreed no further action is required.

1801 Payments made since last meeting and payments to be authorised.

The following payments were noted.

09/07/24	INTEREST EARNED	31.69
10/06/24	INTEREST EARNED	34.93
09/08/24	INTEREST EARNED	30.38
06/08/24	REIMBURSMENT ALEX HINCHLIFFE LEAFLET PRINITING	41.00
06/08/24	BEAM GRASS CUTTING	240.00
06/08/24	BEAM GRASS CUTTING	240.00
06/08/24	LISA HAZEL CLERK SALARY	348.75
29/08/24	BEAM GRASS CUTTING	240.00
29/08/24	FUNCTION 28 HOSTING FEES	24.00
29/08/24	FUNCTION 28 HOSTING FEES	24.00
29/08/24	PKF LITTLEJOHN AUDIT	252.00

1802 Any other Business for information only

- **Note offer of free compost.**

The Clerk was asked to consult residents to see if there is a demand for this.**Action: Clerk.**

Cllr Norton bought to members attention the National Planning Framework Consultation. The link is to be circulated to members.

1803 Date of next meetings: 11th November 2024

• 2025 - 13th Jan, March 10th, May 12th, July 7th, Sept 8th, Nov 10th.

There being no further business the meeting close at 21.46pm.