Ellington Parish Council

Minutes of meeting of Ellington Parish Council held
on **Monday 11th November 2024, 7.30 pm** at the Village Hall, Ellington.

Present: Councillors:	Cllrs Norton (Chairman), Hinchliffe (Vice-Chair), Chapman, Lumbers, Schmidt and Mackenzie
Clerk:	Lisa Hazel
County / Disc:	Cllr Ian Gardener and Cllr Stephen Cawley
Public:	5 members of the public was present. Lady Mary Dinah off Ellington was also in attendance.

Open Forum
A member of the public enquired when cutting back and clearing of the drainage ditch by the pumping station was due to take place. It was confirmed works would start shortly subject to weather.

1804 Village Green

- **Brief outline of Village Greens by Clerk**

The Clerk gave a brief presentation on Village Green's. It was noted Ellington's Village Green is registered.

- **Welcome Lady Mary Dinah of Ellington to meeting**

The Chairman welcomed Lady Mary Dinah to the meeting.

Lady Mary Dinah's ownership of the village green and several areas of common land in Ellington was noted.

Lady Mary Dinah confirmed she is Founder and CEO of the Mary Dinah Foundation and is passionate about transforming green spaces into vibrant parks. Lady Mary Dinah confirmed her foundation is happy to support the Parish Council and residents of Ellington and to help as much as possible.

The following questions were asked:
Q - What is your intention?
A - Climate change is at the forefront. I would like to provide a haven for families to reconnect with nature and learn about environmental stewardship. The green spaces / parks demonstrate our commitment to nurturing a love for nature in the next generation. By providing a space for children to connect with the environment, we aim to inspire lifelong advocates for conservation and sustainability I hope to achieve this in collaboration with local schools. In London I undertake book readings in the park under the trees and this is something I would like to undertake with local schools. I aim to foster a sense of wonder and curiosity about the natural world.

The foundation is also looking to potentially plant more native trees to enhance local biodiversity, creating habitats for wildlife and promoting ecological balance.

Q - There has been some concern over the appearance of your sign. Do you intend to build on the land?
A - There are no plans or intention to build on the land. There are a few pieces of larger areas of land the other side of the A14 that the foundation is looking into see what can be achieved subject to access. All areas will be kept for recreational use.

Q - The location of the sign restricts views when exiting the road. Can it be relocated elsewhere?

A - The location of the sign was thoroughly researched before installation however I am happy for it to be relocated.

Q - Why Ellington and why now?
A - The title was bestowed to me. In 2023 I was bestowed the title Lady Mary of Ellignton by the former owners. In the first 6 months no initial action was taken. This allowed us time to evaluate the site and gain an understanding of what can be achieved. The foundation is happy to carry out engagement with the community and stakeholders.

1805 To receive apologies for Absence.
Apologies we're noted and received from Cllr Crook.

1806 Declarations of interest in any agenda item
Cllr Lumbers and Cllr Chapman declared an interest in item: 1813.

1807 County and District Councillors Reports
Both reports are attached to the minutes Appendix: A
Cllr Ian Gardener asked if there are any white lines that could do with renewal in the village. Thrapston Road exit and entrance was highlighted.

It was bought to the attention of the Clerk the 2 way sign, slip road has been knocked down. This is to be reported by the Clerk. It was noted both the County and District Councillor left here.

1808 To approve the minutes of the meeting held on the 9th of September 2024.
The minutes were approved as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

1809 To consider matters arising from the previous minutes / not covered elsewhere on agenda:
- **Note Newsletter has now been printed and distributed -** NOTED
- **Note new Ellington Thorpe Sign has been installed -** NOTED
- **Drainage ditches - Update**

This was covered under Public Forum
- **Community Trip - Update**

Noted the EPFA are looking into this. No further action is required from the Parish Council.
- **Litter Pick - Update**

Noted the refreshments went down well. Thanks were expressed to Richard for preparing the food / refreshments and Arthur Frost for delivering the leaflets.
- **Note Tree Survey Results**

Noted. Agreed to obtain a quote for work recommend to be undertaken within 4 months.
- **Free Compost - Agree site for delivery**

Agreed site. Clerk is to arrange for delivery.
- **Brampton Road Quiet Way - Update**

Noted Ian Gardener covered this in his report. Updates are to be shared on Facebook.

1810 Street Lights
- **Consider Request for New Street Lights Thrapston Road**

This item was discussed in detail. The resident in attendance for this item was invited to address the Council.

The following was noted:
- CIL money could potentially be used to install the lights.
- An LHI application could be made for this.
- Once installed the Parish Council would need to budget for maintenance of the lights and any additional insurance costs.
- Installation of lights could set a precedent.
- Costs have previously been obtained from Balfour Beatty for installation of full street lights but not for bollard lighting.
- Rose Homes are no longer going to install bollard lighting at entrance.
- Ongoing electoral costs would need to be obtained.

- Electricity would have to be provided by an 'un-metered' supply which the Parish Council would have to arrange and pay associated costs for.

It was agreed more information is needed before a final decision is made i.e. ongoing costs etc. This is to be an agenda item for the next meeting.

- **Street Light Locations**

The Clerk highlighted the previous contract the Parish Council had with Balfour Beatty for maintenance of 3 street lights has expired the location which is unclear. The Clerk is to undertake a survey of all street lights and report back in due course.

1811 Note Local Highway Improvement Initiative (LHI) 2025/26 Now Open

- **Note online information session: 28th November 2024 (12:00PM-13:30PM)** - NOTED.

It was agreed the Parish Council should make an LHI application. Two suggestions were put forward; new MVAS / APR cameras and additional signage / white markings by the Mermaid to stop the walkway for pedestrians being blocked by cars. The Clerk is too look into both options and advise members accordingly.

1812 Note HDC 2024/5 Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) funding round is now open.

Noted. It was suggested to make an application for a new path, Ellignton Thorpe.

Noted Lady Mary Dinah and several members of the public left here.

1813 Consultations:

HDC Local Plan

- **To consider / approve Parish Council Response**

Cllr Chapman and Lumbers both declared an interest in this item.
Cllr Hinchliffe gave a presentation on the "land availability" section and sought members views. It was noted 3 areas of land in Ellington have been put forward for inclusion in the plan. This was discussed in detail. The Clerk took notes and it was agreed the Clerk would respond accordingly within the time limit.

It was agreed to suspend Standing Orders and continue with the meeting to allow items to be discussed.

Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Combined Authority Bus Franchising Consultation

- **Consider / approve Parish Council Response**

Cllr Mackenzie provided a brief presentation. It was agreed to approve and submit the draft response.
Cllr Mackenzie gave a brief overview of the recent A14SAG meeting he attended here.

Enabling remote attendance and proxy voting at local authority meetings

- **Consider Parish Council Response**

The Parish Council declined to comment at this time.

1814 Planning

- **PARISH COUNCIL CONSULTATION – TREE APPLICATION REF. 24/01954/TREE**

Sweet Chestnut: Reduction in canopy by 1.5m and deadwood to be removed and remove branches overhanging 2 Spinney Field by 3m. Copper Beech: Felling of tree. 3 Spinney Field Ellington Huntingdon PE28 0AT

On a proposition by Cllr Lumbers and seconded by Cllr Hinchliffe it was agreed to recommend "Approval" with an additional comment that work is carried out by a professional.

- **PARISH COUNCIL CONSULTATION – APPLICATION REF. 24/01844/FUL**

Minor internal works to modern garage within the curtilage of a grade II listed building and change of use (C3a to Eciii). Land At The Cottage High Street Ellington

On a proposition by Cllr Mackenzie and second by Cllr Chapman it was agreed to recommend "Approval".

1815 Budget

- **Budget review -** NOTED
- **Approve Budget -** AGREED
- **Approve Precept Request**

On a proposition by Cllr Chapman and seconded by Cllr Mackenzie the budget was approved and the precept agreed at £9,834.00. It was noted the budgeted annual spend is more than the precept, however it was agreed to absorb the difference with savings.

1816 Finance & Administration:-

a) To receive financial situation of Council and to note bank reconciliation
Noted.

b) Consider Donation to Grafham Water First Responder Scheme
This was discussed in detail. It was noted the amount of funding still outstanding is £1,900. It was unanimously agreed this is a worthwhile scheme to support. The Parish Council agreed to donate the full amount of £1,900 using CIL money.

c) Consider Donation to New Yoga Class in VH
Noted the request was to help set up a new yoga close. However, as the class is now up and running it was considered funding is no longer required.

d) Note Parish Council can make applications to Wooley Hill Wind Farm Fund
The Clerk reminded members the Parish Council can make applications under this fund twice a year.

e) Consider changing website providers
The Clerk and Chairman highlighted difficulties they have experienced with the current email and website provider. It was also highlighted the website is not WAG 2.1AA compliant. It was agreed the Clerk is to look into new website providers and bring quotes to the next meeting for consideration.

f) Approve purchase of Christmas Tree
Approved. Cllr Lumbers is to contact last years providers.

g) Consider purchase of planter to be positioned by VE Bench
Agreed. The Clerk provided one suggestion which members felt was not appropriate. The Clerk was asked to provide further suggestion of planters for the next meeting.

1817 Payments made since last meeting and payments to be authorised.

22 Oct 24	OAKBANK - TREE SURVEY	780.00
22 Oct 24	FUNCTION 28 - WEBSITE EMAIL FESS	24.00
09 Oct 24	ICO RENEWAL	35.00
04 Oct 24	LISA HAZEL SEPTEMBER PAY	348.75
04 Oct 24	FUNCTION 28 - EMAIL WEBSITE FEES	24.00
04 Oct 24	CAPALC LTD - TRAINING	75.00
04 Oct 24	CAPALC LTD - TRAINING	180.00
04 Oct 24	CAPALC LTD - TRAINING	50.00
04 Oct 24	BEAM GRASS CUTTING	240.00
09 Sep 24	LISA HAZEL AUGUST PAY	348.75

1818 Any other Business for information only - NONE

1819 Date of next meetings:

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

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 10.19pm.