Ellington Parish Council

Minutes of **Extra-Ordinary** meeting of Ellington Parish Council held on **Wednesday 30th April 2025, 6.00 pm** at the Village Hall, Ellington.

Present: Councillors: Cllrs Rob Norton - Chair (in part), Hinchliffe (Vice-Chair), Crook, Chapman and Schmidt.

Clerk: Lisa Hazel
County / Disc: None Present

Public: None.

Cllr Hinchliffe as Vice-Chair chaired the meeting until the Chairman arrived.

Open Forum
None.

1863 To receive apologies for Absence.
Apologies were noted and approved from Andrew MacKenzie and Rob Norton who arrived late.

1864 Declarations of interest in any agenda item
Alex Hinchliffe declared an interest in item:1869

1865 To approve the minutes of the meeting held on Monday 10th March 2025
On a proposition by Mark Schmidt and seconded by Alex Hinchliffe the minutes were approved as a true record and signed by the Vice-Chair.

1866 To consider matters arising from the previous minutes / not covered elsewhere on agenda:
- **Note 80th anniversary of Victory in Europe Day - 8th May 2025**

RESOLVED to purchase 80th anniversary VE Day roundels for the lampposts. A budget of up to £200 was approved. **Action:Clerk**

1867 Planning
- **PARISH COUNCIL CONSULTATION – TREE APPLICATION REF. 25/00708/TREE G1 - Lime Trees - Reduce by 3-4m on the top, 1-2m on the sides, deadwood and slight thin. Reason for the work: To mitigate risk of failure over public land and near property 2 Spinney Field Ellington Huntingdon PE28 0AT**

It was unanimously agreed to recommend “Approval”.

Noted Bob Lumbers arrived at this point to answer any questions in relation to items: 1869 as invited to do so by the Parish Council.

It was agreed to vary the order of reference to take item:1871 here.

1871 Any other Business for information only
Alex Hinchliffe gave an updated on the recent A14 Safety Advisory Group meeting. Noted completion of works is due for end of May. The issue of Lorries travelling through the village was raised at the meeting..

1868 Motion to Exclude

Under the Public Bodies (Admissions to Meetings) Act 1960, the public and representatives of the press and broadcast media be excluded from the meeting

during the consideration of the following items of business as publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest because of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted.
No members of public were present.

Alex Hinchliffe declared an interest in item: 1868.

Mark Chapman was voted to resume position of Chair temporarily.

Mark Chapman invited the Parish Council to ask Bob Lumbers and Alex Hinchliffe any questions or to seek clarification before they are asked to leave.

Noted Rob Norton arrived here.

Rob Norton resumed the role as Chair and thanked Alex Hinchliffe and Mark Chapman for temporarily stepping into the role of Chairmanship.

Both Alex Hinchliffe having declared an interest and Bob Lumbers who is on temporary suspension after answering minor clarifications were asked to leave the room whilst discussion took place. Both members left and stepped outside

1869 Resolve to Consider Legal Letters Received

- **Approve any Action to be taken**

Rob Norton provided background information and set out the procedure for this item which was discussed in detail. Noted the Parish Council has received 2 legal letters addressing 2 members in their roles of Parish Councillors.

RESOLVED and voted upon to follow the Parish Councils Complaint Policy. The Policy indicates If the Parish Council is unable to resolve the complaint satisfactorily, the matter will be referred to the Monitoring Officer of Huntingdon District Council (HDC) who will review the complaint in accordance with the procedures set out by the District Council and determine the appropriate course of action.

AGREED it was felt the PC could not resolve the complaints satisfactory as per the Complaints Policy. The complainant is to be advised to contact the Monitoring Officer at HDC: **Action: Clerk.**

The Parish Council then reviewed its policies and any training required. RESOLVED all members are to attend Code of Conduct training. The Clerk was asked to arrange this. **Action: Clerk**

- **Appoint Legal Representation if required**

RESOLVED not to appoint legal representation at this stage.

It was agreed Bob Lumbers should remain on temporary suspension until the matter is resolved.

1870 Motion to Re-Admit

To resolve that the confidential business having been concluded, the press and public be re-admitted to the meeting.
The meeting was reopened. Alex Hinchliffe and Bob Lumbers were invited to rejoin the meeting. Both members were advised of the cause of action taken by the Parish Council.

1871 Any other Business for information only
This item was taken earlier.

1872 Date of next meetings: 2025:- May 12th, July 7th, Sept 8th, Nov 10th.
There being no further action the meeting was close at 7.00pm.