Ellington Parish Council

Minutes of meeting of Ellington Parish Council held
on **Monday 10th March 2025, 7.30 pm** at the Village Hall, Ellington.

Present: Councillors: Cllrs Hinchliffe (Vice-Chair), Chapman and Schmidt.
Clerk: Lisa Hazel
County / Disc: Cllr Stephen Cawley

Public: 2 members of the public were present.

In the absence of the Chair Cllr Hinchliffe as Vice-Chair chaired this meeting.

Cllr Hinchliffe read out the following statement on behalf of the Chair to the Council:
The Parish Council has been made aware of concerns regarding Cllr Lumbers' conduct as a member of Ellington Parish Council. Following consultation with the Clerk, Deputy Chairman, and Cllr Lumbers, it has been decided to temporarily suspend Councillor Lumbers from all EPC duties with immediate effect while investigations are carried out and legal advice is sought regarding the validity of the allegations. Once the investigations into Cllr Lumbers' conduct are concluded, a decision regarding his position will be made.

Open Forum
None

1846 To receive apologies for Absence
Apologies were noted and approved from Cllr's: Norton, Lumbers, MacKenzie and Crook.

1847 Declarations of interest in any agenda item
None.

1848 County and District Councillors Reports
Cllr Ian Gardner's apologies we're noted. The Clerk confirmed Cllr Ian Gardener has asked for the following information to be passed onto the Parish Council:

- A request was made for funding to be provided for a feasibility's study to be carried out on cycle routes. This was declined by current administration.

Cllr Stephen Cawley's report is attached to these minutes. Appendix:A

Noted Cllr Cawley left here.

1849 To approve the minutes of the extra-ordinary meeting held on Monday 10th February 2025
The Clerk confirmed that the previous minutes of the meeting held on the 13th of January 2025 were incorrect as they did not show Cllr Crook was in attendance. It was agreed to amend the minutes to show Cllr Crook's attendance due to its importance as uncorrected would indicate the 6 month rule for Cllr Crook would take effect. The amended minutes were approved and signed and are to be kept alongside the original minutes.

The minutes of the extraordinary meeting, Monday 10th February were checked, approved and signed. The Clerk reminded members the importance of checking draft minutes before approving them.

1850 To consider matters arising from the previous minutes / not covered elsewhere on agenda:

- **Woolley Hill Wind Farm - Note grant application submitted** - NOTED
- **Tree Works - Note now completed**

Noted the bench underneath was damaged but has since been repaired by the tree surgeon.

- **Website Quotes - Note offer from Aubergine to provide demo of platform**

Agreed this would be beneficial. The Clerk is to arrange this.

- **CIL Payments - Note CIL money can be spent on soil and plants -** NOTED
- **Note Chairmans Invite to attend meeting with Ben Obese-Jecty MP**
  - Consider items to be put forward for discussion in order of priority

Agreed the following items should be discussed: Farmers Inheritance Tax, Cycle Routes, Secondary Schools (lack of places), Active Travel and Bus Travel in rural areas.

1851 HDC Active Travel Consultation

- **Update on Event**

Cllr Hinchliffe provide an update on the event. It was noted the event was not well planned and the consultant was not aware of local issues.

- **Approve Response**

The response was approved and thanks were expressed to Cllr Mackenzie for drafting the response and collating all the information. This item is to be carried forward to the next meeting for any further updates. **Action:Clerk**

1852 Village Matters

- **Consider additional parking signage by Church / Mermaid PH**

Noted any additional signs would be placed on the Church wall therefore contact is to be made with the Church to ask if they would consider purchasing and erecting additional signage. **Action:Clerk**

- **Consider public request for continuation of double yellow lines, top of Grafham Road**

Noted and considered. The Clerk confirmed Highways have indicated any additional yellow lines would have to be applied for under the LHI Scheme. The Clerk was asked to try and obtain costs for the Parish Council to self fund additional yellow lines. A Facebook post is to be published asking residents, family and visitors to park considerately around the village. **Action:Clerk.**

- **Approve date for Annual village Litter Pick + Budget**

It was resolved to hold a litter pick in April and a budget of up to £150 was approved. Cllr Crook is to be asked to organise this.

1853 Village Planters

- **Resolve to approve quantity, design, size and location.**

The Clerk confirmed she has contacted a local company in Ellington who would be willing to make wooden planters for the village. This item was discussed in detail and the following was agreed:

- To purchase metal planters as it was felt they would be more durable and last longer,
- To purchase Broxap, metal Lancashire Planter's at a cost of £594.00 each. Cllr Chapman confirmed he would take delivery of the planters.
- Purchase of planters and plants is to come from CIL money. The Clerk confirmed CIL money can also be spent on compost and plants,
- One planter is to placed next to each bench on the village green / by the village sign (3 in total),
- Clerk is to obtain permission from Lady Mary to install the planters on her land,
- Cllr Chapman is to speak to the late Dave Porter's family to ask if the planters can dedicated in his name. If agreed a plaque is to be installed in dedication,
- The Clerk is to research low maintenance plants suitable for container planting based on Grafham's planters,
- HDC are to be contacted to see if additional free compost can be obtained,
- Cllr Hinchliffe is to measure to see if a planter can be installed under the village sign,
- The Clerk is to look into potential sponsorship of the planters,
- Further research is to be carried out as to how the planters will sit on the ground to ensure they do not sink into the ground.

Action:Clerk

1854 Planning

- **20mph Funding 2025/26 funding programme - Consider applying**

The Clerk confirmed a post has been put on the Website and Facebook page asking for residents views. Noted the majority of residents were in support of a blanket 20mph speed limit across the whole village or for at least Thrapstone Road, High Street and Grafham Road. Resolved the Clerk is to apply for a blanket 20mph speed limit for the whole village or if not visible for the 3 main roads as listed. **Action: Clerk**

- **PARISH COUNCIL CONSULTATION – APPLICATION REF. 25/00362/HHFUL Single storey rear and side extension and front canopy - 5 Green Lane Ellington Huntingdon PE28 0AZ**

This application was considered and it was unanimously agreed to respond with "No Objections" **Action:Clerk**

- **PARISH COUNCIL CONSULTATION – TREE APPLICATION REF. 25/00258/TREE T1 - Yew Tree - Reduce by approx 4m. Tree last pruned approx 7 years ago and is now very large and untidy, proposed works are to cut back and reshape back into tidy sphere - 27 High Street Ellington Huntingdon PE28 0AB**

This application was considered and it was unanimously agreed to respond with "No Objections" with the following comment: - any works carried out should be completed by a qualified tree surgeon.**Action:Clerk**

- **Note HDC Housing Land Supply Position - Update**

The Clerk provided an update as Follows:

- District Council's housing needs increase from 804 homes a year in Housing Land Position 2036, to 874 on old standard method to 1,213 on the new method.
- Huntingdonshire District Council's housing land supply is now 4.03 years so despite passing the housing delivery test with 164% we are in the 'tilted balance' created by para 11d.

Ch 11 Making Effective Use of Land

- Para 125 c) – proposals on brownfield land within settlements should be approved 'unless substantial harm would be caused'

Tilted balance weighs a development's adverse impacts against its benefits, not on a level playing field, but tilted towards granting permission.

- **Note Footpath bridge repair updates**

The Clerk provided an update. It was noted the footpath bridge has been assed by Cambridge County Council and a plan is being drawn up for action to be taken.
The Clerk was asked to contact the CCC, Footpath Officer for an update on all footpath issues raised.

1855 Policies

- **Note minor amendment to Complaints Policy -** NOTED.

1856 Finance & Administration:-

a) To receive financial situation of Council and to note bank reconciliation - NOTED
Due to Cllr Lumbers temporary suspension all payments are to be authorised by Cllr Chapman for the time being.
b) Note New bank Charges + Account Interest Rates - Noted the Parish Council will now be charged a monthly fee for their account. The Clerk was asked to research different savings accounts to ensure the Parish Council achieve the best interest rates possible.
c) Resolve to create new Chairmans Allowance budget
Agreed to create a Chairmans budget of £50.00. This will be reviewed on an annual basis.
d) Note CAPALC affiliation renewal fees of £366.93 - NOTED
e) Note Schedule of Grass Cuts 2025
Noted. Cllr Chapman is to arrange with the grass cutters for an extra cut to be carried out for the annual village gala event.

1857 Payments made since last meeting and payments to be authorised

10 Mar 25	LISA HAZEL FEBRUARY PAY	389.50

10 Mar 25	III SHIRES - Xmas Tree	108.00
10 Mar 25	FUNCTION 28 - Email Fees	24.00
06 Feb 25	LISA HAZEL JANUARY PAY	348.75
06 Feb 25	FUNCTION 28 - Email Fees	24.00
06 Feb 25	FUNCTION 28 - Email Fees	24.00
06 Feb 25	BLACK PINE PROJECT - Tree Works	261.00
10 Feb 25	INTEREST (GROSS)	27.07

Resolved payment for the Xmas Tree is to come from CIL money.

1858 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.
Noted all members of public left here.

1859 Resolve to Appoint Legal Representation
Cllr Hinchliffe declared an interest in this item which resulted in the Parish Council not being quorate. A brief discussion took place, however due to not being quorate no decisions could be taken. This item is to be carried forward to the next meeting.

1860 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 re-opened. It was noted no members of pubic remained.

1861 Any other Business for information only
None.

1862 Date of next meetings: 2025:- May 12th, July 7th, Sept 8th, Nov 10th.
There being no further business the meeting was closed at 21.30pm.