Ellington Parish Council

Minutes of meeting of Ellington Parish Council held
on **Monday 8th September 2025, 7.30pm** at the Village Hall, Ellington.

Present: Councillors: Cllrs Norton (Chairman), Hinchliffe (Vice-Chair), Lumbers, Chapman, MacKenzie and Schmidt.

Clerk: Lisa Hazel
County / Disc: County Cllr Ian Gardener, District Cllr Stephen Cawley

Public: 6 members of public were present,

Open Forum
The Parish Council were asked if they had any objections to WI improving on last years poppy display and for the display to be placed in the same position as the previous year. No objections were noted.

1910 To receive apologies and reasons for absence
None all present.

1911 Co-Option of New Member onto Council
The Clerk confirmed she has currently received 2 applications and has had several other residents enquire about applying based on the recent newsletter article. It was noted another vacancy may become available soon. Members were asked if they wished to consider the 2 current applications received for the current vacancy or carry forward co-option of new members to the next meeting to allow other residents to apply.
RESOLVED to consider the 2 applications received which have been circulated to members in advance for the current vacancy. Any future applications received are to be potentially put forward for future vacancies.
Both applications were considered and on a proposition by Cllr Lumbers, seconded by Cllr Schmidt it was unanimously agreed to co-opt Chris Stening onto the Council.
Chris Stening duly signed the 'Acceptance of Office" and joined members at the table

1912 Declaration of Interests in any agenda item
None

1913 County and District Councillor(s) Reports
Please see reports attached **Appendix:A.** LHI is to be an agenda item to the next meeting.

1914 To approve the minutes of meeting held on 7th July 2025.
The minutes were approved as a true record and signed.

1915 To consider matters arising from the previous minutes:
- **New Village Noticeboard - Update -** NOTED this is now installed.
- **Footpaths / PROW / Damaged Bridges / Way-markers - Updates**

The Clerk provided an update. Noted all of the damaged bridges should have now been repaired except for the bridge on footpath 10, which is to be repaired soon.

1916 Village Matters:
- **Village Litter Pick - Agree Date for Autumn Pick**

RESOLVED to hold a litter pick on 8th November 2025. This is to be combined with the Churchyard clean up. A budget of £100 was approved to allow for leaflet printing and refreshments after.
- **Playing Field**

- **Consider request to purchase more 'dog on lead' signs**

The Clerk provided background to this. NOTED the EPFA are dealing with this, therefore no further action is required.

- **Christmas Light Switch On**
- **Consider request for joint switch on / craft fair 5th December 2025**

RESOLVED to accept the Gala Committees request to join forces for a Christmas tree light switch on, to be held on 5th December 2025. Cllr Lumbers is to arrange purchase of tree.

1917 Yellow lines Grafham Road

- **Consider costs involved in extending yellow lines, Grafham Road**
- **RESOLVE to make decision**

The Clerk confirmed the Local Highways Officer has highlighted that extension of yellow lines would have to be applied for under the LHI Scheme. NOTED the Parish Council can apply for a Privately Funded LHI Scheme at a cost of about £4,000.
RESOLVED not to fund a private LHI bid at this time but to monitor the situation and put this forward as a suggestion for the next round of LHI funding.

1918 Speed measures Ellington Thorpe

- **Note now installed** - NOTED. A member of the public commented about the changes highlighting it is having a positive effect so far.

1919 Trees

- **Consider request to carry out works**

Cllr Lumbers confirmed he has received a request asking the Parish Council to cut back branches of a tree on the village green as it is blocking light into the property. NOTED the resident does not have a right to light / view. The Clerk confirmed no action was noted against this tree in the Tree Survey that was carried out. It was agreed Cllr Lumbers is to get a quote for works to gauge costs involved with a view of the homeowner potentially being asked to contribute to works. This is to be an agenda item for the next meeting.

1920 Buffaload Update(s)

- N**ote new "public" lorry wash -** NOTED. It was queried if Highways are aware of this?
- **Update on results from the 6 month periods since the planning inspectorate decision**

The Clerk confirmed she has asked the Planning department for an update but to date no update has been received. A suggestion was put forward that the Parish Council issue and "Open Letter". RESOLVED to write a letter to the Head of District Council asking for an update and informing them if no update is received an "Open Letter' will be published. Cllr's to assist the Clerk with this.

1921 Speeding / MVAS / Traffic

- **Speeding**
  - **Note: - Residents Communications / Mannequin**
  - NOTED the Parish Council has received communication about the mannequin. One driver who was unaware was startled which caused them to suddenly take action luckily no accident was caused. The Clerk has written to the residents kindly asking they reconsider the placement of the mannequin. It was highlighted the mannequin has now been removed.
  - **Request to run community Speed Watch**

NOTED communication has been received from a resident asking if a community speed watch can be set up and offering to assist with the running of it. The Clerk confirmed it is recommended 9 people are needed to set up a speed watch. An article has been placed in the Newsletter asking for volunteers to come forward. RESOLVED if enough volunteers come forward the Clerk is to work with the volunteers to help set up the scheme.

- **MVAS**
  - **Note move to new location -** NOTED the MVAS will be moved shortly. It is hoped the PC will be able to get relevant data from the system for analysis. It was highlighted the 30mph 'flashing sign', Grafham Road appears to be hidden by overgrown tree branches.

The Clerk confirmed she has written to the resident asking if they would kindly cut back the overhanging branches in front of the 'flashing' speed sign.

- **Consider new Auto Speed Watch devices**

It was highlighted a neighbouring Parish has more advanced speed watch devices that collect more information / data. NOTED the Parish Council has put in a LHI bid for new speed watch devices and are currently waiting the outcome of the bid.

- **Traffic**
  - **PPT Slide with A14 Brampton to Catworth Traffic Delays - Aug 2024 to Aug 2025**

Cllr Mackenzie showed a slide with simple information on the A14 Traffic delays between Brampton and Catworth over the last year. It was noted there has been one fatality.

- **A14 SAG update -** Cllr Mackenzie gave an update and provided details of the next meeting. NOTED Cllr Mackenzie is working with the A14 SAG to overcome the issue of vehicle(s) trying to join the A14 the wrong way.
- **Note enquiry into vibration assessment Thrapston Road, A14 Slip road.**

NOTED correspondence has been received from a resident highlighting lorries passing their property and neighbouring properties are causing vibrations which are damaging the properties. It appears this is in part caused by a channel across the road which appears to be sinking. The Clerk confirmed she has contact Highways to enquire about the potential to carry out vibration assessment. This is to be carried forward to the next meeting. The sunken channel across the road is to be reported online.

- **Note final plans for Brampton Road Quietway -** NOTED. Copies of the final plans are to be placed on the website.

Noted the Chairman, Cllr Rob Norton left here. Cllr Alex Hinchliffe, Vice-Chair took over the role of Chairman for the rest of the meeting.

1922 Village Planters

- **Note now installed -** NOTED. It was RESOLVED to combine planting up of the planters with the autumn litter pick and Church clear up.
- **RESOLVE to purchase plants and agree planting day**

RESOLVED to budget £300 of CIL money for the purchase of plants. Members are to seek local advice / knowledge on the best type of plants to purchase. Sponsorship of individual planters was suggested.

1923 Lady Mary's Sign

- **Note Continued Vandalism of Sign - Consider action to be taken**

NOTED Lady Mary's sign is continually being vandalised with black tape being placed across her name. The Clerk provided background to the sign and purchase of the land. The Parish Council confirmed they do not condone such as action which they class as an act of vandalism. The tape is to be removed again and the situation monitored and Lady Mary informed of the vandalism to her sign. The Parish Council were asked if they wished to write to the person believed to be responsible. It was highlighted that members have not seen anyone directly deface the sign, therefore they have no evidence as too who is responsible.

1924 Brampton Cross Update

- **Update on Brampton Cross Working Group**
- **Proposed Open Letter to Endurance Estates**

Cllr Lumbers provided an update on this. The Parish Council were asked if they wished to put their name directly on the Open Letter. RESOLVED to confirm the Ellington Parish Council are happy for their name to be added directly to the Open Letter. Cllr Lumbers bought to the attention of the Council that all working group parties have been asked to consider making a financial contribution towards costs of the group. NOTED S137 money can be put towards this. RESOLVED to wait to see if the Open Letter has an impact before considering making a financial contribution.

- **Note HDC Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Scoping Opinion Letter**

The Clerk confirmed the EIA has been issued by HDC. According to HDC all Parish Council's were asked if they wished to respond. However, it was confirmed by the relevant PC's that no consultation was received and HDC did not receive any responses from Parishes.

- **Confirm Parish Council Response(s) to Consultation**

Confirmed the Parish Council has responded to the Consultation with 2 letters. The first letter highlight's residents concerns and the second letter is a request for actions to be taken. Full details of both letters were published in the recent Newsletter.

1925 Policies

- **Annual Review Safeguarding Policy**

The Clerk confirmed she has carried out the annual review and is happy the current policy is up-to-date.

1926 Planning

- **PARISH COUNCIL CONSULTATION – APPLICATION REF. 25/01389/CLED** - Lawful **development certificate for confirmation of commencement of development in respect of seven residential plots (17/01434/FUL and 18/00609/FUL) - Land At Manor Farm High Street Ellington**

RESOLVED to respond the Parish Council considers the development is active and request that the site is developed without any further delays.

- **Planning Application Ref: 25/00966/PIP, HDC Appeal Ref: 25/00018/REFUSL, Planning Inspectorate Ref: APP/H0520/W/25/3371361**
  Land West Of Grove Cottage Malting Lane Ellington Proposed Development Permission in principle for a minimum of seven and a maximum of nine dwellings, not to exceed a total GIA of 999m2

RESOLVED to maintain continuity and respond to Planning Inspectorate Application. The Clerk was asked to respond as follows:

- The Parish Council would like to reiterate their comments made under application: 25/00966/PIP. In addition the Parish Council would like to add the following additional comments:
  - The Parish Council would like to provide further context in support of the application. It is important to note that a clear precedent has already been set by existing houses being built on either side of the land in question. The proposed development would represent a natural continuation of the established street scene, contributing positively to the character and cohesion off the area. Given the existing restrictions of the site, Anglian Water main sewer that runs through the site and the close proximity of the A14, concerns about overdevelopment or incremental “creep-age” would become unfounded. Furthermore, the site does not constitute open countryside. It is, in fact, a small piece of derelict land that currently detracts from the visual amenity of the area and is limited by the boundary’s of the A14, Thrapston Road and existing development . Development would help transform this neglected space into a well-integrated and beneficial addition to the community.
  We also wish to highlight that a previous application for this site, although later withdrawn, received majority support from local residents. This reflects a clear appetite within the community for appropriate development that improves the area.
  The Parish Council also note the site is located within a designated low-risk flood area. This reinforces the suitability of the location for development and supports the case for responsible land use.

Noted members of public left here.

1927 Finance & Administration:-

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

b. Note payments made since last meeting and payments to be authorised - NOTED - listed at end of document

c. Note Newsletter Publication + costs

As per Financial Regulations, item 4.1. expenditure on revenue items may be authorised up to the amounts included for that class of expenditure in the approved budget. The Chairman in conjunction with the Clerk authorised the publication costs for the Newsletter of £195.00. NOTED the Newsletter has been printed and distributed to all residents.

d. Note reimbursement of Village Hall insurance as previously agreed 2025-6 amount of £1,259.26 and the 50% for 2024-25 of £1250.16 - NOTED.

e. Note website compliance costs of £210.00 + VAT

NOTED, WCAG 2.2 introduces nine new success criteria. These focus on accessibility for web users with low vision, cognitive and learning disabilities, and motor disabilities, including access on touch-screen devices. The Parish Council asked their current website provider to carry out checks to ensure they meet the criteria. It was reported that further work was required to bring the website up to standard at a cost of £210.00. This was approved and the Clerk is to arrange for works to be carried out.

1928 Any other Business for information only

- **Note Code of Conduct training date**

NOTED training is to be held online on 7th October 2025. Members were asked to confirm they can attend the training session.

1929 Date of next meetings: 2025:- Nov 10th.
2026 - 12th Jan, March 9th, May 11th, July 13th, Sept 14th, Nov 9th.
There being no further business the meeting was closed at 21.56pm.

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04 Sep 25	LISA HAZEL AUGUST PAY	389.50
04 Sep 25	BROXAP LIMITED PLANTERS	2826.00
26 Aug 25	LISA HAZEL JULY PAY	389.50
26 Aug 25	CORE SYNERGY LTD EMAIL FEES	24.00
26 Aug 25	CORE SYNERGY LTD EMAIL FEES	24.00
26 Aug 25	CORE SYNERGY LTD EMAIL FEES	24.00
26 Aug 25	BEAM GRASS CUTTING	260.00
26 Aug 25	BEAM GRASS CUTTING	260.00
18 Aug 25	SERVICE CHARGES	4.25
24 Jul 25	CLEAR INSURANCE	507.21
18 Jul 25	SERVICE CHARGES REF :	4.25
10 Jul 25	SLCC MEMBERSHIP	64.60
10 Jul 25	ROYAL BRITISH LEGION VJ DAY ROUNDELS	103.79
10 Jul 25	LISA HAZEL JUNE PAY	389.50
10 Jul 25	CAPALC LTD 25-26 MEMBERSHIP	366.93