Ellington Parish Council

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

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

Clerk: Lisa Hazel
County / Disc: County Cllr Ian Gardener (in part), District Cllr Stephen Cawley

Public: 3 members of public were present,

The Clerk opened the meeting by reading a statement from Cllr Rob Norton who was not in attendance tendering his resignation as Chairman of Ellington Parish Council and as a member of the Council. The Parish asked that their thanks are recorded to Cllr Norton for his contribution over the years.

Cllr Hinchliffe as Vice-Chair agreed to Chair this meeting. A new Chairman Is to be elected at the January meeting.

Open Forum
Recent ditch drainage works were highlighted on the slip road into the village. It was bought to the attention of the Parish Council that further works were required to the ditch system at the A14 WB exit slip. Ownership of the ditch is to be looked into.

A resident asked when the village litter picks / clean up days are carried out can the area around the village hall itself also be included as there are lots of weeds growing around the hall creating a general untidy appearance. The Parish Council highlighted this area can be included in future events. Cllr Chapman confirmed he will weed spray around the village hall to help combat the current weed problem.

1930 To receive apologies and reasons for absence
Apologies were noted from Cllr Rob Norton, Cllr Chris Stening and Cllr Ian Gardener who arrived late.

1931 Declaration of Interests in any agenda item
Cllr Chapman declared an interest in item: 1935 as tenant farmer off the area of land for inclusion in the plan.

1932 County and District Councillor(s) Reports.
Appended to these minutes.

1933 To approve the minutes of meeting held on 8th September 2025.
On a proposition by Cllr Mackenzie and seconded by Cllr Lumbers the minutes of the meeting were approved as a true record and signed.

1934 To consider matters arising from the previous minutes:
- **Litter Pick / Help-out - Update**

Cllr Hinchliffe provided an updated on the event. Noted refreshments were served in the village hall after the event. Thanks are to be expressed to Richard Howells for his help, time and for cooking of the bacon rolls. **Action:Clerk**

- **Lady Mary's Sign - Update /Note To be Removed**

The Clerk confirmed the following communication has been received:

“Thank you for bringing this matter to our attention. We appreciate you informing us about the persistent issue of someone placing tape over Lady Mary Dinah's name on the sign in Ellington. After discussing this situation with Lady Mary, we have decided that it would be most prudent for us to collect the sign. While we are saddened that the sign will no longer be displayed, we believe this is the best course of action to prevent any further interference or negative actions towards it, as it seems to have caused some concern to an individual”.

- **Vibration Assessment - No Further Update** - NOTED
- **Update on Open Letter**

The Clerk confirmed that no communication or ‘Open Letter’s’ has been sent yet as Huntingdonshire District Council (HDC) has provided the following update.

- I can confirm that a site visit is being arranged for an inspection. It is hoped that this will take place next week. We will look to provide a further update once we have completed our site visit and have confirmed next steps. We are awaiting validation of an application for the north-east corner which we expect to be completed shortly.

Noted Cllr Chapman declared an interest in the next item.

1935 Huntingdon District Council Draft Local Plan to 2046 Consultation

- **Note Area Included for Inclusion in Local Plan**

It was noted out of all off the sites put forward for inclusion in the Local Plan just one site has been recommended to be put forward for inclusion as follows:

- Ellington 1: Old Sheds at Manor Farm, High Street. This is allocated for residential development of about 35 homes.

- **Consider Response**

It was agreed the Parish Council stands by their previous comments made against this site.

RESOLVED a further additional response is to be submitted. All members were asked to take time to read the documents and provide the Clerk with any additional comments by the end of November. The Clerk is to collate all comments and submit a formal response on behalf of the Parish Council.

- **Note Town and Parish Briefings Monday 3rd and Tuesday 11th November 2025** - NOTED.

Cllr Stephen Cawley left at this point.

1936 Local Highways Improvement (LHI) Scheme / 20MPH Scheme

- **Note confirmation of Successful LHI bid 2025 / 2026**

Noted the PC were successful in their application for;

- Purchase of community speed-watch equipment approved by Cambridgeshire Constabulary with the aim of reducing vehicular speeds for the length of Grafham Road from Ellington to Grafham through Ellington Thorpe. Equipment proposed is either a SID (Speed Indication Device) or MVAS (Mobile Vehicle Activated Sign). In addition speed roundels to be installed (30mph) for Thrapston Road and Grafham Road.

It was highlighted LHI projects typically take up to 18 months to complete, though this can vary depending on project scope and any unforeseen delays. All successful 2025/2026 LHI schemes will be designed by a in-house design team, alongside other county-wide highway projects. The Clerk highlighted a meeting has been set up with the LHI team to discuss Ellington’s successful application and next steps. It was agreed Cllr Lumbers and Cllr Hinchliffe are to attend the online meeting alongside the Clerk.

- **Note outcome of 20mph Village Application** - Noted the Parish Council were not successful in their application this time.
- **2026 / 2027 Bid - Consider making application**

RESOLVED to put in a new bid to for the 2026 / 2027 round. It was suggested the bid should be to extend the double yellow lines around the corner of Grafham Road. A meeting is too held with the LHI team to gauge their views on this application and to provide guidance. This is to be an agenda item for the next meeting.

1937 FP19

- **Note Buffaload Logistics Ltd Request to Support Diversion of Footpath**

Noted Mr Ross Taylor of Buffaload Logistics Ltd was in attendance at the meeting.Cllr Ian Gardener confirmed Cambridgeshire County Council (CCC) will make the final decision on any diversions. Cllr Hinchliffe highlighted over the years there has been several changes to the footpath, footpath surface and layout and asked why Buffaload Logistics now feel the current route across their yard is unsafe when previously it was deemed okay. Mr Ross Taylor confirmed Buffaload Logistics have been advised by their Health and Safety Director that it is no longer safe to cross the yard directly and that is why that section is blocked and the footpath diverted around the edge of the site. The Clerk thanked Mr Ross Taylor for his explanation and then proceeded to ask the Parish Council if they would support the request to confirm the footpath be diverted around the edge of Buffaload logistics. After discussion the Parish Council confirmed they would not respond / make any decisions until formally asked to do so by CCC as both Cllr Ian Gardener and Dan Wiggs who is the Local Highways Officer both confirmed at a recent site meeting that the applicant should apply to CCC for the diversion first and CCC would request input from key parties, such as Ellington Parish Council.

Noted Cllr Ian Gardener and Mr Ross Taylor left here.

1938 Grass Cutting

- **Note Grass Cutting Contract Due for Renewal -** NOTED
- **Approve Areas to be Cut for New Contract**

RESOLVED to approve the recent additional areas of grass in Ellington Thorpe which were temporarily cut for the rest of the grass cutting season now be included permanently into the grass cutting schedule. The Clerk was asked to go out to tender. **Action:Clerk**

1939 Ellington Thorpe Fibre Update

Cllr Chris Stening's in his absence provided a brief report on this.
RESOLVED to approve Cllr Chris Stening to act on behalf of the Parish Council to try and resurrect Fibre for Ellington Thorpe.

1940 Christmas

- **Tree Update**

Cllr Bob Lumbers confirmed the cost of a tree this year is in the region of £300. This was approved by the Parish Council. The tree will be delivered the w/c 1st of December 2025.

- **Confirmation of Details of Light Switch On**

Noted the lights will be switched on at the village event on Friday 5th December 2025.

1941 Trees

- **Consider quote to carry out works tree village green**

Cllr Lumbers provided an update. It was confirmed Oakbank Game & Conservation Ltd have undertaken a site survey of the tree and have recommended minor works are to be carried out to the tree in question. RESOLVED Cllr Lumbers is to apply for approval as the tree in question is within the Conservation Area, employ Oakbank to carry out works and advise the resident of agreed works. **Action: Cllr Lumbers.**

1942 Village Matters

Planters

- **Consider Adopt a Planter Scheme**

This item was discussed and It was agreed to carry this item forward to the next meeting to allow Cllr Stening to provide more details.
The Parish Council were asked if a water source can be provided by / from the Village Hall to help water the planters during hot weather. A member confirmed they have a spare water butt they would be willing to donate. RESOLVED to get a quote to install an outside tap on the village hall. This item is to be an agenda item at the next meeting.

Litter Pick

- **Resolve to Set Date for Spring Litter Pick**

This item is to be carried forward to the next meeting.

Parking Signs Church

- **Update**

Cllr Lumbers and the Clerk both provided updates. It was suggested costs of the sign could be covered by the The Town Lands Charity. Cllr Lumbers is to look into this further and report back of the next meeting.

1943 Speeding / MVAS / Traffic

Community Speed Watch Update

- **Consider Purchase of Equipment**
  - Barrington Hand Held Classic Radar
  - Batteries

The Clerk provided details and costs of both the hand held radar and batteries as advised by Speed-watch to purchase and asked for permission to buy these.

RESOLVED **not** to authorise purchase of new equipment but to use current MVAS units.

Traffic

- **PPT Slide with A14 SAG and Other Travel Updates**

Cllr Mackenzie presented the slides. It was noted the slides contained comprehensive statistics of Traffic Delays Captured for A14 Brampton to Catworth for 2025. A copy of the slides is appended to these minutes.

1944 Brampton Cross Update

- **Update on Brampton Cross Working Group -** NOTED
- **Consider request to make a financial donation to the Brampton Cross Working Group.**

Questions were asked if a donation is made what will the money will be spent on i.e. will the money be spent on a specific piece of research or to employ professional advice as opposed to sitting in a bank account. RESOLVED to obtain further details before a decision is made. This item is to be carried forward to the next meeting.

1945 Planning

- **Note Enforcement and Monitoring update report on Land at The Pig Unit, Harthay Farm, Thrapston Road, Ellington**

Noted Huntingdonshire District Council are pressing the Planning Inspectorate for a response as **t**here is a potential legal and reputational risk if appeals remain unresolved for extended periods, as prolonged delays may give rise to claims of unreasonable delay and could undermine the effectiveness of the HDC's enforcement actions.

1946 Finance & Administration:-

a. RESOLVE to approve draft budget and set precept for 2026 / 2027

The Clerk presented the draft budget which had been pre-circulated to members.

Noted the draft budget proposed a slight increase in the precept.

RESOLVED to amend the draft budget as agreed to keep in line with the current precept of £9,834.00. This is to be achieved by using CIL money to pay for the 2026 / 2027 grass cutting costs. The Clerk was asked to submit a precept request for £9,834.00 for 2026/27 **Action:Clerk**

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

c. Note payments made since last meeting and payments to be authorised

All payments are listed at the end of the minutes.

d. Note Parish Council Election Costs

Noted if HDC elections do not go ahead next year the Parish Council will have to meet all financial costs if an election is called to the sum of £1,500.

1947 Any other Business for information only

- **Save the Date MP Roundtable 16th January 2026** - NOTED.

1948 Date of next meetings:

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.

Date		Payment In	Payment Out
16/09/2025	Bank Charges		£4.25
03/10/2025	HMRC VAT Return	£806.53	
08/10/2025	BEAM - Grass Cutting		£260.00
08/10/2025	BEAM - Grass Cutting		£260.00
08/10/2025	Core Synergy - Email Fees		£24.00
08/10/2025	L Hazel - Clerk Salary		£389.50
09/10/2025	ICO Direct Debit		£47.00
20/10/2025	Bank Charges		£4.25
23/10/2025	Ellington Playing Filed Association - Donation Fencing	£285.00	