Ellington Parish Council

Minutes of meeting of Ellington Parish Council held
on **Monday 9th March 2026, 7.30pm** at the Village Hall, Ellington.

Present: Councillors: Cllrs Hinchliffe (Chair), Lumbers, MacKenzie, Schmidt, Stening and Ruddle

Clerk: Lisa Hazel
County / Disc: District Cllr Stephen Cawley

Public: 9 members of public were present,

The Chairman read the following eulogy :-

Welcome everyone. Before we get started, I would like to take some time to remember our late friend and Cllr, Mark Chapman. Members of the Parish Council were devastated by the news of Mark's passing. So unexpected and so sudden, it took us all by surprise. We miss him as a friend, as a Cllr and as a significant part of our village community.

Mark was committed to this village, showing this in part by his long tenureship on the Parish Council. I for one enjoyed his dry humour and quips that helped the most mundane of tasks appear fun.

Mark was also serious, when required, and we will miss his input with our tasks and in our meetings. He may not have been on form tonight, however, after yet another poor performance by his beloved England Rugby team over the weekend. I recall a story of Mark's related to one of his first meetings as chair that included the proposed wind turbine development up on the hill. This hall was so full they had to rearrange the room completely; the fire regs went out the window; and Mark and team had to field what probably felt like 1m questions from all directions. Secretly, I think Mark yearned for more meetings like that one.

Mark was a kind gent with a wonderful character who will be greatly missed around the village. I will miss seeing him almost daily, driving around the village in his vehicles, always smiling and waving. Always industrious. I am sure many of you attended the wonderful Memorial Service that Anne and Helen Chapman, and Rebecca hosted at Manor Farm a little over 2 weeks ago. It was quite incredible to so many hundreds of people gathering to celebrate Mark's life and to mourn his passing. I would like to thank the family for their hospitality and for inviting so many of us to an event at what must have been such a difficult time.

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I believe there was a one minute silence held during Feb's extraordinary meeting. Thank you for doing that and may I propose Cllr members and members of the public stand for another minute of silence in Mark's memory. Thank you.

The following paragraph was shared to the Parish Council from the former Clerk, Darren Tysoe: - Can we formally record our deep appreciation for the life and service of Cllr Mark Chapman whose dedication, commitment and contribution to the village and its residents had a lasting and positive impact on our community. In recognition of his service and the

respect in which he was held, I would like to propose we explore and bring forward proposals for an appropriate form of posthumous recognition or memorial within the Parish.

Open Forum

Mr Ross Taylor was in attendance to discuss the blocked ditch and one way valve, A14 slip road. Mr Taylor expressed concern the Parish Council are not listening to him and taking any action on flooding.

The following points were noted:-

- In Jan 2024 when similar concerns about blocked culverts were raised the Parish Council contacted the various agencies for support.
- It took throughout 2024 and 2025 to get items actioned such as vegetation flailing, enforcement letters etc.
- The Parish Council has worked with those agencies over a long period of time to try and help elevate the situation.
- The Parish Council is not responsible for the work or the agencies involved but are merely a proxy between source and destination.

The Clerk provided an update as follows:

- Cambridgeshire County Council (CCC), Flood Risk Team, has previously sent riparian ordinary watercourse maintenance enforcement letters to the landowner(s) asking them to clear their sections of the ditch,
- National Highways were contacted about the blocked one way valve. One of their technicians visited the site and checked both sides of the culvert. The large flap on the north side of the A14 appeared to be open slightly and working and visually it didn't appear to be blocked. The Clerk confirmed she contacted Buffaload Logistics twice to try and obtain further information but no response was received.
- National Highways confirmed there are currently no plans to investigate or install new assets (one way valves) in this area. If this is to be consider further than additional flood-risk supporting information, for example, reports of recent internal property flooding caused by the watercourse network backing up is required.
- Cllr Bob Lumbers highlighted as riparian owner he in the past has carried out works to the ditch that falls under his responsibility.
- It was noted maintenance of the ordinary watercourses typically lies with the riparian landowners. Any concerns regarding the condition of these assets, such as watercourses, headwalls and culverts, should therefore be directed to the relevant landowners in the first instance.

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RESOLVED - The Parish Council will contact the various agencies direct to see if they are happy for direct communication with Mr Taylor.

A resident in attendance asked about the recent works being carried out to the ditch, A14 slip road highlighting the area where works is being carried out is unsightly and there is mud all over the road. Dino Biagioni, Managing Director, Rose Homes Limited who was in attendance confirmed that Mr Ross Taylor has been contracted to carry out works. It was confirmed that works will be completed within a couple of weeks and the area made good with new trees planted. The Parish Council highlighted the bird nesting season has started and asked that an Ecology report is completed before further works to remove vegetation is carried out.

Dino Biagioni highlighted CCC are responsible for some of the ditching ‘to the west of the current ditch works’ and that unless their section is cleared, works carried out so far, will not be as effective.

Noted in addition, the land further East of the current ditch works has another land owner with responsibility over riparian duties. The Parish Council is actively working to establish communication with them in order to understand any future works".

Mr Ross Taylor confirmed due to the current economic situation with regards to potential fuel shortage, he would be willing to sell diesel to local villagers.

A resident highlighted along Black Smith Lane, bricks are falling off the wall from the neighbouring supporting property onto the path. The Clerk is to look into this. **Action: Clerk**

Dino Biagioni discussed "residential planning" . He confirmed that previously there has been no support for affordable housing. He noted this was discussed in the February meeting. The Neighbourhood Plan is not sufficient enough to request affordable housing a full survey is required. Dino Biagioni was asked to contact the Clerk about this.

A resident confirmed as part of the general 'Clean Up' day the areas around the VH were cleaned up and weeds removed.

1975 To appoint a Vice-Chair to the Council
It was agreed to carry this forward to the May meeting after elections.

1976 To receive apologies and reasons for absence
Apologies we're noted from County Cllr Ian Gardener.

1977 Declaration of Interests in any agenda item
Cllr Lumbers declared a non pecuniary interest in item: 1989.

1978 County and District Councillor(s) Reports
Please see report attached Appendix: A

1979 To approve the minutes of meeting held on 12th January 2026 and planning meeting held on 2nd of February 2026.
On a proposition by Cllr MacKenzie and seconded by Cllr Schmidt the minutes were approved as a true record and signed.

1980 Election Update
The Clerk explained the Parish Council election process to members.

1981 To consider matters arising from the previous minutes:

- **Vibration Assessment / Dip in Road - Update**

Noted Cllr Ian Gardener met with highways and the following response has been received from CCC, Highways :-

- I visited the site on 22 January, and following inspection, I consider the most appropriate solution to be the full removal and reinstatement of the trench section. This approach will provide a smoother ride quality and significantly reduce the noise and vibration currently being experienced from passing traffic. These works will need to be planned and programmed and may take up to three months to complete.

In terms of traffic management, the nature of the trench removal and reinstatement will require temporary TM to ensure the safety of both the workforce and the public. Advance warning signage will be installed prior to the works starting. I will provide an update once authorisation is received and a provisional program date is agreed.

- **LHI Bid 2026 / 2027 - Note bid submitted** - NOTED
- **Spring Litter Pick - Update**

Cllr Hinchliffe confirmed this was a good event and a great effort was made. The Parish Council expressed their thanks to Richard Howells for providing refreshments.

- **Brampton Road Quietway - Note Works being carried out and temporary road closure**

The Clerk confirmed Brampton Road will be closed from 23rd March 2026 for 4 weeks from -7.30am - 16.15pm for works to be carried out. A sample of works (bridge signs) was projected onto the screen for members reference.

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• **FP19 - Update**
The Clerk reported the definitive Map Officer has confirmed they have not yet received a formal application, once this is clarified and received, It is estimate it will be picked up in around 6 months although this is not guaranteed. Once the case is picked up, it can take around 6-9 months to investigate before reaching a decision to make the order.
Cllr Hinchliffe noted grips have been placed on the bridge and thanks were expressed to Mr Ross Taylor for carrying out this works.

1982 Village Hall
• **Update on Responsibilities of Parish Council with regards to Village Hall**
The Clerk confirmed she has extensively researched the roles and responsibilities of the Parish Council with regards to the Village Hall.
It was noted the Parish Council are "Custodian Trustees" for the village hall. The Chair of the Village Hall provided a brief overview of the 'trust document' confirming everyones role a copy of which is appended to these minutes. **Appendix :B.**
Noted the Parish Council Chairman and Clerk are shortly due to meet with the VH to discuss this in more detail.
• **Village Hall Parking / Discussion**
Cllr Lumbers highlighted if parking was made available then the VH would be able to let the hall out more.
It was confirmed that the village green is private land and has been registered as a village green. Noted the rule state that parking on Village Greens is prohibited and that there is no other suitable areas of land to assign for parking.
The Clerk is to convey this to the village hall committee. **Action: Clerk**
• **Installation of outside tap - Update** - Noted this has now been installed.
• **Consider any requests received for financial assistance**
A request has been made for financial assistance for the upgrade of the village bar. The Clerk provided members with details of the request and costings provided.
Noted it was previously verbally agreed the Parish Council would contribute up to £3,000 to the village hall upgrade project. To date the Parish Council has contributed £1,858.00 which leaves an underspend of £1142.00.
On a proposition by Cllr Lumbers it was unanimously agreed by all members to formalise the approval of £3,000 to the VH for improvements. The Clerk was asked to seek further clarification on the bar upgrade before the remainder of the money is released. **Action: Clerk.**

1983 Ditches / Culverts
- A14 Open Valve - Update
- Ditch works A14 slip road - Update

Both of these items were taken earlier. Cllr Hinchliffe highlighted that preventive measures / works to the ditches should be taken in the autumn before the typical winter flooding occurs.

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1984 20MPH Funding 2026/27 Applications Now Open
• Consider making an application
RESOLVED to apply. Cllr Stening is to take the lead on this.

1985 Community Action Plan Review
This was reviewed and updated accordingly. Mr Ross Taylor offered financial assistance to help assist with the introduction of a cycle path from Ellington to Brampton Hut. The Clerk was asked to look into this matter again. **Action: Clerk**

Cllr Chris Stening provided an update on fibre broadband for Ellington Thorpe highlighting he is trying to get vouchers for the scheme but to no avail at the moment.

1986 Village Matters
Planters
- **Adopt a Planter Scheme - update**

Noted this has now been taken on by Ellington Village Reserve fund. No further action is required by the Parish Council.

Lady Mary's Sign - update
Noted the sign is still In situ It was confirmed Lady Mary's team have advised they will keep the Parish Council updated with the situation and decision of the sign.

1987 Community Speed Watch Update
- **Note date of training session** - NOTED

RESOLVED to request the statistics from the speed watch sessions be fed back into the Parish Council for reference.

1988 Brampton Cross Working Group - Update
Cllr Chris Stening provided an update. Noted the scope of the Working Group will be evolving from a single issue into a broader group to address the cumulative impacts associated with the North Huntingdon Growth Cluster

1989 Planning

1, Planning Applications to be considered

- **PARISH COUNCIL CONSULTATION – TREE APPLICATION REF. 26/00336/TREE G1. 3 Lombardy Poplar. Reduce height by approx 12m - 8 Spinney Field Ellington Huntingdon PE28 0AT**

  On a proposition by Cllr Hinchliffe, seconded by Cllr MacKenzie it was RESOLVED to unanimously recommend Approval.
- **PARISH COUNCIL CONSULTATION – APPLICATION REF. 26/00218/PIP - Permission in Principle for a minimum of four and a maximum of five dwellings, not to exceed a total NIA of 700m2 - Land West Of College Farm Thrapston Road Ellington.**

  This item was discussed in detail and the following points were made:-
  - Highway, Archaeology and Environmental points were noted,
  - Outside of village boundary line,
  - Brook Farm opposite is also a listed building,
  - There is no footpath along proposed frontage of buildings,
  - There is a higher level of flooding as Ellington Brook used to run through the proposed location,
  - Cars would potentially be entering and exiting the properties onto the slip road for the A14,
  - Positive - The application includes 2 bed properties.

  On a proposition by Cllr MacKenzie and seconded by Cllr Schmidt RESOLVED to recommend "Refusal".

2, Panning Applications Update(s)

- **APPLICATION REFERENCE 26/00007/PIP (Permission in Principle for a minimum of 5 and maximum of 7 dwellings - Land South Of 6 Grafham Road Ellington)**
  - Note Approved by Huntingdonshire District Council - NOTED
- **Planning Inspectorate Appeal Ref: APP/H0520/W/25/3371361 - Land West Of Malting Lane, Thrapston Road, Ellington PE28 0AE**
  - The appeal is allowed and permission in principle is granted for residential development comprising a minimum of seven and a maximum of nine dwellings, not to exceed a total GIA of 999m2, at Land West Of Malting Lane, Thrapston Road, Ellington PE28 0AE, in accordance with the terms of the application Ref 25/00966/PIP, dated 27 May 2025.

  NOTED

3, Public consultation on Local Government Reorganisation (LGR)
- **Consider Parish Council Response**

RESOLVED to respond in favour of Option : E for Huntingdonshire to be a stand alone Unitarian Authority as it was felt they would be best placed to run services for this area.

RESOLVED to vary the order of the agenda to take the next item at the end of the meeting.

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4, Motion to Exclude
That 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

- Update on meeting with Chief Executive, Huntingdonshire District Council

Motion to Re-Admit the Public and Press
To resolve that the confidential business having been concluded, the press and public be re- admitted to the meeting.
TO BE TAKEN AT END OF MEETING

1990 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**
Listed at the end of these minutes. Noted that due to the death of Cllr Mark Chapman a new bank signatory is required. Cllr MacKenzie is to become the new bank signatory. The Clerk is to organise this. **Action: Clerk.**
The EPFA asked if the Parish Council would purchase play bark on their behalf. This was approved subject to quote received for cost.

1991 Any other Business for information only
Cllr Chris Stening asked if new residents to the village are aware of the Local Electric Discount Scheme. Cllr Stening was asked to look into the criteria with a view to informing residents.

A suggestion was put forward to purchase "Don't Drop Litter" signs.

4, Motion to Exclude
That 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
All remaining members of the public were asked to leave the meeting.

- **Update on meeting with Chief Executive, Huntingdonshire District Council**

The Chairman gave a verbal update on the meeting with the Chief Executive and provided slides on the current planning situation for Ellington. A discussion then took place with all members present.

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RESOLVED to liaise in engagements with HDC planning and associated bodies with the view to arrange a meeting to discuss matters further. An Open Letter is to be drafted ready to be published if required.

Motion to Re-Admit the Public and Press
To resolve that the confidential business having been concluded, the press and public be re- admitted to the meeting.
No members of the public were left.

1992 Date of next meetings:
2026 - May 11th, July 13th, Sept 14th, Nov 9th.
There being no further business the meeting was closed at 10.30pm

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19/01/2026	Bank Charges	£4.25
09/02/2026	Reimbursment Alex Hinchliffe - Flower Cllr Chapmans Funeral - Chairmans Allowance	£115.00
09/02/2026	Core Synergy - Email Fees	£24.00
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09/02/2026	Core Synergy - Email Fees	£24.00
09/02/2026	L Hazel - Clerk Salary	£381.50
09/02/2026	Richard Howells - Litter Pick Refreshments	£36.53
17/02/2026	Bank Charges	£4.25

09 Feb 26	INTEREST (GROSS)	14.06
09 Jan 26	INTEREST (GROSS)	15.84
09 Dec 25	INTEREST (GROSS)	14.81
10 Nov 25	INTEREST (GROSS)	16.34
09 Oct 25	INTEREST (GROSS)	15.31
09 Sep 25	INTEREST (GROSS)	17.17
11 Aug 25	INTEREST (GROSS)	19.62
09 Jul 25	INTEREST (GROSS)	17.83
09 Jun 25	INTEREST (GROSS)	20.62
09 May 25	INTEREST (GROSS)	21.20
09 Apr 25	INTEREST (GROSS)	25.42
10 Mar 25	INTEREST (GROSS)	23.70
10 Feb 25	INTEREST (GROSS)	27.07
09 Jan 25	INTEREST (GROSS)	26.20

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