

Elmton with Creswell Parish Council



Minutes of the

Extraordinary Meeting of the Full Council held on Thursday 17th July 2025

At 6.00pm in the Cavendish Room, Creswell Events Centre

Present:

- Cllr Amanda Davis (In the Chair)
- Cllr Mark Bryant
- Cllr Katherine Gilfillan
- Cllr Enid Glassey
- Cllr Martin Sanders
- Cllr Steve Smith
- Cllr Rita Turner

Also in Attendance:

Jade Wilson (Clerk), James Palmer (RFO)
Matthew Evans (Deputy CEO – DALC and previous Locum Clerk/RFO)
There were 37 Members of the Public (MOP) in attendance.

ECPC – 30/25

To receive Apologies for Absence

Apologies were **received** from Cllrs Jamie Bend, Paul Colbert, Duncan McGregor and Jim Wells.

Cllr Smith proposed that the reasons for absence be accepted. This was seconded by Cllr Gilfillan. It was unanimously **agreed** to accept the reasons for apologies.

ECPC – 31/25

To receive any Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

ECPC – 32/25

Public Participation

- a) Members of the Public had submitted no questions for the Council prior to the meeting.

The Clerk said that no questions had been pre-submitted. The Chair said Council would allow questions relating to the agenda items only. A MOP asked if they could record the meeting and the Chair said they could.

A MOP said that in the Dragonfly Report, it said they had contributed £3 million into the District. They said this is about what we owe. Will the Parish Council suggest this is used to pay off the debt? The Chair said she would look into this figure but believes this may be relating to a different funding stream.

Someone asked if they could ask questions about Dragonfly. The Chair said no because this was a meeting about the Year-end finances.

A MOP referred to his recent Freedom of Information request that remained unanswered. This was regarding finances at the H&WC and general year end accounts. The Chair said the Clerk and RFO were working hard to deal with everything. Matthew Evans said the 23/24 accounts were on the website. The Clerk and Matthew Evans said they were trying to collect the H&WC figures specifically. The RFO said he and the Clerk had met

with Bolsover DC to discuss finances and the Q1 figures for 24/25 were due very soon. The MOP asked about the £10,000 per week loss of the H&WC detailed in the NALC report. Matthew said he would check this figure and where it came from. The Clerk said she would hopefully be responding to the FOI next week.

A MOP asked why the meeting was in the Cavendish room as there were many people wanting to attend. The Chair said the main hall would be used if there was a meeting scheduled that would be of public interest. But the hall was used regularly on a Thursday evening.

Someone asked if Parish Councillors found it embarrassing that the two most influential people regarding the Parish Council's problems, now never attend a meeting. The Chair said she was reluctant to hold 2 people accountable and the reasons for absence were genuine.

A MOP asked the Clerk why she had resigned. The Clerk answered and explained that she would be working until the end of August.

Another MOP said the 24/25 budget had not been done properly. They said it was speculative and based on assumptions. Why is there no comeback for these actions? Matthew Evans said it was deeply upsetting that there are no legal comebacks and there is a limited legal framework. He said the External Auditor would be fully investigating.

A MOP asked if the Clerk leaving will affect the finances. The Clerk said she is staying for the short term and that the RFO is very capable and knowledgeable. The RFO said things will be very different this financial year.

There was a question about the business plan moving forward for the H&WC. The Chair asked the MOP to submit this question in an email as it was not related to the items on the agenda. She also said she was unaware of there being a current plan.

ECPC – 33/25

Year end and Audit

- a.) To receive and review the Internal Auditor report

RESOLVED: The Internal Audit was **received, reviewed** and **accepted** by Councillors.

- b.) To agree that a Limited Assurance Review is required (Intermediate)

RESOLVED: It was **agreed** that a Limited Assurance Review is required.

- c.) To review and sign the Annual Governance Statement 2024/2025

RESOLVED: The Annual Governance Statement assertions were read out by the Clerk. Matthew Evans went through each assertion in detail (using the JPAG to advise on statutory requirements and best practice), then giving recommendations to Council as to whether the answer should be 'yes' or 'no'. Each assertion was considered and Councillors unanimously **agreed** with Matthew Evan's recommendations for each one. The statement was then **completed**. It was duly **signed** by the Chair and Clerk.

- d.) To review and sign the Accounting Statement for 2024/2025 Review the Statement of Variances or other necessary supporting documentation for submission, if applicable

RESOLVED: The Accounting Statement (with supporting documents) was **reviewed** and **approved**. Matthew Evans provided narrative for each of the figures. It was **signed** by the Chair.

- e.) Elector's Rights – to note the dates of the Exercise of Public Rights as Monday 21st July to Monday 1st September 2025.

NOTED

At this point, the Chair proposed that Standing Orders be suspended to enable members of the public another 15 minutes as ask questions. This was unanimously agreed by Councillors.

Additional Questions and Answers (summary):

A MOP asked if this was the first time the Council have done this properly. Council have ensured it has been done correctly and in detail.

A MOP said the precept was set last financial year with no minute of the budget. They had tried to look at the accounts for last year and can't find the information. The Council had to go and get another loan for £500k from Bolsover DC plus interest. This was not approved by DHCLG. Where are we with this? Matthew Evans said there has been no response yet from the DHCLG regarding retrospective approval. DALC is still in contact with them. Regarding if they were to not grant approval retrospectively, then they would have to outline the consequences.

A MOP said the NALC review said that the Councillors need training. What have each of you done to improve your skills in this area? Cllr Davis said she did not expect each Councillor to answer this individually. She said a date for collective training was being arranged. She encouraged all Councillors to read the Good Councillors Guide.

A MOP had attended a meeting recently for Bolsover DC – the Growth Plan and H&WC finances were discussed. He had experience of local government and said Councillors needed to get a grip of the financial situation. Cllr Davis said that since Matthew, Jade and James were on board, the Council had a better understanding of the finances and know there are consequences of not doing this.

A MOP said Councillors should have training and questioned why the Council had not been a member of DALC, then maybe the financial situation would not have gotten so bad. He also said the H&WC finances should be on the agenda every month.

A MOP said are the Council aware that their actions have effected every house in the village and they should all apologise.

A MOP asked what the fixed assets were. Matthew Evans outlined it included the H&WC, long term leases, buildings and land.

Cllr Davis reinstated Standing Orders at this point.

ECPC – 34/25

The date and time of the next meeting will be Thursday 31st July

MEETING CLOSED 7.00PM

SIGNED: _____

NAME: _____

DATE _____