MUNICIPALITY OF ARRAN-ELDERSLIE

Council Meeting

MINUTES

Monday, October 27, 2025, 9:00 a.m.
Council Chambers
1925 Bruce Road 10, Chesley, ON

Council Present:	Mayor Steve Hammell Deputy Mayor Jennifer Shaw Councillor Ryan Nickason Councillor Darryl Hampton Councillor Brian Dudgeon Councillor Moiken Penner Councillor Peter Steinacker
Staff Present:	Christine Fraser-McDonald - Clerk Julie Fenton - Coordinator of Infrastructure and Development Scott McLeod - Public Works Manager Steve Tiernan - Fire Chief David Munro - Treasurer Jennifer Isber-Legge - Economic Development & Communications Coordinator Emily Dance, CAO Joel McAllister - Manager of Facilities, Parks and Recreation

1. Call to Order

Mayor Hammell called the meeting to order at 9:15 am. A quorum was present.

2. Mayor's Announcements (If Required)

- The Brockton and Area Family Health Time is expanding. They will be working with Health Car Connect to attach local patients from the Health Care Connect to a Nurse Practitioner on their team. To register call 811 or visit ontario.ca/heathcareconnect.
- The municipal office will be open on October 31st for costumed trick-or-treaters from 10:00 AM to 4:30 PM.
- The Treasure Chest Museum is presenting a lecture by Bill Streeter on the 160th Bruce Battalion highlighting local men and women who served during World War 1 on November 3rd at 7:00 PM.

3. Adoption of Agenda

Councillor Penner requested that a Notice of Motion be added regarding a Request for Cost Estimate to Remove Raised Garden Bed in Town Square.

Subsequent to further discussion, Council passed the following resolution:

263-18-2025

Moved by: Councillor Hampton

Seconded by: Councillor Nickason

Be It Resolved that the agenda for the Council Meeting of Monday, October 27, 2025 be received and adopted, as distributed by the Clerk as amended.

Carried

4. Disclosures of Pecuniary Interest and General Nature Thereof

None declared at this time.

5. Minutes of Previous Meetings

5.1 October 14, 2025 - Regular Council Minutes

Subsequent to further discussion, Council passed the following resolution:

264-18-2025

Moved by: Councillor Hampton

Seconded by: Deputy Mayor Shaw

Be It Resolved that the Council of the Municipality of Arran-Elderslie adopt the minutes of the Regular Council Session held October 14, 2025.

Carried

6. Minutes of Sub-Committee Meetings

6.1 ADIE Committee - September 2, 2025 DRAFT minutes

Subsequent to further discussion, Council passed the following resolution:

Be it Resolved that Council receives the DRAFT ADIE committee minutes of September 2, 2025 for information purposes.

7. Public Meeting(s)

7.1 Zoning By-law Amendment - Z-2025-053

Mayor Steve Hammell called the public meeting to order at 9:20 AM. He stated that the purpose of the public meeting was to consider a proposed amendment to the Arran-Elderslie Zoning By-law.

Megan Stansfield, Planner for the County of Bruce, presented her report.

The purpose of this zoning by-law amendment is to amend the Additional Dwelling Unit provisions for Additional Dwelling Units to require Conservation Authority approvals in the Flood Fringe area, per the Local Official Plan Schedule. This amendment also seeks to remove the Minimum Gross Floor Area of the Residential R1, R2 and R3 zones. The proposed changes apply generally to lands within the Municipality of Arran-Elderslie.

Comments were received from the following agencies:

- Bruce County Transportation: No commentsArran-Elderslie: No commentsHistoric Saugeen Metis: No objectionsSaugeen Valley Conservation Authority: Proposed amendments are supported.Public CommentsNo comments were received from the public at the time of writing this report.

The Mayor asked Members of Council if they had any questions.

The Mayor asked if the applicant or agent were present and wished to make a submission.

The Mayor asked if any members of the public had any comments regarding the proposed application.

The Mayor asked the Clerk if any written submissions had been received. The Clerk confirmed that she had not received any correspondence regarding this proposal.

The Mayor declared the public meeting closed at 9:23 AM.

Subsequent to further discussion, Council passed the following resolution:

266-18-2025

Moved by: Councillor Hampton

Seconded by: Deputy Mayor Shaw

Be it Resolved that Council hereby approves Zoning By-law Amendment Z-2025-053 (Housekeeping By-law) for the Municipality of Arran-Elderslie;

And further that the corresponding By-law be enacted and adopted.

Carried

8. Delegations

8.1 SMART - Stephan Labelle

Stephan Labelle, Manager for Saugeen Mobility and Regional Transit gave a presentation to Council regarding the Saugeen Mobility and Regional Transit.

8.2 Chesley Hospital Foundation

Sharon Musehl for the Chesley Hospital Foundation, provided a presentation to Council outlining the Foundation's current initiatives, fundraising efforts, and future plans to support local healthcare services. Kate Grieve, Collen Madill and Don Dietrich also attended on behalf of the Foundation.

They are requesting $26,812 towards the three apartments for accommodations for doctors and locums.

Council will discuss this request in their budget deliberations later on in today's agenda.

9. Correspondence

9.1 Requiring Action

9.1.1 SMART- Saugeen Mobility Host Municipality

Council discussed this request from SMART and noted that the Finance department is not able to take on an extra task at this time due to limited capacity.

CAO Dance noted that the Board consider a schedule so that one Municipality is not supporting the Board over a number of years.

Moved by: Councillor Dudgeon

Seconded by: Councillor Hampton

Be it resolved that the Council of Arran-Elderslie is unable to accommodate this request at this time. Furthermore, Council respectfully requests that the Board develop a scheduling framework to ensure that the responsibility for supporting the Board does not fall on a single municipality for multiple consecutive years.

Council further requests that the Board assess the feasibility of Bruce County serving as the host.

9.2 For Information

Subsequent to further discussion, Council passed the following resolution:

267-18-2025

Moved by: Councillor Hampton

Seconded by: Deputy Mayor Shaw

Be It Resolved that the Council of the Municipality of Arran-Elderslie receives, notes, and files correspondence on the Council Agenda for information purposes.

Carried

9.2.1 Bruce Area Solid Waste Recycling Minutes - September 17, 2025

9.2.2 Multi-Municipal Energy Working Group Minutes - May 8, 2025

9.2.3 SMART Board Minutes - September 12, 2025

9.2.4 SVCA Authority Meeting - September 18, 2025 Minutes

10. Staff Reports

10.1 Finance

10.1.1 FIN-2025-21 2026 Budget – Draft 1

As Mayor, I am pleased to present the proposed municipal budget for the upcoming fiscal year, prepared under the authority granted to me by the Municipal Act and Ontario Regulation 530/22. It is designed to ensure fiscal responsibility while delivering high-quality services to our community.

I look forward to working collaboratively with Council and the community to finalize a budget that meets our shared goals. I am going to turn this over to the Treasurer to present the budget.

- Councillor Dudgeon noted that land sales should go into a reserve for future capital projects and not be used for Operating Expenses.
- There will be review of the $15,000 ask for office security.
- Acting Recreation Manager will research the funding for the LED lighting replacement in Allenford.
- Council will review Doc Milne Park upgrades
- Clarify chiller replacements - funding from the Chesley and Paisley Curling Clubs will be reviewed and clarified.
- Tara cemetery expansion - consider borrowing from Care and Maintenance Fund - speak with BAO
- Pearce Bridge engineering costs were discussed knowing that this most likely will lead to a construction estimate in the millions for 2027+.

Treasurer, David Munro will bring back these recommended changes to the November 10th Council meeting.

Subsequent to further discussion, Council passed the following resolution:

268-18-2025

Moved by: Councillor Nickason

Seconded by: Councillor Penner

Be It Resolved that Council receives the 2026 Budget – Draft 1;

Directs staff to incorporate any comments and create the November 12, 2025 Budget Public Meeting presentation;

Council to raise any recommended changes at or before the November 24, 2025 Council Meeting, otherwise Draft 1 will be adopted as the final version of the budget.

Carried

10.2 Public Works

10.2.1 PWRDS-2025-30 Proposed Stormwater Utility

Works Manager, Scott McLeod and Coordinator of Infrastructure and Development, Julie Fenton responded to questions from Members of Council.

Councillor Hampton requested a recorded vote.

Subsequent to further discussion, Council passed the following resolution:

269-18-2025

Moved by: Councillor Nickason

Seconded by: Councillor Dudgeon

Be It Resolved that Council hereby approves report PWRDS-2025-30 Proposed Stormwater Utility; and

Supports the creation of a Stormwater Utility to fund the operational and capital costs associated with the Urban Stormwater System; and

Directs that a Stormwater Fees and Charges By-Law be brought back to implement the full cost recovery rate structure by property type and property area beginning in the year 2026.

For (5): Mayor Hammell, Deputy Mayor Shaw, Councillor Nickason, Councillor Dudgeon , and Councillor Steinacker

Against (2): Councillor Hampton, and Councillor Penner

Carried (5 to 2)

10.3 Clerks

10.3.1 CLKS-2025-31 Initiating a Municipal Land Acknowledgement

Administrative Assistant/Deputy Clerk, Devan Acton responded to questions from Members of Council.

Subsequent to further discussion, Council passed the following resolution:

270-18-2025

Moved by: Councillor Hampton

Seconded by: Councillor Penner

Be It Resolved that Council hereby approves Report CLKS-2025-31 and supports the recommendation of the Accessibility, Diversity, Inclusion & Equity (ADIE) Advisory Committee to formally consult with the Saugeen Ojibway Nation to collaboratively create and adopt a municipal land acknowledgement;

AND support the ADIE Committee in forming a working group to lead this consultation process, with representation from Council, committee members and staff as appropriate;

FURTHER the working group shall coordinate outreach and engagement with Saugeen Ojibway Nation leadership, research best practices in establishing a land acknowledgment, draft a land acknowledgment for Council's review and adoption, and ensure the process is respectful, inclusive, and transparent.

FURTHER direct staff to research appropriate educational resources regarding land acknowledgment;

FURTHER recommend this training be circulated to members of Council and the ADIE Committee;

AND FURTHER this training be included in the established Council training budget.

11. Notice of Motion

Councillor Penner requested that a Notice of Motion regarding a Request for Cost Estimate to Remove Raised Garden Bed in Town Square be added to the agenda.

Moved by: Councillor Penner

Seconded by: Councillor Hampton

WHEREAS, a consensus exists among local community groups that the removal of the raised garden bed in the Town Square would enhance the usability of the area;

AND WHEREAS, the removal of this structure would significantly open the area for community gatherings at the cenotaph;

AND WHEREAS, the spruce in the raised bed has outgrown its space and is beginning to look straggly;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council directs the Roads Department to provide a cost estimate for the removal of the raised garden bed in the centre of the Town Square;

AND FURTHER THAT this cost estimate be itemized to clearly separate:

The cost of removing the spruce only

The estimated cost of in-house work (removal and disposal of the raised bed structure).

The estimated cost of external contract work (re-laying of paving stones or resurfacing the vacated area), to allow local groups to potentially fundraise for contractor costs.

11.1 Notice of Motion - Bridge Study

Councillor Penner noted that this is a motion to reconsider the Bridge Infrastructure Master Plan.

Whereas on June 9, 2025, Council defeated the motion to endorse the preliminary preferred approach (Alternative 2) of the Bridge Infrastructure Master Plan, which proposed the closure of certain crossings while replacing or repairing others; and I would like to bring this back for reconsideration.

Moved by: Councillor Penner

Seconded by: Councillor Hampton

Whereas on June 9, 2025, Council defeated the motion to endorse the preliminary preferred approach (Alternative 2) of the Bridge Infrastructure Master Plan, which proposed the closure of certain crossings while replacing or repairing others; and

Whereas Alternative 2 would have allowed several bridges to be repaired and maintained as long as feasible, with eventual closure and removal once no longer viable; and

Whereas the defeat of this motion resulted in the cancellation of a second public meeting scheduled for summer 2025, which was intended to present the findings of the Bridge Infrastructure Master Plan and gather community input on proposed strategies; and

Whereas no direction was provided to staff to develop a comprehensive financial plan to support phased implementation of the Bridge Master Plan, including cost estimates for priority projects and identification of potential funding sources such as grants, reserves, and partnerships; and

Whereas the absence of a clear decision has left the Municipality without a defined path forward, potentially defaulting to a “do nothing” approach that does not serve the long-term interests of the community; and

Whereas the lack of a financial strategy for future bridge repairs and infrastructure maintenance limits the Municipality’s ability to advocate for external funding and plan proactively; and

Whereas an alternative approach could be considered, one that proposes the replacement of all crossings when and if financially feasible and follows proper research and investigation which may better serve the needs of residents, including members of the Mennonite community, and provide a more definitive infrastructure strategy;

Therefore, be it resolved that I, Councillor Moiken Penner, hereby give notice of intent to bring forward a Motion to Reconsider the decision regarding the Bridge Infrastructure Master Plan at the next regular meeting of Council, pursuant to Section 18.10 of the Procedural By-law.

12. Members Updates

Shaw:

Deputy Mayor Shaw attended a ADIE meeting as well as the GSCA Board meeting.

Hampton:

Councillor Hampton had nothing to report.

Dudgeon:

Councillor Dudgeon was absent.

Steinacker:

Councillor Steinacker had nothing to report.

Penner:

Councillor Penner attended the Stop Gap presentation, SVCA Board meeting and the Healthy Democracy Forum.

Nickason:

Councillor Nickason attended the BASWR meeting.

Hammell:

Mayor Hammell attended a new business in Chesley with a certificate and attended the Tara Legion recognition awards.

13. By-laws

13.1 By-law 77-2025 - Adopt a Cost of Living Adjustment Policy for Non-Union Employees

Subsequent to further discussion, Council passed the following resolution:

271-18-2025

Moved by: Councillor Hampton

Seconded by: Councillor Nickason

Be It Resolved that By-law No. 77-2025 be introduced and read a first, second and third time, signed by the Mayor and Clerk, sealed with the Seal of the Corporation, and engrossed in the By-law Book.

By-law 77-2025 being a By-law to adopt a Cost of Living Adjustment Policy for Non-Union Employees.

Carried

13.2 By-law 78-2025 - Adopt a Housekeeping By-law for the Municipality of Arran-Elderslie

Subsequent to further discussion, Council passed the following resolution:

272-18-2025

Moved by: Councillor Hampton

Seconded by: Deputy Mayor Shaw

Be It Resolved that By-law No. 78-2025 be introduced and read a first, second and third time, signed by the Mayor and Clerk, sealed with the Seal of the Corporation, and engrossed in the By-law Book.

By-law 78-2025 being a By-law to amend the Additional Dwelling Unit provisions for Additional Dwelling Units to require Conservation Authority approvals in the Flood Fringe area, per the Local Official Plan Schedule. This amendment also seeks to remove the Minimum Gross Floor Area of the Residential R1, R2 and R3 zones.

Carried

14. Confirming By-law

14.1 By-law 79-2025 - Confirming By-law

Subsequent to further discussion, Council passed the following resolution:

273-18-2025

Moved by: Councillor Nickason

Seconded by: Councillor Hampton

Be It Resolved that By-law No. 78-2025 be introduced and read a first, second and third time, signed by the Mayor and Clerk, sealed with the Seal of the Corporation, and engrossed in the By-law Book.

By-law 78-2025 being a By-law to confirm the proceedings of the Regular Council meeting of the Municipality of Arran-Elderslie held Monday, October 27, 2025.

Carried

15. Adjournment

Subsequent to further discussion, Council passed the following resolution:

274-18-2025

Moved by: Deputy Mayor Shaw

Seconded by: Councillor Steinacker

Be It Resolved that the meeting be adjourned to the call of the Mayor at 2:00 PM.

Carried

16. List of Upcoming Council meetings

- November 10, 2025
- November 24, 2025
- December 8, 2025

Steve Hammell, Mayor

Christine Fraser-McDonald, Clerk