

Parish Council of Hempstead
Minutes of the Meeting of Hempstead Parish Council
held on Thursday 19th August 2021

Present: Nicholas Turkentine (Vice Chair), David Drane, Diana Frost, Alan Weedon, Mark Welbourn, District Councillor George Smith and the Clerk.

Members of the Public: Robbie Freeman

The Parish Council meeting started at 8.09pm

68. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Sean McCarthy, Laura Saxel and County Councillor Martin Foley.

69. REPORTS FROM DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCILLORS

Written reports from the District and County Councillors would be received later in the month.

District Councillor Smith briefly outlined the following regarding Uttlesford DC:

- Uttlesford DC will be carrying out a survey regarding the safety of women on public transport in the District.
- New Chief Executive of Uttlesford DC to be appointed in September.

70. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING – The Minutes of 22nd July 2021 were agreed as a correct record, and signed by the Vice Chair.

71. MATTERS ARISING

Local Plan – Diana Frost and Mark Welbourn attended an online forum on the outcome of the Call for Sites. This was discussed. It was agreed that further clarity from the Uttlesford Local Plan team was required regarding their request for sites in the village that might be put forward in the short term to fill the housing need for the next 2 years. Mark Welbourn to draft an email.

Quiet Lane Initiative – Residents of Great Sampford are pursuing a quiet lane initiative for **Howe Lane**, which Hempstead Parish Council supports. The Parish Council will look at the initiative for Boytons Lane, Witchtree Lane, Wincelow Hall Road and Church Hill. Mark Welbourn to lead on this.

Church Hill Hedges and Trees – Reminder to residents to be sent out encouraging them to prune back hedges etc. on Church Hill.

Parish Council Highways Devolution – Prior to the meeting the Clerk had circulated an email regarding the ongoing Essex Highways devolution pilot. After discussion, including queries on what the scope of the devolution might be and what level of funding is provided, it was agreed that Mark Welbourn would draft a list of questions to be sent by the Clerk.

72. FINANCE

Financial Update – Current Account balance at 19 August 2021 was £3963.95. The Clerk confirmed that £1420, from a budgeted amount of £2300, had been paid in respect of grass cutting. Next tranche of Precept, £4625, will be received in September.

Invoices – The Parish Council approved the following payments: £50 to Diana Frost for the mobile bar (Open House Event) and £175 for Village Emergency Telephone System (VETS) training donation (invoices then signed by the Vice Chair). The following pre-approved invoices were also signed: £330 for grass cutting and £36 CPRE membership.

Ward Members' Grant – The Clerk confirmed that a submission for £500 had been made to cover the cost of a wooden bench and its installation for the Glebe play area. Cllr Smith has passed on this request.

73. PLANNING

Land at Fanes Cottage: *UTT/21/2555/PIP. Application for permission in principle for the erection of between 3 or 4 dwellings.* After discussion all Parish Councillors agreed that an objection to the application should be submitted, as it is inconsistent with the development area of the village and any development of land secondary to High Street is unacceptable because of Hempstead's status as a linear village. Clerk to submit objection and comments.

Newlands: *UTT/21/2412/OP. Outline application with all matters reserved for the erection of 1 no. 1.5 storey dwelling.* After discussion the Parish Council agreed that NO COMMENTS REQUIRED

Iswas Cottage: *UTT/21/1764/CLP. Conversion of garage to habitable accommodation.* AWAITING DECISION

Barn 2 at Ruses Farm: *UTT/21/0542/FUL. Extension and conversion of barn to form 1 no. dwelling.* AWAITING DECISION

Cuckoo House: *UTT/21/2110/HHF. Single storey extension.* AWAITING DECISION

Boytons: *UTT/20/1946/FUL. Change of use to early years nursery.* APPEAL SUBMITTED

Anso Corner Farm: *UTT/21/1764/FUL. Demolition of 2 no. commercial units (with prior approval for conversion to residential) and the erection of 1 no. dwelling with linked parking.* AWAITING DECISION

The Bluebell Inn: *UTT/21/1870/TCA. Felling of trees in conservation area – 1no. Cob Nut, 1no. Hawthorn and 1no. Damson. Remove lower limbs and remove dead limbs of 1no. Pine Tree. Remove ivy and reshape of 1no. Damson.* NO OBJECTIONS

Cracknells Cottage: *UTT/21/1334/HHF. Replace garage with cart lodge.* APPROVED

74. CORRESPONDENCE – Nothing to discuss.

75. NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH AND WELLBEING

Neighbourhood Watch – Laura Saxel had emailed the Clerk in advance of the meeting. The Clerk informed the Council that two break-ins of unattended/unoccupied premises had been recently reported in the CB10 2 postcode area. Residents have been urged to remain vigilant by way of the village email list.

Community Special Constables – The Clerk will attend an online briefing and report back to the Council.

76. HIGHWAYS AND RIGHTS OF WAY

Road resurfacing – Essex Highways have confirmed that final work, including raising metalworks and painting white lines, will be completed by 24th September.

Local Highways Panel – Mark Welbourn has drafted the requests, including the extension of the 40mph limit and the implementation of "quiet lanes", and will circulate shortly.

Footpath/RoW Cutting – District Councillor Smith will assist David Drane with chasing County Councillor Foley.

77. ENVIRONMENT

Tree Pollarding – The Clerk had received an email update from Laura Saxel. No objection to the pollarding of the Ring O' Trees and willow by the War Memorial has been received from Uttlesford planning. This should mean that the work can go ahead. An official quote for the work will need to be obtained.

Regarding the Chestnut by the Village Hall, a report is awaited and when received Laura will update.

Village Railings – Diana Frost is continuing to refurbish and paint, and the Nick Turkentine thanked Diana for her hard work. It was agreed that David Drane would ask the Highway Rangers to clear the railings by the large pond on Church Hill, where it is currently overgrown to allow for all railings to be refurbished.

Pond Area and Fountain – The pond at the bottom of Church Hill requires overgrowth to be cleared. It was agreed that a village clear up day/working party would be arranged for 9th October, from 10am. Possibility that money will need to be budgeted next year for professional work in this area.

78. FLOODING

Nick Turkentine has requested assistance from the District and County Councillors to put pressure on Essex Highways to clear the village drains.

79. COMMUNICATIONS

Diana Frost will be promoting the Open House event in the Newsletter and Village Website.

80. DEFIBRILLATOR TRAINING

The Clerk has confirmed that all previous volunteers are still happy to take part in the VETS training. Once the £175 fee/donation has been paid the training can be organised.

81. VILLAGE HALL

The Village Hall was cleaned and updated in "post Covid" reopening. A grant application for an awning for the back of the hall has been made.

82. PLATINUM JUBILEE

It was agreed that Mark Welbourn will look into whether the closure of High Street might be possible for a village celebration.

83. HEMPSTEAD OPEN HOUSE EVENT

This will be taking place on **18th September**, from 4pm to 5:30pm. A mobile bar has been hired.

84. EMERGENCY PLAN

Following Hempstead Village Hall's use as an emergency "hub" for fire and rescue teams when Helions Bumpstead was flooded, it was discussed where might be used in Hempstead if the Village Hall is out of reach. Any updates will be considered when the formal review takes place in January 2022.

The meeting ended at 9:45pm

**Future Meetings: 16 September at 8pm
14 October at 8pm**