

Parish Council of Hempstead
Minutes of the Meeting of Hempstead Parish Council
held on Thursday 17th February 2022

Present: Nick Turkentine (Vice Chair), David Drane, Diana Frost, Laura Saxel, Mark Welbourn, District Councillor George Smith, County Councillor Martin Foley, PCSO Nikki Morris and the Clerk.

The Parish Council meeting started at 8pm

164. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were accepted from Sean McCarthy.

165. REPORTS FROM DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCILLORS

District Cllr Smith gave a verbal report on Uttlesford District Councillor, including a more detailed update regarding the special measures that have been implemented for the Planning Department. He noted that a Planning Director is to be appointed to drive the changes required.

A monthly report from County Cllr Foley had been received and circulated to councillors prior to the meeting. Cllr Foley confirmed that Hempstead Parish Council's requests have been put to the Local Highways Panel and that he will look into what discretionary funding might be available for the clearance of ditches.

166. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The Minutes of 13th January 2022 were agreed as a correct record, and signed by the Vice Chair.

167. MATTERS ARISING

Adoption of Telephone Box – It was agreed that at the present time the Parish Council would not look to "adopt" the telephone box, as it is still being served by BT. The Clerk to look into whether the box can be cleaned up and refurbished by BT.

168. FINANCE

Financial Update – The Clerk confirmed the current account balance is £3,770.19.

Invoices – Invoices were presented by the Clerk for the new bench and approved as follows: £33.34 (plaque), £49.48 (materials for setting the paving and securing) and £24.99 (wood preserver).

Clerk's expenses payment for 2021/22 of £440 was approved.

169. PLANNING

Anso Corner Farm: *UTT/22/0441/FUL*. Amendments to that approved under *UTT/21/1764/FUL*. After discussion it was agreed by a majority vote that NO COMMENTS REQUIRED

The Moat House: *UTT/22/0019/LB*. Proposed alterations to existing cloakroom to form shower room with window proposed to external wall. AWAITING DECISION

Land at Village Hall: *UTT/21/3671/TCA*. Fell 1no. Horse Chestnut as close to ground level as possible. NO OBJECTIONS RECEIVED

Lakehouse Farm: *UTT/21/1862/FUL*. AWAITING DECISION

170. CORRESPONDENCE

Parish Forums – Nick Turkentine and Diana Frost had attended an informative meeting with Peter Holt, the new CEO of Uttlesford District Council (UDC), and had circulated a summary of the discussion. It was agreed that the forum was very useful and that Councillors would attend any future meetings. The Clerk had also received information on a forum on planning and development that Diana Frost agreed to attend.

ECC bus service consultation – The Clerk had received an email regarding a consultation on bus services as the number 60 route will be up for renewal/re-tender later in the year. Diana Frost to circulate details of this public consultation to residents by email.

171. NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH AND WELLBEING

Policing – Nikki Morris, our local PCSO for North Uttlesford, dropped in for an informal visit. Nikki will give notice of any future visits to the village, to which all residents will be invited. It was noted that a Police Community Safety Partnership event will be held at the village hall on Tuesday, 1st March.

Essex Rural Partnership – Laura Saxel informed the Council about rural crime strategy workshops that will be taking place in late February and March, which are open to all members of the rural community. Laura to publicise to residents via the newsletter.

Health and Wellbeing – Laura Saxel had attended a diversity listening event, where members of Uttlesford's disabled community and local support organisations spoke. The Health and Wellbeing Plan will be updated and promoted to residents.

172. HIGHWAYS AND RIGHTS OF WAY

Affinity Water Road Closure – Affinity Water have confirmed that the road will be reopened by 27th February, with all work completed.

Rights of Way Officer – Ned Gemmill, Hempstead's rights of way officer, has been quick to act on recent communications from the Parish Council, and has arranged for two footpath bridges to be repaired.

173. ENVIRONMENT

Tree Work – The horse chestnut by the village hall is due to be felled by Josh Watson on 20/21st April. Nick Turkentine had been made aware, by the landowner, that three trees along Boytons Lane will need to be removed due to damage and poor condition.

174. FLOODING – The Clerk had received a request for input to Uttlesford's flooding risk assessment regarding flooding history of the Parish. It was agreed that the Parish Council had nothing it could provide.

175. COMMUNICATIONS – No update required.

176. VILLAGE HALL –Diana Frost has been appointed the Parish Council representative on the Village Hall Management Committee in the long term absence of Sean McCarthy.

177. PLATINUM JUBILEE – A committee has been formed, with Melanie Pollitt kindly stepping forward to coordinate and the Clerk joining her, although more volunteers are being sought. The Clerk confirmed that there is now grant funding available from UDC for up to £700.

178. EMERGENCY PLAN – Nick Turkentine confirmed the update is almost complete.

The meeting ended at 10:19pm

**Future Meetings: 24th March at 8pm
14th April at 8pm**