

PARISH OF HEMPSTEAD

Minutes of the Meeting of Hempstead Parish Council held on Thursday 23rd November 2023

Present: Nick Turkentine (Chair), Nicola Davies, David Drane, Diana Frost, James Nicholson, Mark Welbourn, Julie Wilson and the Clerk. District Councillor Mike Tayler

The Parish Council meeting started at 8:03pm

23/112 Apologies for Absence County Councillor Martin Foley

23/113 Public Forum No members of the public were in attendance.

23/114 Declarations of Interest None

23/115 Reports from District and/or County Councillors

District Councillor Tayler had sent a written report, which was circulated to Councillors just before the meeting and included updates on the Local Plan consultation and info from the Thaxted Area Parish Meeting. He noted that County Councillor Foley would shortly be meeting with Essex Highways to discuss Hempstead's concerns. The Chair noted that this was positive news, and highlighted concerns raised by residents regarding traffic speeds on Church Hill and Howe Lane. Councillor Tayler commented that Uttlesford District Council are likely to be pressuring Essex County Council to impose their new rules on speed limit changes and change their policy if required.

23/116 Minutes of Meeting of Thursday 19th October were approved and signed by the Chair

23/117 Finance

Item 1 – Financial update from the Clerk, including payments since last meeting and status of Budget, including estimate of 2023/24 spend to feed into 2024/25 budget.

| Date | Payee | Description | Amount | Balance |
|-------------|---------------------|--------------------|---------------|----------------|
| 20-Oct-23 | S/O to: Rebecca Cox | Salary | -313.56 | 5384.33 |
| | B/P to: Outdoor | Grass | | |
| 01-Nov-23 | Jack | Cutting | -235 | 5149.33 |
| 01-Nov-23 | B/P to: EALC | Training | -144 | 5005.33 |
| 20-Nov-23 | S/O to: Rebecca Cox | Salary | -313.56 | 4691.77 |

Reserve account balance £9682.24

Item 2 – The following payments were approved and invoices signed by the Chair: £30 cheque for the Poppy Appeal (wreath), £470 to Outdoor Jack, £100 to Community Heartbeat (VETS annual cost), £198 to Community Heartbeat (defibrillator support), £500 to Mooreland Building Services (re-pointing of war memorial paving).

23/118 Action Tracker outstanding actions were reviewed and spreadsheet updated as required.

23/119 Aims and Objectives of the Parish Council in 2024/25. Circulated draft was discussed. Clerk to update as required, include suggested funding which will feed into the 24/25 budget, and circulate prior to the next meeting.

23/120 Planning to review and comment on new planning applications and to note any decisions as at 17/11/23.

Barns South of Conifers House: UTT/23/2821/FUL. Proposed conversion of existing barns into 3 no. dwellings. It was unanimously agreed that the Parish Council would provide a neutral comment on the application, which would take account of the following: concerns regarding safety of pedestrians using the footpath which crosses the site (on proposed vehicular access), preservation of trees on the site and dark skies compliant external lighting.

James Nicholson to draft a response highlighting these comments, which would be submitted by the Clerk.

PARISH OF HEMPSTEAD

Barns at Little Smiths Green Farm: UTT/23/2576/OP. Outline application for demolition of agricultural buildings and erection of 5 dwellings.

It was unanimously agreed that the Parish Council would provide a neutral comment on the application as follows: the development is outside the village development envelope. Dark skies lighting standards should be enforced in the event the application is approved, given the rural location. The speed of the road is a concern - a straight stretch of road allowing considerable speeds to be reached and a legal limit of 60 mph. The view that safety of the road at this site, if the proposed development proceeds, could only be achieved with a reduced speed limit.

The Clerk to submit comments on Uttlesford Planning portal.

Quail Farm Cottage: UTT/23/1969/HHF. APPROVED

Draft Local Plan Consultation: It was agreed that James Nicholson would draft supporting comments from the Parish Council for the Clerk to submit.

23/121 Correspondence None

23/122 The Bluebell Inn Updates from ROBINN had recently been received by residents. The frontage had been tidied up by members of the group. Plans were in place for Christmas drinks in the village hall on 17th December.

23/123 Thaxted Area Parish Meeting feedback from meeting held on 20th November was provided by Julie Wilson. Topics covered included an update of the Local Plan, Councillor Code of Conduct and rural housing options. It was agreed that the Parish Council would offer the use of Hempstead village hall for a future meeting – the Clerk to contact Sue Hayden in this regard.

23/124 Speedwatch/Police speed checks Three new volunteers have come forward to possibly join Speedwatch. The Clerk to liaise with Tricia Ridgway on the way forward.

23/125 Reports from Councillors

Highways and Rights of Way Anso Road declassification and then possible weight restriction to be included in Local Highways Panel submission to be made by Mark Welbourn.

Footpaths – David Drane noted that 2 bridges had been replaced by the Friends of Flich Way, and had sent a note of thanks to them. David Drane had contacted the rights of way officer at Highways regarding the cost of footpath cutting. Diana Frost to request a quote from Outdoor Jack for the cutting of Hempstead's footpaths next year.

Flooding Database of flooding, and general highways, issues created and circulated by Julie Wilson. Enforcement officer at Highways now in contact with Julie. "Flood" signs to be requested from service that provides them for free, including public liability cover.

Environment Willow by war memorial to be pollarded and ash pruned on 19th December.

Health and Well-being Nicola Davies to provide updates for next Newsletter.

Communications No update

Policing No update

Village Hall Work continuing to repair ceiling in ladies toilet.

23/126 Matters Arising requiring decisions, to be included on the next Agenda

Finalisation of budget and precept. Changes to Standing Orders to limit time allowed for discussion on each point of the agenda.

23/127 Future Meeting Dates: 18th January and 15th February 2024 at the new start time of 7:30pm

The meeting ended at 10:45pm