

# Hempstead Parish Council

## Annual Report 2010/2011

### List of parish councillors

Sean McCarthy	599558	Chairman and Police Liaison
John Sladen	586429	Village Hall Representative & Emergency Planning
David Drane	599397	Highways
Diana Frost	599771	Footpaths & Communications
Sara Scott	599178	Neighbourhood Watch
David Haylock	599238	Tree Warden and Planning
Alan Weedon	599366	Environment

**Clerk and Responsible Officer:** Claire Dittrich (to Oct 2010)

Martyn Long (from Oct 2010) 01440 730196

### Meetings

The council met twelve times during the year with good attendance from all councillors. Simon Walsh, County Councillor and Sue Schneider, District Councillor were also attendees from time to time. A number of consultation papers were received and our views on those pertaining to Hempstead were made available to the relevant authorities. The Council continues to care for and monitor the resources of the village. Vigilance was also maintained on all planning issues affecting the village.

More details of the Parish Council's activities and decision making can be seen on the village website at [www.hempstead-essex.org.uk](http://www.hempstead-essex.org.uk) and on the notice boards. Times and dates of future meetings are also available through these channels.

### Finance

Overall our financial position remains sound with expenditure carefully monitored to ensure the budget is maintained. More details of all Parish Council expenditure will be available at the Annual Meeting and is available throughout the year in the minutes published on the website and notice board.

Each year a small number of donations are made to charities. This year the East Anglian Children's Hospice and Home Start each received £50.

The 2011/12 budget has been increased by £500.00 to allow the Council to pay for maintenance works within the village. This work was hitherto carried out by volunteer residents but recently due to a lack of response other methods were now needed.

The new Clerk has undergone training in Parish Council Finances and the new PAYE requirements.

### Highways

Progress on the footpath has been slow following considerable activity earlier in the year. Where required, residents have readily agreed to make land available free of charge, final plans have been drawn up and there is solid support from the County Council for the project. The Parish Council has offered up to £4,000.00 toward the conveyancing costs and this has been well received by the County. However, resources are stretched and this remains the main obstacle.

We managed to persuade the County Council to resurface the road beyond Bramley Hollow but following the winter weather considerable work remains on the road towards Radwinter.

### **Environment**

The Council is close to completing the registration of various pieces of common land and village green areas within the village.

The 2011/12 budget has been increased by £500.00 to allow the Council to pay for maintenance works within the village.

### **Maintenance Projects**

The renovation of the War Memorial surrounds was completed thanks to a grant of £937.00 from the Uttlesford Community Grant scheme, plus the sum of £1,500.00 from the Council's reserve fund.

The Council arranged for the purchase of litter picking equipment and fluorescent jackets, which are available to volunteers who may wish to assist in containing this problem.

The refurbishment of the Water Fountain was also completed during the year.

The Council continues to maintain common land areas, the Glebe and the churchyard.

### **Public Rights of Way**

The Council was successful in obtaining grant funding of over £5000.00, which enabled us to maintain over 16,000 metres of footpaths in the Parish. However, funding for the current year has been slashed and we are currently in negotiation with P3 and the County with regard to the level of funding for the current year.

### **Communications**

The Newsletter continues to be delivered to every household monthly with some new distributors stepping forward this year. A copy is also placed on the village website every month. Our website continues to be very popular and certain areas have been refreshed and revamped for 2011 and old material is steadily being archived.

### **Police matters**

We were very sorry to lose PC Nicola Lark who has been transferred to Dunmow. A letter has been sent to her Chief Inspector expressing our gratitude for her hard work in resolving some very serious issues in the village. Her replacement is PC Dawn Bamford.

### **Village Hall**

The Parish Council continue to work closely with the Village Hall Management Committee and are currently assisting with the amalgamation of the Village Hall and Glebe charities.

### **Bets Kept Village Competition**

The village has been entered for the competition again this year.

### **Emergency Plan**

This was updated during the year.

### **Conclusion**

The Council is pleased with the progress made on a number of issues and the completion of a number of projects as reported above. Outstanding projects will receive the full attention of the Council.

Sean McCarthy  
Chairman of the Council

Martyn Long  
Clerk to the Council