

PARISH OF HEMPSTEAD

Minutes of the Meeting of Hempstead Parish Council held on Thursday 14th March 2024

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

The Parish Council meeting started at 7:30pm

23/157 Apologies for Absence County Councillor Martin Foley

23/158 Public Forum One member of the public attended and spoke regarding the possible development of a piece of land at Bramley Hollow (redundant chicken farm buildings) using Part Q planning consent. He requested that the Parish Council might provide a statement regarding the usage of the buildings/land for agricultural usage, not industrial.

23/159 Declarations of Interest None

23/160 Reports from District and/or County Councillors

District Councillor Tayler had emailed a report, which had been circulated by the Clerk. He highlighted the Local Plan (positive work so far, continuing within timetable), and the sale of a UDC asset at Chesterford Research Park. Cllr Tayler suggested that his Ward Members Grant might be able to be used for speed survey on Anso Road, which he would check and let the Council know ASAP.

23/161 Minutes of Meeting of Thursday 15th February 2024 were approved and signed by the Chair.

23/162 Finance

Item 1 – Financial update from the Clerk.

Current Account: £1,099.09

Date	Payee	Description	Amount	Balance
19-Feb-24	B/P to: COX R	CLERK BACK PAY	-286	1412.65
20-Feb-24	S/O to: Rebecca Cox	SALARY	-313.56	1099.09

Reserve Account: £9,749.35

Item 2 – no invoices presented.

23/163 Planning to review and comment on new planning applications and to note any decisions as at 07/03/24.

Thatch Cottage: UTT/24/0280/DFO. AWAITING DECISION

Wayside: UTT/24/0164/HHF. AWAITING DECISION

Shepherds Cottage: UTT/24/0075/HHF. AWAITING DECISION

Fairview Bungalow: UTT/23/3172/CLE. REFUSED

Witchtree Farm: UTT/23/3128/HHF. APPROVED

Barns South of Conifers House: UTT/23/2821/FUL. AWAITING DECISION

Barns at Little Smiths Green Farm: UTT/23/2576/OP. AWAITING DECISION

Bramley Hollow: It was unanimously agreed that the Parish Council would not provide a statement regarding the usage of the barns/agricultural units at this time.

23/164 Correspondence None

23/165 Annual Report Councillors were asked to provide wording for the annual report for the Clerk to collate before the next meeting.

23/166 Village Hall Title Mark Welbourn to look at Land Registry paperwork required to amend the village hall title to come under Hempstead Parish Council as Registered Owner/Proprietor, without need for named persons. Diana Frost confirmed that the VHMC are content for the Parish Council to use the village hall as a postal address/letterbox.

23/167 Speedwatch/Police speed checks the Clerk confirmed that most of the new volunteers who had come forward had met with the current coordinator, Tricia Ridgway, for an introductory session. Once training has been undertaken Speedwatch will be fully functional once again. Noted that Police can be informed when activity taking place so they might join if available.

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23/168 Reports from Councillors

Highways and Rights of Way

Feedback from Highways representative visit – following issues were discussed with the Highways representative, County Councillor Foley and District Councillor on morning of 14th March:

- State of High Street road surface, exacerbated by excess surface water recently suffered;
- Greenery at bottom of Anso Road encroaching onto Highway;
- Apparent blockages of drains under roads (including Anso Road and top of Boytons Lane); and
- Crushed railings at top of Anso Road by triangle, query culvert underneath might be damaged.

The Local Highways Panel submissions were also discussed, including extension of 40mph on Bumpstead Road, creation of 40mph “buffers” on Hill Road and Anso Road, and de-classification of Anso Road with either weight or width restriction. Mark Welbourn confirmed that these were all to be put forward.

Footpath cutting – Essex Rights of Way officer had confirmed that cutting would begin in July, but could not provide an actual date. David Drane to provide information on footpaths to Country Gardens & Landscapes to allow a proper quote to be prepared. Decision to be made on when extra cut of footpaths to occur (before or after Essex cut?).

Flooding Issues were discussed with Highways representative, who confirmed that they would contact enforcement regarding issues on Anso Road (suggest contacting relevant landowners). Julie Wilson confirmed no further plans by landowner for ditch clearance on Anso Road.

Environment

Tree Survey to take place on 9th April.

Village sign – the £770 quote (including 25%/£192.50 deposit) from Russ Wide for the refurbishment of the sign was unanimously approved. The Clerk to accept the quote.

Health and Well-being Nicola Davies highlighted a couple of local initiatives – United in Kind Campaign, providing loneliness and social isolation support in Essex, and Find Your Active providing advice/information to support people moving to a more active lifestyle.

Neighbourhood Watch Nicola Davies has now signed up as Hempstead’s coordinator. Noted that any residents, even if not members, can request information to be sent to them.

Policing Police to be informed of Speedwatch activities, when back up and running.

Communications Ambo being updated with correct Parish Council information (Clerk has actioned).

Village Hall Noted that booking whole weekend of 6th and 7th April. Clerk continuing to look through Parish Council documentation kept in the loft, which will lead to archiving.

23/169 Action Tracker to review outstanding actions.

23/170 Matters Arising requiring decisions, to be included on the next Agenda Neighbourhood Watch to be back on the Agenda. VASI sign replacement.

23/171 Future Meeting Dates: 11th April (7:30pm). 23rd May for Annual meeting of the Parish Council (7:30pm). 30th May Annual Parish Meeting (8pm).

The meeting ended at 9:41pm