

PARISH OF HEMPSTEAD

Minutes of the Meeting of Hempstead Parish Council held on Thursday, 20th June 2024

Present: Nick Turkentine (Chair), David Drane, James Nicholson, Mark Welbourn, Julie Wilson and the Clerk.

The Parish Council meeting started at 7:30pm.

24/028 Apologies for Absence Nicola Davies, Diana Frost, County Councillor Martin Foley and District Councillor Mike Tayler.

24/029 Public Forum No members of the public were in attendance.

24/030 Declarations of Interest None

24/031 Reports from District and/or County Councillors

The Clerk had circulated a report from District Councillor Tayler which mainly concerned the Local Plan prior to the meeting. County Councillor Foley had been in contact regarding the continuing Highways issues and would continue to support the Parish Council until resolved.

24/032 Minutes of Previous Meeting of Thursday 23rd May and the Annual Parish Meeting of Thursday 30th May were approved and signed by the Chair.

24/033 Finance

Item 1 – to receive financial update from the Clerk.

Current Account Balance: £4611.72

Date	Payee	Description	Amount	Balance
24-May-24	B/P to: Outdoor Jack	Grass Cutting	-391.11	5840.92
05-Jun-24	B/P to: COX R	Clerk Expenses	-144.53	5696.39
12-Jun-24	B/P to: Country Gardens	Pond Work	-354	5342.39
12-Jun-24	B/P to: Outdoor Jack	Grass Cutting	-391.11	4951.28
20-Jun-24	S/O to: Rebecca Cox	Salary	-339.56	4611.72

Reserve Account Balance: £9816.19

Item 2 – Unanimous approval given for £858 payment to Essex County Council for the tree survey, and the invoice signed by the Chair. *The Clerk noted that whilst only one quote had been sought for this work, it was from the Essex County Council provider who had carried out the previous survey, but to ensure good value for money further quotes would be requested when a survey is next required.* The following invoices were signed by the Chair: £391.11 to Outdoor Jack for grass cutting in May and £354 to Country Gardens & Landscapes for pond clearance and £577.50 to Russell Wide for the refurbishment of the village sign.

24/034 Planning

Anso Cottage: UTT/24/1340/LB. Installation of a chair lift. NO COMMENTS REQUIRED

The Bluebell Inn: UTT/24/0147/LB. AWAITING DECISION

Clays: UTT/24/0842/FUL. AWAITING DECISION It was noted that District Councillor Tayler has called this in to Planning Committee, which will only occur if the planning officer is minded to approve.

Neighbourhood Plan: The Chair raised the possibility of looking into a cut-down neighbourhood plan for Hempstead. It was agreed that it should be considered again, with the possibility of a questionnaire going out to residents. Councillors to think of questions/suggestions to discuss at the next meeting.

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24/035 Correspondence The Clerk had received an email from the Hundred Parishes society regarding grant funding available and had submitted a request for a £500 grant to go towards the refurbishment of the village sign.

24/036 Local Parish Forum Feedback The Clerk had circulated Diana Frost's feedback prior to the meeting. No discussion required.

24/037 Reports from Councillors

Highways and Rights of Way

Update on outstanding issues – it was noted that some pothole repairs had now been carried out (on Bumpstead Road at top of Boytons Lane), but most issues were still outstanding. David Drane had been in contact with County Councillor Foley, who would be following up with Highways once reference numbers provided.

Footpath cutting – Grass cutting contractor Outdoor Jack now has correct equipment to cut footpaths. It was agreed that David Drane would contact him for an additional cut of certain footpaths up to an agreed budget of £1000, if required.

Flooding There has been no reply or action taken by Highways regarding the may issues highlighted earlier in the year. The Clerk to email Highways contact and County Councillor Foley to request an update.

Health and Wellbeing / Neighbourhood Watch Nicola Davies was unable to attend the meeting but her update had been emailed to councillors prior to the meeting. No discussion required.

Policing No matters requiring attention.

Environment Wellyard footpath clearance had been a success, thanks to Councillors and volunteers. To consider the need for converting debris left from the clearance into a "dead hedge" (it was noted that this might have a cost implication from the purchase of wooden stakes required).

Communications No update.

Village Hall Land Registry process advice had been received suggesting that as the Trustee remains as Hempstead Parish Council, the registered address just needs to be changed to Hempstead Village Hall. The Clerk to contact the Land Registry to start the process.

24/038 Matters Arising requiring decisions, to be included on the next Agenda

Environment – need for a "dead hedge" and materials required?

Communications – review of the village website.

24/039 Future Meeting Dates: 25th July and 29th August.

The meeting ended at 8:54pm