

## PARISH OF HEMPSTEAD

### Minutes of the Meeting of Hempstead Parish Council held on Thursday, 29<sup>th</sup> August 2024

**Present:** Nick Turkentine (Chair), Nicola Davies, Diana Frost, James Nicholson, Julie Wilson, County Councillor Foley, District Councillor Tayler and the Clerk.

**The Parish Council meeting started at 7:30pm.**

**24/053 Apologies for Absence** David Drane and Mark Welbourn

**24/054 Public Forum** No members of the public were in attendance.

**24/055 Declarations of Interest** The Clerk had asked all Councillors to check that their Register of Interest forms were up to date, which had been confirmed prior to the meeting. Diana Frost declared an interest in the Hempstead History website to be discussed at 24/059.

#### **24/056 Reports from District and/or County Councillors**

District Councillor Tayler had sent a written report prior to the meeting, which the Clerk had circulated. He highlighted a couple of points on the Local Plan: the consultation period had started, including public meetings, which were required by the planning inspectorate; and that basic neighbourhood plans are being encouraged, for which advice from UDC will hopefully be provided.

County Councillor Foley had sent a written report on Highways issues prior to the meeting, which the Clerk had circulated. Verbal report included: meeting with Julie Wilson and Highways rep to take place the next day to specifically look at flooding issues on Anso Road; more money will be available for Highways works this year from ECC; Hempstead has prioritised pothole repair, which was scheduled to occur before end of August, and Councillor Foley to put continued pressure on until it is completed; Essex Highways online reporting tool has been remodelled to make reporting of issues easier; and it was noted that Uttlesford has had more Highways works/pothole repair per head of population than any other district in Essex.

**24/057 Minutes of Previous Meeting of Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> July** were approved and signed by the Chair.

#### **24/058 Finance**

**Item 1** – to receive financial update from the Clerk.

**Current Account Balance: £1766.48**

Date	Payee	Description	Amount	Balance
31-Jul-24	B/P to: Zurich	Insurance	-363	2361.88
31-Jul-24	B/P to: COX R	Clerk's Expenses	-15.99	2345.89
06-Aug-24	THE HUNDRED PARISHES SOCIETY	Grant	500	2845.89
13-Aug-24	B/P to: CPRE	Membership	-36	2809.89
13-Aug-24	B/P to: Outdoor Jack	Grass Cutting	-703.85	2106.04
20-Aug-24	S/O to: Rebecca Cox	Salary	-339.56	1766.48

**Reserve Account Balance: £9883.49**

**Item 2** – the following payments were approved and invoices signed: £179.99 to Watch the Dot for website hosting, £35 to Diana Frost for railings' paint, £35.98 to Julie Wilson for parking signs, and £9.50 to Rebecca Cox for Land Registry requirements and postage. Invoices for pre-approved payments were signed: £36 to CPRE for membership and £703.85 to Outdoor Jack for grass cutting.

**24/059 History Website** The Hundred Parishes has offered the Parish Council a grant for up to £1000 to be used to reimburse Ross Midgley and Diana Frost's expenditure on the new Hempstead History website. It was unanimously agreed for the Parish Council to accept this kind offer and reimburse the expenditure up to a maximum of £1000.

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### **24/060 Planning**

**The Old Vicarage:** UTT/24/2136/HHF. Whilst Councillors agreed that there was no objection to the extension and construction of a garage, it was agreed that comments should be submitted highlighting the Parish Council's concerns about the proposed location of the garage and the need to fell trees that are subject to Tree Preservation Orders.

**The Old Bakery:** UTT/24/1886/FUL. It was agreed that comments neither objecting or supporting the application should be submitted noting the following: the position of the proposed house to be closer to the middle of the plot to allow access to the boundary hedge and more favourably positioned in relation to the stream; fixed structure boundary to the highway rather than a hedge for safety purposes; conditions set to ensure building work limited to normal working hours; and Dark Skies compliant lighting. The Clerk to submit comments.

**The Bluebell Inn:** UTT/24/0147/LB. APPROVED

**Clays:** UTT/24/0842/FUL. AWAITING DECISION

**Local Plan:** Feedback from Local Plan meeting held on 19<sup>th</sup> August was provided by Nick Turkentine and James Nicholson who had been in attendance. It was agreed that the Parish Council should provide brief, positive comments on the new local plan to the consultation, by the 3<sup>rd</sup> October deadline. James Nicholson to draft some wording to be submitted by the Clerk. The Parish Council to also re-visit the idea of a curtailed Neighbourhood Plan, which are being encouraged by UDC.

**24/061 Correspondence** The Clerk had received an email from a resident regarding County Broadband's erection of telephone poles on Finchingfield Road, which is a protected lane. The resident has now received a response from UDC conservation officer who is looking into it. An email had also been received regarding overgrowth of vegetation in the churchyard by graves – the Clerk forwarded the email on to Meryl Haylock, who is kindly arranging for the area surrounding the grave in question to be strimmed and is chasing the Probation Service regarding assistance with tidying up the churchyard.

**24/062 VE Day 80<sup>th</sup> and War Memorial 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversaries in 2025** Councillor's had met to discuss these events, and Diana Frost to act as chair of the organising committee. It had been decided that there would not be a "celebration" to mark VE day, but it was agreed that £75 could be budgeted for a special wreath to mark the occasion.

**24/063 Action Tracker** It was noted that Outdoor Jack had yet to be contacted to organise a cut of some village footpaths – the Clerk to follow up. Photos still required from Julie Wilson, Nicola Davies and Mark Welbourn for the Parish Council page on the village website.

### **24/064 Reports from Councillors**

**Highways and Rights of Way** Volunteers from Fritch Way had cleared difficult to reach footpaths. To consider whether the hand drawn village footpath map requires updating.

**Flooding** Covered earlier in the meeting.

**Health and Wellbeing** Revised and updated plan is now on the village website.

**Neighbourhood Watch** No update required

**Policing** Hare coursing should be reported to 999 not 111. Reminder to go out in the Newsletter.

**Environment** Autumn clean-up day on Sunday, 6<sup>th</sup> October.

**Communications** No update required

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**Village Hall** No update required

**24/065 Matters Arising requiring decisions, to be included on the next Agenda** Road classifications. Aims and objectives. Neighbourhood Plan.

**24/066 Future Meeting Dates:** Thursday, 3<sup>rd</sup> October and Thursday, 14<sup>th</sup> November

The meeting ended at 10:01pm