

PARISH OF HEMPSTEAD

Minutes of the Meeting of Hempstead Parish Council held on Thursday, 12th June 2025

Present: Nick Turkentine (Chair), Paul Frainer, James Nicholson, Diana Frost, Mark Welbourn and the Clerk.

The Parish Council meeting started at 7:51pm.

25/031 Apologies for Absence

25/032 Public Forum No members of the public were in attendance.

25/033 Declarations of Interest None

25/034 Reports from District and/or County Councillors

County Councillor Foley could not attend but had sent a written report.

District Councillor Tayler had sent a report and the following points were noted: Local Plan inspection appears to be going “okay” so far; the Uttlesford District Council (UDC) planning department has been de-designated regarding the handling of major planning applications; and the UDC website has been found to be 100% compliant with all main accessibility criteria.

25/035 Minutes of Previous Meeting of Thursday, 15th May 2025 and Minutes of Annual Parish Meeting of Friday, 23rd May 2025 were approved as correct records and signed by the Chair

25/036 Finance

Item 1 – financial update from the Clerk.

Current Account Balance £5,923.93

Reserve Account Balance £12,581.73

Date	Payee	Description	Amount	Balance
16-May-25	B/P to: Nigel Smith	Website renewals	-127.88	9362.34
20-May-25	S/O to: Rebecca Cox	Salary	-355.94	9006.40
21-May-25	B/P to: Outdoor Jack	Grasscutting	-551.47	8454.93
21-May-25	Transfer to 20374936	Internal transfer	-2500	5954.93
22-May-25	B/P to: Hempstead VHMC	Booking	-50	5904.93
31-May-25	Unity Trust	Service Charge	-6	5898.93
09-Jun-25	Hempstead VHMC	Refund	25	5923.93

The Clerk noted that an overpayment of £25 had been made to the VHMC, which had already been refunded.

Item 2 – the Clerk confirmed that Ross Midgley had completed his governance review, had signed the internal audit document and had no comments. The Annual Governance Statement and Accounting Statements were approved and signed by the Chair and Clerk.

Item 3 – payments to be approved and invoices signed including £71.50 to Jess Long and £3.50 to Diana Frost for VE Day flower arrangement, and £1470 to Whitehead & Day for work on the war memorial. £6.99 to the Clerk for expenses (printing paper) and £10 to Hundred Parishes for membership.

25/038 Planning

Welltrees: UTT/25/1291/HHF. After discussion councillors unanimously agreed to support this application. The Clerk to submit the following comments on the Planning website:

In relation to the proposed rear extension, the Council feels that it is sympathetic and does not appear overly prominent. In terms of the proposed garage, cart lodge and new driveway, the Council does not consider them inappropriate in the context of the listed building or rural setting.

The Council believes that the proposed development would be a significant improvement on the existing appearance of the site.

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The Old Vicarage: UTT/25/1088/HHF. Awaiting Decision

Ruses Farm: UTT/25/0516/HHF. Approved

Barns at Fields Farm: UTT/24/1991/FUL. Awaiting Decision

25/039 Correspondence None

25/040 Reports from Councillors

Highways and Rights of Way Potholes still a very big issue in the village, and despite many being reported and in need of repair, there does not appear to be any plans for ECC Highways to work on them soon. Diana Frost noted that clarification is required from Highways/ECC on how dedicated pothole funding is being used. Paul Frainer hopes to meet with Councillor Foley within the next few weeks to discuss highways issues, and will raise the Parish Council's concerns regarding potholes and the Local Highways Panel.

Concerns regarding the 30mph signs on Hill Road being completely blocked from view by overgrown hedges – Paul Frainer to talk to residents regarding cutting them back.

The Chair asked about the possibility of changing the status of the byway that runs between Church Hill and Wellyard, for which information would be sought. It was agreed to discuss at the next meeting.

Flooding No update required.

Policing and Neighbourhood Watch No update required.

Environment Diana Frost raised issues with the current, poor state of the Ring 'o Trees. It was agreed that they would be looked at and discussed further at the July meeting.

Communications No update required.

Village Hall No update required.

25/041 War Memorial 100th Anniversary Final preparations underway. Mel Pollitt has volunteered to assist with the road closure, but more volunteers needed. Russ Wide has volunteered to collect road closure signage if required. Mark Welbourn awaiting final confirmation of signage available and whether it can be delivered. The cleaning of the paving by the war memorial will hopefully be completed before the 4th July. The £800 should be adequate to cover the event costs, which currently look to include flower displays (£75 to £200), Union Flag (£70) and catering costs. Diana Frost will be sending out a message to the village, detailing the arrangements.

25/042 Matters Arising requiring decisions, to be included on the next Agenda

Stansted Airport planning application

Ring 'o Trees

Possible byway change of status

25/043 Future Meeting Dates: 10th July and 14th August.

The meeting ended at 9:13pm