

PARISH OF HEMPSTEAD

Minutes of the Meeting of Hempstead Parish Council held on Thursday, 10th July 2025

Present: Nick Turkentine (Chair), James Nicholson, Diana Frost, Mark Welbourn, District Councillor Tayler and the Clerk. One member of the public.

The Parish Council meeting started at 7:36pm.

25/044 Apologies for Absence Paul Frainer

25/045 Public Forum Martin Teall joined the meeting at 19:50, and although the time for the public forum had passed the Chair invited him to raise any questions he had. Mr Teall raised an issue with the point on the agenda under Highways and Rights of Way, regarding the possibility of seeking to change the status of the byway at Wellyard, to which he strongly objected. The Chair explained that no decision on whether to seek such a change had yet been made, and that the discussion would take place when the item was reached on the agenda, after which a decision would be made.

25/046 Declarations of Interest None

25/047 Reports from District and/or County Councillors

County Councillor Martin Foley had sent his apologies and was not in attendance.

District Councillor Mike Tayler had sent an email update which had been circulated prior to the meeting, which was discussed, including information on a recent waste management briefing and the appointment of a Chief Operating Officer to work under Peter Holt (Chief Executive) to allow him to increase his focus on the local government reorganisation.

25/048 Minutes of Previous Meeting of Thursday, 12th June 2025 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

25/049 Finance

Item 1 – financial update from the Clerk.

Current Account Balance: £3591.38

Date	Payee	Description	Amount	Balance
17-Jun-25	B/P to: Outdoor Jack	Grass cutting	-402.62	5521.31
17-Jun-25	B/P to: Jess Long	Flower Display	-71.5	5449.81
17-Jun-25	B/P to: 100ParishesSociety	Membership	-10	5439.81
17-Jun-25	B/P to: COX R	Expenses	-6.99	5432.82
17-Jun-25	B/P to: Whitehead & Day	War Memorial	-1470	3962.82
20-Jun-25	S/O to: Rebecca Cox	Salary	-355.94	3606.88
23-Jun-25	B/P to: D M Frost	Flower Tray	-3.5	3603.38
30-Jun-25	Unity Trust	Service Charge	-6	3597.38

Reserve Account Balance: £12,647.02 (includes £62.29 credit interest from 30/06)

Item 2 – the Clerk had received the Parish Council's insurance renewal of £363 from Zurich, on the same terms as 2024, and this was unanimously approved and the invoice signed by the Chair.

Item 3 – the following payments were approved and invoices signed by the Chair or Vice-Chair: £510.12 to Outdoor Jack for grass cutting, £74.88 to Sandra Jane at Home for war memorial flowers, £61.04 to Diana Frost for war memorial re-dedication reception costs, £58.66 to Mark Dymond for flag poles, £26.96 to Claire Dittrich for war memorial re-dedication reception costs, £9.59 to Ross Midgley for the Hempstead History website annual domain renewal, and £12.99 to Ross Midgley for his book that the Parish Council had presented to the Lord-Lieutenant of Essex (the Chair had offered to personally make payment but councillors agreed it was an expense that could be covered by the Council).

PARISH OF HEMPSTEAD

25/050 IT Policy Following new advice from the National Association for Local Councils, the Clerk had produced an IT policy, based on a template provided by the Government Digital Service, which had been circulated to councillors prior to the meeting. The IT Policy was unanimously approved and adopted.

25/051 Councillor Recruitment It was unanimously agreed for this to be discussed at the next meeting.

25/050 Planning

Stansted Airport: UTT/25/1542/FUL. Mark Welbourn had circulated a proposed draft response objecting to the application as a full noise impact assessment had not been completed. After discussion councillors unanimously agreed that the Clerk submit the drafted objection on the planning portal.

Carters Barn: UTT/25/1601/FUL. No comments required.

Welltrees: UTT/25/1291/HHF. Refused

The Old Vicarage: UTT/25/1088/HHF. Approved

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

25/051 Correspondence None

25/052 Reports from Councillors

Highways and Rights of Way

Wellyard byway – the Chair had been approached by a number of residents regarding the possibility of seeking to change the byway to a footpath. Diana Frost had investigated what would be required to make such a change, and had found it would be both complicated and expensive, with little justification to be found. Councillors unanimously agreed that no action should be taken.

Harvey Way hedge – responsibility for cutting the hedge was raised by Diana Frost. The Clerk to contact ECC to ask whether it will be cut by their contractors.

Flooding Issues continue on High Street. Diana Frost noted that mole drilling had occurred on the arable field to the East, and hoped that this would be beneficial and not cause greater issues. The Chair advised the meeting that he had already been able to speak with the land owner, James Sills, who had said that the new drainage should take any excessive rain fall into the field drain itself, ending up in the ditch, which should prevent the water moving as one large sheet, therefore reducing the risk of flooding. An opinion from the Essex Highways flooding contact had also been sought, but not yet received.

Policing and Neighbourhood Watch No update required.

Environment

Ring o' Trees – these had been cut back prior to the war memorial rededication event. Diana Frost had looked into their conservation status, finding that they can only be replaced like for like if required. It was agreed that the trees should be kept cut back on the trunks, which could be completed annually by volunteers, and that pollarding frequency should be investigated.

Communications

War memorial rededication – the Chair congratulated Diana Frost on the organisation of the event that took place on 4th July, which had been a great success, attended by dignitaries and lots of residents including many children.

Village Hall No update required.

25/053 Matters Arising requiring decisions, to be included on the next Agenda

New councillor recruitment.

25/054 Future Meeting Dates: 14th August and 9th October. It was agreed that the September meeting should be cancelled due to the availability of councillors.

The meeting ended at 9:00pm