

## PARISH OF HEMPSTEAD

### Minutes of the Meeting of Hempstead Parish Council held on Thursday, 14<sup>th</sup> August 2025

**Present:** Nick Turkentine (Chair), Diana Frost, Mark Welbourn and the Clerk.

Prior to the meeting commencing the Chair reflected on the recent death of Margaret Drane, who had served for many years on the Parish Council, and noted with sadness that the village had lost two other 'matriarchs' during the previous year.

**The Parish Council meeting started at 7:31pm.**

**25/055 Apologies for Absence** Paul Frainer and James Nicholson

**25/056 Public Forum** No members of the public were in attendance.

**25/057 Declarations of Interest** None

#### **25/058 Reports from District and/or County Councillors**

County Councillor Martin Foley was unable to attend and had sent his apologies.

District Councillor Mike Tayler was unable to attend and had sent his apologies, and had emailed an update which had been circulated to councillors. It was noted that the Parish Council were please that the draft Local Plan appears to be progressing as hoped for.

**25/059 Minutes of Previous Meeting of Thursday, 10<sup>th</sup> July 2025** were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

#### **25/060 Finance**

##### **Item 1 – Financial Update:**

**Current Account Balance £2293.69**

**Reserve Account Balance £12,647.07**

Date	Payee	Description	Amount	Balance
21-Jul-25	S/O to: Rebecca Cox	Salary	-355.94	3241.44
22-Jul-25	B/P to: Outdoor Jack	Grasscutting	-510.12	2731.32
22-Jul-25	B/P to: Sandra Jane at Hom	War Memorial event	-74.88	2656.44
22-Jul-25	B/P to: Zurich	Insurance	-363	2293.44
22-Jul-25	B/P to: Claire Dittrich	War Memorial event	-26.96	2266.48
22-Jul-25	B/P to: Mark Dymond	War Memorial event	-58.66	2207.82
22-Jul-25	B/P to: Ross Midgley	History Website	-9.59	2198.23
24-Jul-25	B/P to: D M Frost	War Memorial event	-61.04	2137.19
30-Jul-25	B/P to: Watch the Dot	Website	-180	1957.19
31-Jul-25	HMRC VTR	VAT refund	342.5	2299.69
31-Jul-25	Unity Trust Bank	Service Charge	-6	2293.69

**Item 2 – Clerk's salary:** the Local Government Services Pay Agreement 2025 (agreed on 23<sup>rd</sup> July 2025) provides a pay uplift for the Parish Clerk from £13.69 to £14.13 per hour. The following was unanimously approved: new monthly salary of **£367.38** (to be applied to September's salary) and back dated pay to 1<sup>st</sup> April of **£57.20** (April to August uplift).

**Item 3 – Parish Council laptop:** councillors unanimously agreed that the Council would purchase a new laptop for the Clerk, as the current laptop cannot be updated to Windows 11 and Microsoft support for Windows 10 will cease in October. It was agreed that a budget of £400 would be sufficient.

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**Item 4** – Clerk noted that £180 to Watch the Dot had been paid as prior approval in April, following payments approved where required and invoices signed: £402.62 to Outdoor Jack, £70.49 to Diana Frost for a flag pole, and Clerk's expenses of £15.99 to for Google Play renewal and £19.49 for printer ink.

**25/061 Councillor Recruitment** It was agreed that the recruitment of new councillors was now a very pressing matter and it could be progressed via email communications.

### **25/062 Planning**

**Shepherd's Cottage:** UTT/25/1197/FUL. Proposed ground mounted solar panel array in existing paddock. After discussion it was agreed that the Clerk should submit a neutral comment requesting that if planning consent is given a condition is included to ensure the solar panels are adequately screened from the footpath which runs to the south of the site.

**Stansted Airport:** UTT/25/1542/FUL. Awaiting Decision

**Carters Barn:** UTT/25/1601/FUL. Awaiting Decision

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

**25/063 Correspondence** None

### **25/064 Reports from Councillors**

#### **Highways and Rights of Way**

Footpaths have been cut, and contractors have come out where cutting has been missed.

An update is awaited regarding potholes on village roads from Paul Frainer and County Councillor Foley.

**Flooding** No update required.

**Policing and Neighbourhood Watch** No update required.

**Environment** No update required.

**Communications** Use of emails and Facebook for updates.

**Village Hall** Painting of the main hall to be completed soon.

### **25/065 Matters Arising requiring decisions, to be included on the next Agenda**

An extraordinary meeting to be held on 9<sup>th</sup> September at 8pm in the village hall to discuss a planning application that had come in too late to be included on the agenda for this meeting:

Barns at Bramley Hollow, UTT/25/2117/FUL

**25/066 Future Meeting Dates:** Extraordinary meeting on 9<sup>th</sup> September. 9<sup>th</sup> October, 13<sup>th</sup> November and 11<sup>th</sup> December

The meeting ended at 9:02pm