

PARISH OF HEMPSTEAD

Minutes of the Meeting of Hempstead Parish Council held on Thursday, 9th October 2025

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

The Parish Council meeting started at 7:35pm.

25/072 Apologies for Absence

25/073 Public Forum No members of the public in attendance.

25/074 Declarations of Interest Paul Frainer noted that he was involved in the Local Government Reorganisation as a paid consultant.

25/075 Reports from District and/or County Councillors

County Councillor Martin Foley had sent his apologies as he wasn't available because of health issues. District Councillor Mike Tayler spoke on the following:

Local Government Reorganisation – UDC are writing to the Government to support the creation of 5 unitary authorities (ECC are pushing for 3 authorities); Mayoral elections scheduled for 7th May 2026; unitary authorities due to commence in May 2028.

Uttlesford Local Plan – modifications have now been proposed by the Planning Inspectorate, and have been put to a public consultation.

Community Infrastructure Levy – new levy to be charged on new housing development.

25/076 Minutes of Previous Meeting of Thursday, 14th August 2025 and Extraordinary Meeting of Tuesday, 9th September 2025 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

25/077 Finance

Item 1 –

Current Account Balance £7,407.46

Date	Payee	Description	Amount	Balance
20-Aug-25	S/O to: Rebecca Cox	Salary	-355.94	1937.75
29-Aug-25	B/P to: COX R	Expenses	-19.49	1918.26
29-Aug-25	B/P to: Outdoor Jack	Grass Cutting	-402.62	1515.64
29-Aug-25	B/P to: COX R	Expenses	-15.99	1499.65
29-Aug-25	B/P to: Ross Midgley	Book	-12.99	1486.66
31-Aug-25	Unity Trust Bank	Service Charge	-6	1480.66
22-Sep-25	S/O to: Rebecca Cox	Salary	-367.38	1113.28
22-Sep-25	B/P to: COX R	Back Pay	-57.2	1056.08
22-Sep-25	B/P to: Outdoor Jack	Grass Cutting	-542.62	513.46
25-Sep-25	UTTDC GEN	Precept	6900	7413.46
30-Sep-25	Unity Trust Bank	Service Charge	-6	7407.46

Reserve Account Balance £12,718.84 (including £71.72 interest paid on 30/09/25)

The Clerk passed the monthly consolidations and bank statements to Diana Frost to be checked in accordance with the Parish Council's Financial Regulations.

Purchase of new Parish Council laptop for £359 unanimously approved, the Clerk to purchase.

Item 2 – Outdoor Jack invoice of £542.62 signed by the Chair.

PARISH OF HEMPSTEAD

25/078 Planning

1 Lake House Farm: UTT/25/2502/HHF. No Comments required

Barns at Bramley Hollow: UTT/25/2117/FUL. Awaiting Decision

Shepherd's Cottage: UTT/25/1197/FUL. Awaiting Decision

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

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

Carters Barn: UTT/25/1601/FUL. APPROVED

Councillors unanimously agreed that the Clerk to contact Uttlesford planning on the following, which might constitute breaches of planning : The Bluebell Inn's apparent change of colour of external painting; the pollarding of a large tree on the frontage of Cracknell's on High Street, which is a Grade II listed building and within the conservation area; and the two shipping containers that are still in the garden of Thatch Cottage on Hill Road.

25/079 Draft Local Plan Consultation The modifications are mostly procedural and would have no impact for Hempstead. It was agreed that there is no need for the Council to respond to the consultation

25/080 Local Councils' Liaison Forum Diana Frost had attending. The following was noted: home fire safety presentation; neighbourhood plans were discussed, which have had Government funding removed so UDC is providing grants; following local government reorganisation the devolution of services to Parish Councils might come about (funding implications).

25/081 Parish Council Membership Paul Frainer had created some posters and social media campaign examples. All councillors agreed that they were good, and suggestions made on changes required. Paul Frainer to look into printing options and how to disseminate to village.

25/082 Correspondence None

25/083 Reports from Councillors

Highways and Rights of Way Paul Frainer noted that there are currently 37 open highways enquiries and will follow up with County Councillor Foley. Railings opposite the bottom of Anso Road damaged following accident.

Flooding No update required.

Policing and Neighbourhood Watch The Chair reported on an update from the PFCC rural crime forum: more police officers than 8 years ago, 75 more local officers "on the beat"; most councils complained about potholes; fly-tipping increasing but linked to organised crime; NFU very effective with Essex Police.

Environment Diana Frost to contact Outdoor Jack to get a quote for new items of cutting to be added to the schedule for 2026/27.

Communications No update required.

Village Hall No update required.

25/084 Matters Arising requiring decisions, to be included on the next Agenda None

25/085 Future Meeting Dates: 13th November and 11th December. The Clerk to look at meeting dates for 2026 and circulate suggestions to Councillors.

The meeting ended at 9:35pm