

PARISH OF HEMPSTEAD

Minutes of the Meeting of Hempstead Parish Council held on Thursday, 11th December 2025

Present: Nick Turkentine (Chair), Diana Frost, James Nicholson and the Clerk

The Parish Council meeting started at 7:35pm.

25/100 Apologies for Absence Mark Welbourn and Paul Frainer

25/101 Public Forum No members of public were in attendance.

25/102 Declarations of Interest None

25/103 Reports from District and/or County Councillors County Councillor Martin Foley and District Councillor Mike Tayler were unable to attend the meeting. They had sent written reports that had been circulated to Councillors.

25/104 Minutes of Previous Meeting of Thursday, 13th November 2025 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

25/105 Finance

Item 1 – financial update from the Clerk.

Current Account Balance £5622.20

Date	Payee	Description	Amount	Balance
20-Nov-25	S/O to: Rebecca Cox	SALARY	-367.38	6131.31
25-Nov-25	Poppy Appeal	Remembrance Wreath	-30	6101.31
30-Nov-25	Unity Trust	Service Charge	-6	6095.31
05-Dec-25	B/P to: Outdoor Jack	Grass cutting	-402.62	5692.69
09-Dec-25	B/P to: D M Frost	Flagpole	-70.49	5622.20

Reserve Account Balance £12,718.84

Item 2 – Aims and Objectives were discussed and changes agreed, including £3000 for one new speed indicator device and merging estimates for all Parish Council owned land maintenance under one amount, £1500. The Clerk to re-issue the amended Aims and Objectives and draft Budget to councillors, for final approval at the January meeting. After discussion it was agreed to set the 2026/27 Precept at £14,400, which represents a 3.3% uplift from 2025/26.

Item 3 – no invoices requiring approval/signature.

25/106 Planning

Welltrees: UTT/25/2925/LB. Awaiting Decision

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

Stansted Airport: UTT/25/1542/FUL. Awaiting Decision. Being discussed at the meeting of UDC Planning Committee on Wednesday, 18th December 2025.

1 Lake House Farm: UTT/25/2502/HHF. APPROVED

Barns at Fields Farm: UTT/24/1991/FUL. APPROVED

Diana Frost noted that a recent article on Community Led Planning in the RCCE Oyster Winter 2025 online magazine (page8/9), should be considered by the Council. The Clerk to re-send to Councillors to be considered for discussion in January, and Councillors encouraged to put forward suggested paragraphs to go towards a possible Neighbourhood Priorities Statement.

25/107 Local Government Reorganisation Councillors unanimously agreed to respond to the consultation to fully support the Uttlesford supported proposal for 5 unitary authorities. The Clerk to respond on behalf of the Parish Council.

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25/108 Correspondence The Parish Council had received a letter from the VHMC on the day of the meeting, requesting £500 donation for re-painting of the village hall interior. The reorganised ROBINN group had sent the Parish Council a copy of a letter they had sent to the Head of Planning at Uttlesford District Council outlining the group's concerns regarding the restoration to the Bluebell Inn, which is a listed building and a registered asset of community value.

25/109 Reports from Councillors

Highways and Rights of Way

The railings on the bottom of the triangle of land at the top of Anso Road are now fully broken, which is a safety issue as there is no barrier to the stream. This needs to be reported to ECC Highways for immediate repair.

Councillors agreed that, following recent issues on village roads, there should be a full discussion at the next meeting on weight/width restrictions on minor village roads.

Flooding No update required.

Policing and Neighbourhood Watch No update required.

Environment No update required.

Communications Parish Council recruitment flyers. The Clerk to follow up with Paul Frainer to revise the draft, to be circulated to Councillors for approval.

Village Hall Major costs upcoming to finish interior painting and repairing issues with lighting. AGM on 19th January 2026.

25/110 Matters Arising requiring decisions, to be included on the next Agenda Community Led Planning/Neighbourhood Priorities Statement. VHMC request for £500 donation.

25/111 Future Meeting Dates: 15th January 2026

Dates agreed for the rest of 2026: 12th February, 12th March, 9th April, 7th May for Annual Meeting of the Parish Council and 15th May for the Parish Meeting, 18th June, 16th July, (20th August), 10th September, 8th October, 5th November and 3rd December.

The meeting ended at 9:35pm