

PARISH OF HEMPSTEAD

Minutes of the Meeting of Hempstead Parish Council held on Thursday, 15th January 2026

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

The Parish Council meeting started at 7:34pm.

25/111 Apologies for Absence None

25/112 Public Forum No members of the public in attendance.

25/113 Declarations of Interest None

25/114 Reports from District and/or County Councillors

District Councillor Tayler had sent a written report which had been circulated to Councillors. Main point of interest was regarding the Essex Climate Action Report which, disappointedly, has very little to do with Uttlesford, and mainly focuses on conurbations.

County Councillor Foley had sent a written report which had been circulated. The following was noted: Essex County Council elections – confirmed to be going ahead on 7th May.

“Pothole scheme”/Highways – prioritisation is the current focus, so a list of current issues with reference numbers to be sent to County Councillor Foley so they can be followed up.

Stansted Airport Planning – approved with conditions. Mark Welbourn asked about noise monitoring in certain areas, such as Hempstead, which had been promised by the airport prior to 2020. County Councillor Foley would be able to assist by proposing to Stansted Airport Advisory Panel that monitoring should be carried out in Hempstead. Mark Welbourn to follow up with County Councillor Foley.

Sustainable Uttlesford – decarbonisation of UDC offices.

Local Plan – The proposed technical modifications to the Local Plan are still being considered by the Planning Inspectorate (“PINS”). It is hoped that they will report their views during January. This should mean that it is on track for adoption by UDC in March/April 2026.

25/115 Minutes of Previous Meeting of Thursday, 11th December 2025 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

25/116 Finance

Item 1 – financial update from the Clerk.

Current Account Balance £5,248.82

Date	Payee	Description	Amount	Balance
22-Dec-25	S/O to: Rebecca Cox	SALARY	-367.38	5254.82
31-Dec-25	Unity Trust	Service Charge	-6	5248.82

Reserve Account Balance £12,788.83 (includes £70.09 interest)

Item 2 – the Clerk had circulated a final draft of the 2026/27 Budget. James Nicholson proposed that it be approved, which was seconded by Mark Welbourn and unanimously approved by the Council (Annex A). Accepting the budget the Council recognised that there is expenditure on the exceptional item of a new speed indicator device. The Precept request for £14,400 was signed by the Chair and Clerk.

Item 3 – the following payments to be approved and invoices signed: £500 donation to the Hempstead Village Hall Management Committee (VHMC) to go towards internal repainting costs, and £107.50 to Outdoor Jack for cutting back around the pond at the bottom of Church Hill.

25/117 Planning

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

Welltrees: UTT/25/2925/LB. APPROVED

Stansted Airport: UTT/25/1542/FUL. APPROVED

PARISH OF HEMPSTEAD

25/118 Community Led Planning/Neighbourhood Priorities Statement

Diana Frost had drafted a brief, example neighbourhood priorities statement as a discussion point. It was agreed that the document to be shared with Councillors for collaborative changes to be made, for a further draft to be considered at the next meeting. The statement to then be put out to residents for comments.

25/119 Correspondence

25/120 Reports from Councillors

Highways and Rights of Way

Anso Road railings – Councillor Foley is assisting in chasing Essex Highways for urgent repair.

Potholes – Paul Frainer is working on ensuring that all potholes/road surface defects are correctly logged on the Essex Highways website.

Weight/width restrictions – Local Highways Panel applications would be required for any changes, and it's unlikely that funding is currently available. No action required at this time.

Flooding Anso Road flooding has been an issue again. Diana Frost to pass on relevant documentation to Paul Frainer.

Policing and Neighbourhood Watch Paul Frainer made a point of note regarding recent reports of teenage girls being followed in Radwinter and Saffron Walden.

Environment No update required.

Communications No update required.

Village Hall It was unanimously agreed by Councillors that Diana Frost continue as Parish Council representative on the VHMC. Diana Frost noted that the village hall did not cover running costs from hirings over the last year.

25/121 Matters Arising requiring decisions, to be included on the next Agenda None

25/122 Future Meeting Dates: 12th February and 12th March

The meeting ended at 9:30pm

Hempstead Parish Council Budget 2026-27

		2025/26			2026/27
		Budget	Year end	Savings	Budget
			Estimate	Estimate	
Precept		13800	13800	0	14400
Interest		220	270	50	250
UDC Ward Grant		500	0	-500	0
Vat Reclaim		280	342.5	62.5	200
100 Parishes Grant		0	970	970	0
Total		14800	15383	582.5	14850
Salary Costs	Net Salary	4900	4408.56	491.44	4800
Empowered Duties					
Maintenance Expenses	Grass cutting	3600	3500	100	4000
	Footpaths (2nd cut)	1000	0	1000	-
	Trees	1000	0	1000	-
	Greenery at bottom of Church Hill/around the Glebe/Pond	300	335	-35	-
	Environmental maintenance of Parish Council land and the Glebe	-	-	-	1500
	Repaint Bus Shelter	100	0	100	100
	Window for Bus Shelter	300	0	300	300
	Village Railings	150	0	150	150
	Oak Village Sign	-	-	-	80
	Ring O' Trees post replacement	-	-	-	800
Admin	Expenses	350	200	150	350
	Bank Charges	72	72	0	72
	Training	200	0	200	200
	Laptop	0	249	-249	-
Website	Website	380	307.88	72.12	380
Insurance		400	363	37	400
Society Fees (EALC,RCCE)		200	221.16	-21.16	230
Discretionary					
	Membership Fees (Exs Heritage, 100 Parishes)	35	35	0	35
	Donations to Charities	80	0	80	80
	Possible Donation to VHMC	500	500	0	500
	Defibrillator Yearly Management Donation	198	198	0	198
	Volunteer Emergency Telephone System	120	120	0	-
	War Mem. 100th Anniversary	800	330.02	469.98	-
	VE Day	75	75	0	-
	War Memorial Work	0	1970	-1970	-
	History Website	0	9.59	-9.59	10
	Speed Indicator Device	0	0	0	3000
	New Christmas Tree	-	-	-	200
	TOTAL	14,760.00	12,894.21	1865.79	£ 17,385.00
	Surplus/Deficit			1865.79	
Section 137 Limit					
	£11.60 per elector x 350 = £4060			Planned	£ 4,023.00
	Reserve Account				£ 12,800.00

Note: Where the planned spend is greater than income, any excess will be funded from Parish Council reserves.

APPROVED:

MINUTE NO.: