

PARISH OF HEMPSTEAD

Minutes of the Meeting of Hempstead Parish Council held on Thursday, 12th February 2026

Present: Nick Turkentine (Chair), Diana Frost, James Nicholson, Mark Welbourn and the Clerk.
6 members of the public. Caroline Hughes and Emma Tarry as councillors following 25/127.

The Parish Council meeting started at 7:32pm.

25/123 Apologies for Absence Paul Frainer

25/124 Public Forum

Members of the public, including a young person of 18 who uses the bus service on a regular basis, were in attendance in response to the proposed removal of the 320/321 bus routes.

Members of the public points: children at after school enrichment would no longer be able to get bus home to Hempstead, no bus for children who haven't been allocated a place on the school bus, and not for sixth formers. Removal of bus might lead to residents looking to move out of the village into Saffron Walden because of reliance on public transport. Why were a reduced, "skeleton service" or smaller vehicle not viable alternative options? Ageing residents become more reliant on public transport.

Deprivation in communities, service deprivation would be heightened further.

Two members of the public, Emma Tarry and Carrie Hughes were also in attendance as they had applied to the Parish Council to become Parish Councillors.

25/125 Declarations of Interest None

25/126 Reports from District and/or County Councillors

Both County Councillor Martin Foley and District Councillor Mike Tayler were unable to attend the meeting and had sent apologies. Written reports had been sent, which had been circulated by the Clerk.

25/127 Co-option of new Parish Councillors

Emma Tarry and Carrie Hughes had made applications to join the Parish Council, and the Council satisfied itself that both parties joining would prove to be an assist to the Council. It was **proposed** by Diana Frost and **seconded** by James Nicholson that both applicants be co-opted, which was unanimously carried.

25/128 Minutes of Previous Meeting of Thursday, 15th January 2026 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

25/129 Finance

Item 1 – financial update from the Clerk

Current Account Balance: £4,267.94

Date	Payee	Description	Amount	Balance
19-Jan-26	B/P to: Outdoor Jack	Grass Cutting	-107.5	5141.32
20-Jan-26	S/O to: Rebecca Cox	Salary	-367.38	4773.94
21-Jan-26	B/P to: Hempstead VHMC	Donation for painting	-500	4273.94
31-Jan-26	Unity Trust Bank	Service Charge	-6	4267.94

Reserve Account Balance: £12,788.83

Item 2 – no payments required approval.

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25/130 Planning

Land North of Pollards Cross: UTT/26/0178/FUL. Councillors agreed unanimously to **object** to the planning application based on the following concerns: development is proposed behind an existing residence, not along the roadside (Hempstead is a linear village); the development would detract from special characteristics of Pollards Cross; the site is outside the local plan development area; the entrance way will be on a fast moving, speed derestricted road; proposed destruction of ancient hedgerow; and that it will be visible from a public footpath.

James Nicholson to draft a response for the Clerk to submit on the Uttlesford Planning website.

1 Lake House Farm Cottages: UTT/26/0144/LB. Councillors agreed unanimously to **support** the planning application on the basis that the proposed replacement windows will not impact on the historic character of the building, and that they will improve the overall appearance given that they are more in keeping with the original building.

Clerk to submit on the Uttlesford Planning website.

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

Neighbourhood Priorities Statement – Diana Frost had circulated an initial draft of a statement and a survey which could go out to residents. Diana to re-draft and recirculate for comments prior to the next meeting.

25/131 Local bus consultation outcome After discussion the Parish Council unanimously agreed to support Radwinter Parish Council's petition, and for Emma Tarry to draft a response to the proposals, reflecting the concerns raised by members of the public.

25/132 Correspondence None

25/133 Reports from Councillors

Highways and Rights of Way Resurfacing work that had been programmed from 1st January 2026 has now been removed from the OneNetwork traffic website.

Flooding County Councillor Foley is assisting the Parish Council in raising issues with flooding in Hempstead.

Policing and Neighbourhood Watch The Chair noted that figures released by Essex Police show that although drink driving offences have fallen, drug driving offences have risen.

Environment The hedge at the far end of Anso Road has been cut back. Bus shelter window frames require refurbishment – quote to be obtained.

Communications There has been a village WhatsApp Community launched by residents, which is not managed/affiliated by the Parish Council.

Village Hall Bluebell 2 taking place on 1st March.

25/134 Matters Arising requiring decisions, to be included on the next Agenda

25/135 Future Meeting Dates: 12th March and 9th April. May's date, the 7th, clashes with ECC elections and it was agreed to move the meeting to 6th May at 8pm.

The meeting ended at 9:34pm