

PARISH OF HEMPSTEAD

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

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

The Parish Council meeting started at 7:30pm.

25/136 Apologies for Absence None

25/137 Public Forum No members of the public were in attendance.

25/138 Declarations of Interest None

25/139 Reports from District and/or County Councillors

District Councillor Tayler had sent a report that had been circulated. Main points were regarding the UDC budget, Community Mental Health consultation and the local bus route proposed closures. Discussion regarding the status of the bus consultation, a response from ECC is awaited and County Councillor Martin Foley is due to meet cabinet member County Councillor Platt to discuss.

25/140 Minutes of Previous Meeting of Thursday, 12th February 2026 The Chair requested an amendment to the draft minutes to include the two new Councillors, Caroline Hughes and Emma Tarry, co-opted at the meeting as "present". The Chair signed the amended minutes. No matters arising.

25/141 Finance

Item 1 – Financial update

Current Account Balance £3,894.56

Date	Payee	Description	Amount	Balance
20-Feb-26	S/O to: Rebecca Cox	Salary	-367.38	3900.56
28-Feb-26	Unity Trust Bank	Service Charge	-6	3894.56

Reserve Account Balance £12,788.83

The Clerk to add the two new Councillors as signatories for the Parish Council bank accounts and for online payment authorisation.

Item 2 – The following payments were approved and invoices signed by the Chair: £25 to Essex Heritage Trust for membership and £84.99 to the Clerk for Microsoft 365 renewal. Approval given for the Clerk's pay for March to be split: £81.71 to HMRC and £285.67 to the Clerk.

25/142 Planning

Land North of Pollards Cross: UTT/26/0178/FUL. Awaiting Decision

Trevor House: UTT/26/0377/TCA. NO OBJECTIONS

1 Lake House Farm Cottages: UTT/26/0144/LB. APPROVED

Barns at Bramley Hollow: UTT/25/2117/FUL. APPROVED

Neighbourhood Priorities Statement Diana Frost had circulated a second draft of background information that could be used to inform on any possible questionnaire to go out to residents. It was agreed that Diana Frost would continue to work on the document to go out to residents, and for the Parish Council to revisit in Autumn once the National Planning Policy Framework has been published.

25/143 Councillor Responsibilities

Following the co-option of two new councillors in February, Caroline Hughes agreed to take on responsibility for Health and Wellbeing and to be the bus representative, and Emma Tarry agreed to take on Communications from Diana Frost (who would continue to look after Environment).

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25/144 Correspondence The Clerk had received an email from a Hempstead resident following the publication of AMBO, which noted planned Essex Highways work to micro-resurface Hill Road, who was concerned that these works would be unsuitable and offered support as a professional in road surfacing treatments. The Clerk had forwarded the email on to the Chair and Paul Frainer to reply as required.

25/145 Reports from Councillors

Highways and Rights of Way Planned works that had previously been published have now been removed. Paul Frainer has contacted County Councillor Foley to follow up on this and other issues.

Flooding Drain at end of Church Hill by Pollards Cross has been cleared by Essex Highways.

Policing and Neighbourhood Watch Fly-tipping is becoming increasingly problematic in Essex.

Environment Paving by the fountain requires maintenance. Village litter pick on 29th March 2026 (10am at the village hall).

Communications No update required.

Village Hall Tabletop sale had raised £750 for the village hall and £250 for the church.

25/146 Matters Arising requiring decisions, to be included on the next Agenda Fountain paving.

25/147 Future Meeting Dates: Thursday, 9th April (7:30pm) and Wednesday, 6th May (8pm)

The meeting ended at 9:26pm