

PARISH OF HEMPSTEAD

Minutes of the Meeting of Hempstead Parish Council held on Thursday, 9th April 2026

Present: Nick Turkentine (Chair), Diana Frost, Caroline Hughes, County Councillor Martin Foley and the Clerk.

The Parish Council meeting started at 7:30pm.

26/001 Apologies for Absence Paul Frainer, James Nicholson, Emma Tarry and Mark Welbourn

26/002 Public Forum No members of the public

26/003 Declarations of Interest None

26/004 Reports from District and/or County Councillors

District Councillor Mike Tayler was unable to attend the meeting and had sent apologies.

County Councillor Martin Foley had sent a written report that had been circulated to councillors, which included an update on the Local Government Reorganisation of Essex and confirmation that Uttlesford District Council had adopted the new Local Plan. These were discussed with the Council.

26/005 Minutes of Previous Meeting of Thursday, 12th March 2026 and Matters Arising No matters arising. The minutes were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

26/006 Finance

Item 1 – The Clerk took councillors through the year end draft Summary Financial Statement.

Item 2 – Internal Audit, including approval of updated Asset Register, signing of the Exemption Certificate and draft Financial Statement for 2025/26.

Item 3 – The following regular payments were approved:

Standing Orders	Rebecca Cox – Net Salary	£293.98	per month
	HMRC - PAYE	£73.40	per month
Community Heartbeat	Defibrillator Management	£198.00	per annum
EALC/NALC	Affiliation	£180	per annum
100 Parishes Society	Subscription	£10	per annum
Essex Heritage	Donation	£25	per annum
Unity Trust	Service Charge	£7	per month
Grass Cutting	Payments to Outdoor Jack	Up to approved £4000 budget	

Item 4 – The following payments were approved and invoices signed by the Chair: £116 to the Parish Clerk for expenses (SLCC membership) and £198 to Community Heartbeat for defibrillator management.

26/007 Annual Report Input awaited from councillors. Clerk to re-circulate previous year report.

26/008 Planning

Shepherds Cottage: UTT/26/0617/FUL. Proposed ground mounted solar panel array in existing paddock. It was unanimously agreed that the Clerk would submit the same comment from the Parish Council as **Land North of Pollards Cross: UTT/26/0178/FUL.** Awaiting Decision

26/009 Correspondence The Clerk had received an email regarding CouncilWise Training & Support subscription service (£75 per annum). It was agreed that at the present time it would not make financial sense to sign up to the service, but it could be revisited in future.

26/010 Reports from Councillors

Highways and Rights of Way No update required.

Flooding No update required.

Policing and Neighbourhood Watch No update required.

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Health & Wellbeing and Buses Befriending service information to be placed in the Newsletter and poster to be put up when received. Health and Wellbeing plan to be updated as and when required. The village bus service 320/321 is now secured until July 2028 when it will be reviewed again.

Environment

Paving by the water fountain maintenance – weed control to be provided by landscape contractor, and volunteers to sweep and keep neat.

Ring O' Trees posts and chain replacement – posts similar to what is currently used (natural) and black ordinary chain. There is the possibility of grant funding from The Hundred Parishes Society, Diana Frost and the Chair to go out for quotes for the work required.

Communications Review of village website by Emma Tarry – unfortunately Emma was unable to attend the meeting; discussion deferred to the next meeting.

Village Hall No update required.

26/011 Matters Arising requiring decisions, to be included on the next Agenda Written updates when Parish Councillor unable to attend a meeting.

26/012 Upcoming Meeting Dates: Annual Meeting of the Parish Council Wednesday, 6th May at 8pm and Annual Parish Meeting 15th May.

The meeting ended at 9:35pm