

PARISH OF HEMPSTEAD

Minutes of the Meeting of Hempstead Parish Council held on Wednesday, 6th May 2026

Present: Nick Turkentine (Chair), Diana Frost, Caroline Hughes, James Nicholson, Emma Tarry, Mark Welbourn and the Clerk.

The Parish Council meeting started at 8:05pm.

26/013 Election of Chair and Vice-Chair

Chair: Nick Turkentine proposed by Mark Welbourn and seconded by Diana Frost. Unanimously carried.

Vice-chair: Diana Frost was proposed by Mark Welbourn and seconded by Nick Turkentine.

Emma Tarry was proposed by James Nicholson and seconded by Caroline Hughes.

Motion made by the Chair to move to a vote, and it was unanimously carried for **Emma Tarry** to be appointed as Vice-chair.

26/014 Apologies for Absence None received.

26/015 Public Forum No members of the public in attendance.

26/016 Declarations of Interest None

26/017 Reports from District and/or County Councillors Nothing received.

26/018 Minutes of Previous Meeting of Thursday, 9th April 2026 and Matters Arising No matters arising. The minutes were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

26/019 Finance and Parish Council Documentation

Item 1 – Financial update from the Clerk:

Current Account Balance: £9,921.81

Date	Payee	Description	Amount	Balance
17-Apr-26	B/P to: COX R	Clerk Expenses	-116	3294.19
17-Apr-26	B/P to: Community Heartbeat	Defibrillator Support	-198	3096.19
20-Apr-26	S/O to: COX R	Clerk Salary	-293.98	2802.21
20-Apr-26	S/O to: HMRC	Clerk PAYE	-73.4	2728.81
24-Apr-26	UTTDC GEN	Precept	7200	9928.81
30-Apr-26	Unity Trust Bank	Service Charge	-7	9921.81

Reserve Account Balance: £12, 854.79

Item 2 – The following invoices were signed by the Chair £260.35 and £565.77 to Outdoor Jack for grass cutting.

Item 3 – The following Parish Council policies and documentation were presented to the Council for approval: Standing Orders, Financial Regulations and IT Policy. Diana Frost proposed and Mark Welbourn seconded approval, unanimously carried.

26/020 Annual Report The Clerk had sent a draft to all councillors, which was discussed and alterations and additions agreed.

26/021 Councillor Expectations The Chair raised the requirement for councillors to provide written updates for meetings if they unable to attend. This was agreed by all present and would be communicated to councillors not in attendance.

26/022 Planning

The Willows: UTT/26/0952/HHF. It was unanimously agreed to support the application, on the basis that the proposed work will provide a more cohesive appearance more in keeping with the character of the area. James Nicholson to draft comment to be submitted by the Clerk.

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Shepherds Cottage: UTT/26/0617/FUL. Approved

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

26/023 Correspondence None

26/024 Reports from Councillors

Highways and Rights of Way Despite the paint markings on village roads, there is no indication of planned works on Essex Highways roadworks system. Paul Frainer to follow-up with Highways for their schedule of works for potholes and surface repairs.

Flooding No update required.

Policing and Neighbourhood Watch

Essex Safer Speeds Strategy – By 2040 aiming for net zero road deaths; in 2025 there were 60 fatalities on village roads (highest proportion on rural roads); asking Parish Councils to look at where dangerous points might be which would benefit from reduction in traffic speed.

Speedwatch – The number of Speedwatch volunteers has fallen too low for the team to carry out activities and Tricia Ridgway has stepped down as Speedwatch co-ordinator. The Clerk will The Parish Council thanks Tricia for her many years of volunteering.

Health & Wellbeing and Buses No update required.

Environment

War memorial – The Clerk to confirm the ownership of the land on which the war memorial sits.

Village benches – Benches by the pond at the bottom of the pond are in a bad state of repairs and will require replacement, although no money currently in this year's budget.

Bus shelter – A quote has been received from David Cox to replace rotten window frames and add glazing (£700), it was agreed to request a re-quote for a non-glazed option.

Ring o' Trees – Two quotes had been received regarding the replacement of posts: Mooreland builders £1000 (verbal quote) and David Cox £825. It was unanimously agreed to go with David Cox's quote and for Diana Frost to make a grant request to Hundred Parishes for £825.

Communications Emma Tarry had completed a review of the current village website, which had been circulated to councillors. This was discussed and Emma to circulate a formal proposal for changes to the village website.

The Clerk to contact Watch the Dot to ask whether the website in its current form meets new accessibility requirements.

Village Hall No update required.

26/025 Matters Arising requiring decisions, to be included on the next Agenda Artificial intelligence and the Parish Council.

26/026 Upcoming Meeting Dates:

Annual Parish Meeting Friday, 15th May at 8pm; Thursday, 18th June at and Thursday, 16th July at 7:30pm.

The meeting ended at 10pm