

PARISH OF HEMPSTEAD

Minutes of the Meeting of Hempstead Parish Council held on Thursday, 16th July 2026

Present: Nick Turkentine (Chair), Paul Frainer, Diana Frost, Emma Tarry, District Councillor Mike Tayler and the Clerk.

The Parish Council meeting started at 7:30pm.

26/039 Apologies for Absence Caroline Hughes, James Nicholson and Mark Welbourn

26/040 Public Forum No members of the public in attendance.

26/041 Declarations of Interest None. Diana Frost confirmed that no changes required to her register of interests.

26/042 Reports from District and/or County Councillors

District Councillor Mike Tayler had emailed a report, and the Clerk had circulated to Councillors. He spoke on the report, which concerned the Uttlesford Community Infrastructure Levy and warding arrangements for the Uttlesford area of West Essex Council after the Local Government Reorganisation.

26/043 Minutes of Previous Meeting of Thursday, 18th June 2026 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

26/044 Finance

Item 1 – Financial update from the Clerk.

Current Account Balance – £7,761.64

Date	Payee	Description	Amount	Balance
22-Jun-26	S/O to: COX R	Salary	-293.98	8427.33
22-Jun-26	S/O to: HMRC	PAYE	-73.4	8353.93
22-Jun-26	B/P to: EALC	Membership	-165.23	8188.7
22-Jun-26	B/P to: Outdoor Jack	Grass cutting	-413.06	7775.64
22-Jun-26	B/P to: COX R	Clerk's expenses	-7	7768.64
30-Jun-26	Unity Trust	Service Charge	-7	7761.64

Reserve Account Balance – £12,917.29

Balance transfer of £1000 approved.

Item 2 – The Council unanimously approved to renew with Zurich for £363 (no change in premium).

Item 3 – The following payments were approved and invoices signed by the Chair: £114 to CW Low & Son for hedge cutting of the Glebe; £5,614.76 to ElanCity for the 2 speed indicator devices; and £15.99 to the Clerk for expenses (Google Play membership).

26/045 Planning To consider Councillor responsibility for Planning going forwards. Decision to be taken in September.

26/046 Correspondence The Clerk had received an email from the East of England Ambulance Service Charity seeking donations for their work. It was agreed that the Parish Council would not provide a donation at this time.

26/047 Village Website Emma Tarry to approach 'What the Dot' to get a quote for training to make changes to the website.

26/048 Local Councils' Liaison Forum No discussion required.

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26/049 Reports from Councillors

Highways and Rights of Way Paul Frainer to send an email to County Councillor Bo Davis regarding the state of the roads and outstanding issues.

Flooding No update required.

Policing and Neighbourhood Watch No update required.

Health & Wellbeing and Buses No update required.

Environment The Clerk to note that the tree survey to next be completed in April 2028 and the Bluebell Inn asset of community value expires in April 2028.

Tree by Wellyard – Diana Frost had received a quote from Tree Worx for £940 to undertake required work to make the area safe. Councillors approved the quote.

Parish Council land at Wellyard – Councillors discussed the area and ongoing maintenance of the area. It was agreed for the Clerk to purchase the title deeds to ensure that the Council has full understanding on its boundaries.

Ring O' Trees – The Hundred Parishes Society had agreed to provide a grant to fund the work to replace the wooden posts around the trees.

Village Benches – Diana Frost to oil all the benches.

Communications Should we add to the 'Ambo' magazine as other Parish Councils do? It was agreed that the Council, Emma Tarry, should send in official notes to be published in Ambo.

Village Hall No update required.

26/050 Matters Arising requiring decisions, to be included on the next Agenda Collaboration with other Ward Parish Councils. Potential creation of a low-level maintenance plan for the Council's land at Wellyard.

26/051 Upcoming Meeting Dates: Councillors agreed that there would be no meeting in August. The next meetings to be held on Thursday 10th September and Wednesday 7th October (8pm).

The meeting ended at 9:22pm