

PARISH OF HEMPSTEAD

Minutes of the Meeting of Hempstead Parish Council held on Thursday, 10th September 2026

Present: Nick Turkentine (Chair), Diana Frost, Caroline Hughes, District Councillor Mike Tayler and the Clerk.

The Parish Council meeting started at 7:30pm.

26/052 Apologies for Absence James Nicholson, Paul Frainer, Emma Tarry and Mark Welbourn.

26/053 Public Forum No members of the public were in attendance.

26/054 Declarations of Interest None

26/055 Reports from District and/or County Councillors

District Councillor Mike Tayler was in attendance. He had also sent a written report regarding the withdrawal of the Essex Local Government Reform. Councillor Tayler noted that local government elections, including Parish Councils, would go ahead as usual in May 2027.

County Councillor Bo Davis had sent his apologies and had provided a written report which had been circulated to Councillors.

26/056 Minutes of Previous Meeting of Thursday, 16th July 2026 There were no matters arising and the minutes were approved as a correct record and signed by the chair.

26/057 Finance

Item 1 – Financial update from the Clerk.

Current Account Balance – £1,315.35

Date	Payee	Description	Amount	Balance
20-Jul-26	S/O to: COX R	Salary	-293.98	7467.66
20-Jul-26	S/O to: HMRC	PAYE	-73.4	7394.26
29-Jul-26	Transfer	Transfer from reserve acc.	1000	8394.26
30-Jul-26	B/P: 100ParishesSociety	Membership	-10	8384.26
30-Jul-26	B/P to: ElanCity	Speed Indicator Devices	-5614.76	2769.5
30-Jul-26	B/P to: C W Low	Hedge cutting of Glebe	-114	2655.5
30-Jul-26	B/P to: Outdoor Jack	Grass cutting	-579.78	2075.72
30-Jul-26	B/P to: COX R	Clerk's expenses	-15.99	2059.73
30-Jul-26	B/P to: Zurich	Insurance renewal	-363	1696.73
31-Jul-26	Unity Trust	Service Charge	-7	1689.73
20-Aug-26	S/O to: COX R	Salary	-293.98	1395.75
20-Aug-26	S/O to: HMRC	PAYE	-73.4	1322.35
31-Aug-26	Unity Trust	Service Charge	-7	1315.35

Reserve Account Balance – £11,917.29

Date	Description	Amount	Balance
29-Jul-26	Transfer to current account	-1000	11917.29

Item 2 – The following payments were approved and invoices signed by the Chair: £520.70 to Outdoor Jack for grass cutting, and £180 to Watch the Dot for village website hosting. A Hundred Parishes invoice was also signed by the Chair.

Item 3 – Following the Local Government Services Pay Agreement 2026/27 an uplift to the Clerk's salary and back pay to 1st April was approved. The Clerk's new hourly salary is £14.59, equating to a monthly salary of £379.34 (PAYE at basic rate to be applied) and £59.80 in back pay.

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26/058 Clerk's Employment The Clerk informed the Council that she was resigning her position, she would be prepared to stay in the post until the end of the year to allow time for the Council to find a replacement. An advert to be drafted to go in the newsletter and social media.

26/059 Planning

Shepherds Cottage: UTT/26/2161/FUL. Proposed ground mounted solar panel array in existing paddock. No comments required.

Grove Barn: UTT/26/2124/HHF. Single-storey detached garage. Councillors agreed for a neutral comment to be made. "If there is to be external lighting that it respects our policy of a dark village and the adjacent wildlife of Hempstead Wood."

26/060 Correspondence None

26/061 Reports from Councillors

Highways and Rights of Way Paul Frainer has been in correspondence with Essex County Council regarding the recent pothole works with the road closure on Hill Road and out of the village toward Radwinter. There has been a noticeable increase of dog fouling on village rights of way, including littering of dog waste bags. Diana Frost to draft a note to go out via the Newsletter email, and other social media, to remind residents of the law regarding dog fouling and where to find dog waste bins.

Flooding Caroline Hughes noted concern regarding the overgrown greenery in the stream on the opposite side of Church Hill from Pollards Cross. It was agreed that the Council would monitor the situation.

Policing and Neighbourhood Watch Provide information, via the Newsletter, on how to report concerns regarding untaxed or insured vehicles in or passing through the village.

Health & Wellbeing and Buses No update required.

Environment Diana Frost reported on environmental matters in Hempstead, including maintenance of Parish Council land and assets. The following action points were agreed: Diana Frost to put together a 5-year maintenance plan for Parish Council land at Wellyard, and management/clearance of the pond at the bottom of Church Hill to be discussed at the next meeting.

Communications No update required.

Village Hall No update required.

26/062 Matters Arising requiring decisions, to be included on the next Agenda Pond at the bottom of Church Hill management/clearance. Diana Frost to provide draft 5-year maintenance plan for Parish Council land at Wellyard.

26/063 Upcoming Meeting Dates: Wednesday 7th October (8pm), Thursday 13th November and 11th December.

The meeting ended at 9:26pm