PARISH OF HEMPSTEAD

Minutes of the Meeting of Hempstead Parish Council held on Wednesday, 7th October 2026

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

The Parish Council meeting started at 8:12pm.

26/064 Apologies for Absence Paul Frainer and Emma Tarry

26/065 Public Forum No members of the public were in attendance.

26/066 Declarations of Interest None

26/067 Reports from District and/or County Councillors
County Councillor Bo Davis was not in attendance.
District Councillor Mike Tayler had provided a written report and updated the Council on the following matters: Local Government Reorganisation and the Uttlesford Zero Communities Grant scheme.

26/068 Minutes of Previous Meeting of Thursday, 10th September 2026 The meeting dates for November and December were incorrect on the draft minutes, the required change was made and the minutes were approved and signed by the Chair.

26/069 Finance
Item 1 – financial update from the Clerk.
Current Account Balance: £7,428.31

Date	Payee	Description	Amount	Balance
14-Sep-26	B/P to: Watch the Dot	Website	-180	1135.35
14-Sep-26	B/P to: Outdoor Jack	Grass cutting	-260.35	875
14-Sep-26	B/P to: Outdoor Jack	Grass cutting	-260.35	614.65
21-Sep-26	S/O to: COX R	Salary	-303.54	311.11
21-Sep-26	S/O to: HMRC	PAYE	-75.8	235.31
25-Sep-26	UTTDC GEN	Precept	7200	7435.31
30-Sep-26	Unity Trust	Service Charge	-7	7428.31

Reserve Account Balance: £11,977.36 (includes £60.07 credit interest paid at end September)

Item 2 – The following invoice was approved and signed by the Chair £66.94 to Diana Frost for planting by the War Memorial.

26/070 Planning
Shepherds Cottage: UTT/26/2161/FUL. Approved
Grove Barn: UTT/26/2124/HHF. Awaiting decision

26/071 Appointment of a Clerk to the Council The vacancy had been advertised in the Newsletter and the Clerk had received interest from two applicants. It was agreed that a deadline for applications should be Friday, 16th October with a view to appointing a new Clerk before the December meeting of the Council.

26/072 Five-year maintenance plan for Parish Council land at Wellyard Diana Frost had drafted a plan setting out the minimum amount of work that should be completed each year, which had been circulated to Councillors. After discussion it was agreed that the plan be adopted.

26/073 Pond at the bottom of Church Hill management/clearance Discussed when work on it would be prioritised. Agreed that in the short term the area around it could be cleared by volunteers, and any digging out and wider work could be carried out in future.

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26/074 Remembrance Sunday Diana Frost had raised whether there could be a change to the traditional wreath purchased for Remembrance Sunday and proposed that a sustainable "wreath" made of woven willow and poppies knitted by the knitting group. Councillors unanimously agreed the proposal as well as providing a donation to the Royal British Legion.

26/075 Correspondence None

26/076 Reports from Councillors
Highways and Rights of Way Recent road closures have created heavier traffic on Church Hill and Howe Lane.

Flooding Anso Road due to be closed in November for gully installation.

Policing and Neighbourhood Watch No update required.

Health & Wellbeing and Buses Community Transport User and Awareness Survey deadline extended until 30th October, information to be sent out via the Newsletter and Facebook.

Environment The stream at bottom of Church Hill due to be cleared by the end of October. Work has started on the Ring O'Trees, which has shown up dips and holes that might benefit from filling with top soil.

Communications Emma Tarry has been quoted £90 an hour for website training by Watch the Dot – it was agreed that the Parish Council would fund three hours of training for Emma.

Village Hall The Hempstead Dramatic Society has gifted the Village Hall a new full height fridge. The village hall bookings secretary has resigned, and the management committee is looking for a replacement.
The Chair noted that the village hall running costs far outweighed its hire income, almost 2 to 1, and costs were only able to be covered by fund raising, a situation that is not sustainable in the near to long term. It was agreed for the Chair to start a dialogue with the Village Hall Management Committee Chair to consider what this may mean going forward.

26/077 Matters Arising requiring decisions, to be included on the next Agenda None

26/078 Upcoming Meeting Dates: Thursday 5th November and 3rd December.

The meeting ended at 10:05pm