

PARISH OF HEMPSTEAD

Minutes of the Meeting of Hempstead Parish Council held on Wednesday 26th April 2023

Present: Nick Turkentine (Chair), David Drane, Diana Frost, Mark Welbourn, District Councillor George Smith, County Councillor Martin Foley and the Clerk.

The Parish Council meeting started at 8:04pm

23/001 Apologies for Absence James Nicholson

23/002 Public Forum No members of the public in attendance.

23/003 Declarations of Interest None required.

23/004 Reports from District and/or County Councillors

District Councillor Smith – Discussions with residents on Bramley Hollow regarding the speed of traffic (County Councillor Foley noted that ECC could put speed wires down to check speeds), and noted that street cleaners on his request had cleaned High Street where pothole erosion had led to rubble on the road.

County Councillor Foley – A written report had been received and circulated: Highways; visit to be arranged with rep, Ride London route potholes are starting to be filled, and issues with contractors are exacerbated by lack of Highways' staff. Household waste booking system is likely to continue. Mental health; funding made available for youth mental health support in Saffron Walden and Great Dunmow, placing practitioners in senior schools.

23/005 Minutes of Previous Meeting of Thursday 30th March were approved and signed by the Chair.

23/006 Finance

Item 1 – The Clerk presented the end of year financial position of the Parish Council, and noted that the first tranche of the Precept had been received on 20th April.

Item 2 – The updated Asset Register was approved and signed by the Chair and Clerk.

Item 3 – The Clerk confirmed that Ross Midgley has kindly agreed to act as internal auditor once again. The Clerk presented the draft Financial Statement for 2022/23 and Exemption Certificate, which were duly approved and signed by the Chair.

Item 4 – Hempstead Parish Council regular payments:

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|-----------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------|
| Standing Orders | Rebecca Cox – Salary | £313.56 | per month |
| | Brian Kitchen – Website | £100.00 | per month |
| | | | |
| Community Heartbeat | Defibrillator Management | £198.00 | per annum |
| CPRE | Subscription | £36.00 | per annum |
| RCCE | Subscription | £52.80 | per annum |
| 100 Parishes Society | Subscription | £10.00 | per annum |
| Royal British legion | Donation | £25.00 | per annum |
| Essex Heritage Trust | Donation | £25.00 | per annum |
| Unity Trust | Service Charge | £76.00 | per annum |
| Grass Cutting | Payments to Outdoor Jack | Up to approved £2410 budget | |

The Council unanimously agreed to the prior approval of the regular payments as listed above.

Item 5 – The EALC affiliation fee for 2023/24 of £148.95 was approved and the Chair signed invoices presented: £148.95 to EALC, £25 to Essex Heritage Trust and the previously approved £400 to Watch the Dot.

23/007 Planning

Fields Farm: UTT/23/0973/PAQ3. Prior Notification of change of use of agricultural building to 4 no. dwellings.

The Council discussed the Fields Farm application, with Diana Frost providing photographs of the barns and noting that the application included the demolition of a traditional wooden barn. It was unanimously agreed that the Parish Council would provide a comment **objecting** to the application as follows: the envisioned development undermines the rural aspect of the location, specifically due to the demolition of an existing wooden barn as part of the scheme.

Chaseside Cottage: UTT/23/0644/HHF. AWAITING DECISION

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1 Lake House Farm Cottages: UTT/23/0542/HHF. AWAITING DECISION

Fairview Bungalow: UTT/22/1872/FUL. AWAITING DECISION

Little Orchard: UTT/23/0139/HHF. APPROVED

Shepherds Cottage: UTT/23/0097/FUL. REFUSED

Barns At Little Smiths Green Farm: UTT/23/0489/PAQ3. APPROVED

Church Farm: UTT/23/0854/FUL. The Clerk had just been Notified of a planning application for the change of use of agricultural buildings at Church Farm, on Church Hill. It was noted that the deadline for comments falls after the May meeting of the Parish Council, and it was agreed that the application would be considered in detail on 18th May.

23/008 **Correspondence** None

23/009 **Triangle of Land** An opinion had been received from a solicitor that if it could be proven that the land had been used for many years by the community and for the community's benefit, then it might be possible to register it as a Village Green. It was agreed that the Chair would request a quote from a firm of solicitors to carry out the Village Green registration process and County Councillor Foley would look into whether there might be ECC funding available to pay for this process.

23/010 **Annual Report** The Clerk had circulated the initial draft of the Annual Report. A final version was approved. The Clerk to send to Paul Davies for inclusion in the next edition of Ambo.

23/011 **Parish Council Elections in May** Following nominations the Clerk confirmed that there will not be a contested election for Hempstead Parish Council, and that the five Councillors would be duly "elected" to the Council on 4th May.

23/012 **Coronation of King Charles III** The Clerk confirmed that the Parish Council had been awarded the £700 grant, but that expenditure had to be made before claiming the amount back from UDC. The grant can only be used for the purposes outlined in the application form, which for Hempstead is the arranged events taking place on Monday 8th May (village walk and BBQ at the village hall).

23/013 **Speedwatch/Police speed checks** No update.

23/014 **Reports from Councillors**
Highways and Rights of Way – Ironworks had finally been raised on High Street and Hill Road.

Environment – It was agreed that a tree survey should be arranged every 4 years. Next one due June 2024.

Communications – A first "draft" of the new Hempstead Village Website had been created by Watch the Dot. Noted that training would be provided for the Clerk and Diana Frost to manage the website.

Village Hall – Noted improvements to storage space and newly polished wooden floor. Internal improvements to continue with re-painting of walls.

Flooding – County Councillor Foley and ECC Highways representative to visit; noted that areas where water flows onto roads from fields should be highlighted and responsibility ascertained. Chair to contact Anglia Water again to raise issue of water flowing onto road before Fairview Bungalow/opposite Sellands Farm on B1054.

23/015 **Matters Arising requiring decisions, to be included on the next Agenda** None

23/016 **Future Meeting Dates:** Thursday, 18th May for Annual Meeting of the Parish Council and Friday, 26th May for the Annual Parish meeting. And 15th June and 13th July.

The meeting ended at 10:05pm