

## **Draft Minutes of the HEMPSTEAD PARISH COUNCIL**

**Thursday January 17, 2018 in the Village Hall at 8pm**

**Present:** Mr Sean McCarthy (Chairman), Mr Alan Weedon, Mrs Nicola McNeill, Mr David Drane, Mr John Sladen, Mrs Sara Scott and the Clerk.

The meeting started at 8.02 pm

The Chairman started the meeting by wishing everyone a Happy New Year

**74. Apologies for absence:** Mr Mark Welbourn, District Councillor Simon Howell, County Councillor Simon Walsh and Mrs Sara Scott

### **75. Reports or contributions from District and County Councillors.**

County Councillor Walsh's report had been circulated prior to the meeting. There were no matters arising.

**76. Minutes of Previous Meeting held November 11, 2018:** These were agreed as a correct record.

**77. Matters arising** not covered elsewhere. There were none.

### **78. Defibrillator**

The fund-raising total was reviewed. The new homes fund grant had contributed £500. Individual donations had amounted to £447 with another £300 promised. Miss Frost had organised a coffee morning at the Bluebell that had raised £750, a book auction £150 and a stall in Thaxted that contributed £175. The initial outlay and first year's management charges had therefore been more or less covered. The Chairman expressed his thanks to everyone and especially Miss Frost for her efforts.

Training had been re-scheduled for Thursday March 7<sup>th</sup>. Installation was planned for Friday 8<sup>th</sup> March

### **79. Planning**

NEWLANDS UTT/18/3513/FUL This application for a previously undeveloped garden site was discussed.

It was agreed that the clerk should pass comments to planning Department indicating that the council opposed this application because it was outside the development area of the village on a greenfield site. Additionally, some of the comments in the Design and Access Statement were considered questionable.

LAKEHOUSE FARM. UTT/18/3481/FUL It was agreed that this development of three substantial agricultural barns would make good use of existing footprints. No comments would be passed to Uttlesford.

### **80. Correspondence**

Village of the year application forms were handed over to Mr Alan Weedon to submit. Newcomers packs were required for Mansard House, The Manse, Boytons and Granary Barn at Ruses.

## **81. Highways and Rights of Way**

David Drane reported that he was still chasing the usual issues of potholes and particularly trying to get the chevron sign at the triangle in the middle of the village replaced. Work would need traffic controls and a survey had only just been completed.

**Road Safety schemes.** No further news still awaiting clarification when the proposed and accepted scheme might be possible..

## **Highways Devolution**

The Council were opposed to joining in the devolution of resources and responsibility while there was still much unclear about the scheme. Although the payment to the smallest parishes had been doubled it could be burdensome since there is little opportunity for economies of scale to be gained in a parish of our size. The Clerk would pass on this decision to EALC and Essex Highways.

**Footpath Cutting:** It was still agreed that the Council wished to proceed with cutting the most important public right of way routes in the village. The clerk would try to contact potential contractors and David Drane would contact Meryl Haylock about which paths they still cut.

## **82. Environment:**

**Flooding:** there had been extensive drain clearing in the village and surrounding area. The drain outside The Old Post Office is an outstanding issue that Mr Sladen will pursue and thank Essex Highways for their service.

**Trees:** Mark Dymond had enquired about work on a tree near the stream at the Old Bakery. Mr McCarthy had acquired a form from UDC which had been filled in and sent back.

**Christmas Tree:** Thanks to Nick Turkentine for setting up the tree and Robert Palmer for supplying the electricity, the lights.

## **83. Finance:**

The Clerk had previously circulated an amended copy of the next year's budget and figures to demonstrate the effect of possible alternative increases in precept. There was a unanimous decision raise the precept by £500 to £9250

Previously agreed and paid invoices and receipts were signed for;

Community Heartbeat: Defibrillator supply £2300.

Julian Basham; Last grass cut: £165

Royal British Legion Wreath £30

## **84. Village Hall:**

Mr Long reported that he still awaited the invoice to send off and claim the cost of installation from Community Initiatives Fund grant.

Mr Sladen had been very diligent in undertaking a large amount of painting in the Village Hall over the Christmas period aided by David Boreham. Miss Frost had worked hard doing some much-needed deep cleaning. Mr McCarthy thanked them all for their splendid efforts as the Hall now looked much fresher.

Mr Sladen has also repaired the blinds and the lighting would be updated next.

## **85. Communications**

Daniella Karsten had kindly supplied some photographs for the Village website from the last Drama Society production. Any further additions would be welcome.

## **86. 2019 Elections.**

The Clerk would attend the meeting at UDC on 27<sup>th</sup> February to collect forms and receive up to date information. As there were three potential vacancies the Chair had put out an appeal for volunteers with the notice of a meeting for possible candidates. Some interest had been shown.

**Future Meetings: Thursdays 14<sup>th</sup> February, 14<sup>th</sup> March and 18<sup>th</sup> April both at 8pm in the Village hall. The Annual Meeting was pencilled in for 12<sup>th</sup> May.**

**The meeting ended at 9.40pm.**