

## Minutes of the HEMPSTEAD PARISH COUNCIL

Thursday April 25, 2019 in the Village Hall at 8pm

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

The meeting started at 8.03pm

**115. Apologies for absence:** District Councillor Simon Howell and County Councillor Simon Walsh

**116. Reports or contributions from District and County Councillors.**

Reports from both Councillors had been circulated prior to the meeting. There were no matters arising.

**117. Minutes of Previous Meeting held 14 March 2018:** These were agreed as a correct record.

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

**119. Defibrillator** Jon Wilson has volunteered to help with the checks of the defibrillator and has expressed interest in training as a first responder. It was agreed that the Clerk would contact Vickie Joscow for information about a first responder course. The clerk has applied for a modified storage container as at the moment the OK message cannot be seen from the outside and it is necessary to break the seal every time it is checked.

**120. Correspondence** UDC had sent information indicating that BT is reviewing the use of all Telephone Kiosks. The opportunity to adopt these will only be given a short time frame after notices go up. It was agreed that the Clerk should pre-emptively declare that the Council want it kept in working order due to a small but significant usage and the poor mobile phone coverage in the village.

### 121. Planning

**Bullsbridge UTT/19/ 0643/FUL** This new application to replace semi-derelict out buildings and replace them with some accommodation and a cart lodge had been viewed by councillors and deemed to be unproblematic. No comments would be sent to UDC.

**Fairview UTT/19/0687/HHF** Comments opposing this retrospective application had been submitted to UDC planning department

**Lakehouse Farm UTT/18/ 3481/FUL** Permission for three barn conversions approved with conditions re wildlife mitigation, vehicle access, parking, refuse and bin storage/access'

**Anso Farm UTT/18/2945/FUL** No decision yet.

**Boytons Farm UTT/19/0288/FUL** Change of use to offer nursery provision. Comments opposing this development on the grounds of access and traffic difficulties had been submitted. Comment by Essex Highways had supported this view.

## 122. Highways and Rights of Way

Highways: David Drane reported that he had contacted the authorities asking for a survey of the poor state of repair of the road surface in the village. No reply had been received as yet.

Local Highways Panel: The scheme to establish a buffer 40mph limit on Bumpstead Road from the 30mph limit to just beyond Treetops seems to be moving ahead as a consultation letter has been sent out. Mr Welbourn agreed to put together a response.

Cutting Rights of Way; Mr Drane had contacted Mortimers the preferred contractor and had agreed a price of £350 for two cuts. It was agreed that Mr Dane would contact him re documents for insurance etc. The first cut would take place at the end of May/June. Our regular grass cutter, Julian Basham had belatedly expressed an interest. It was agreed that the Clerk would contact him and discuss the matter for next year.

## 123. Environment

Mark Welbourn had written a letter to the Highways department concerning the damage to the driveway of Rosemary Cottage caused by neglect of the drainage system. It asks on behalf of the Parish Council, for the decision not to award any damages to the owner, Ms Frost, to be reviewed since the damage was caused by a highways drainage defect that had been raised repeatedly.

Flooding: Mr Sladen had received no further contact from Essex County Council about any outstanding issues. As he was retiring from the Parish Council, he promised to pass on any paperwork to whoever is concerned with flooding in the future.

## 124. Finance:

The Exemption Certificate for smaller councils was signed to release the council for the need of an external audit.

Invoices for payments already made were signed for Julian Basham (Grass cutting and petrol allowance) £430 and £36 to the Clerk for Storage boxes for archiving.

The Clerk circulated a list of standing orders and regular payments for the year for pre-approval. All payments will be recorded at a Parish Council meeting and the appropriate receipt or invoice signed.

### Standing Orders and Regular Payments for prior approval

All will be reported to the next parish council meeting after payment

Clerk salary	Salary	£192	per month
HMRC	PAYE	47.88	per month
Website		80	per month
Community Heartbeat	Defibrillator Management	198.00	per annum
CPRE	Subscription	36.00	per annum
EALC/NALC	Subscription	136.46	per annum
RCCE	Subscription	52.80	per annum
100 Parishes Society	Subscription	10.00	per annum
SSE	Donation	25.00	per annum
Essex Heritage	Donation	25.00	per annum

**125. Elections:** The six councillors returned unopposed were congratulated on their success. The vacancy for a seventh councillor will be dealt with by co-option and will be further discussed at the next meeting

**126. Risk assessments:** The Clerk had circulated a document prior to the meeting which would be discussed at the next meeting when the new councillors were attending

The Chairman finished by thanking the three retiring Councillors: John Sladen, Niki McNeill, and Sara Scott all of whom had made valued contributions to the work of the council. He made special mention of John Sladen who has been a Parish Councillor for over twenty-five years and has been a really reliable stalwart. His knowledge and experience will be greatly missed. The Chairman wished them all well for the future.

**Future Meetings:**

**The Annual Parish Assembly will be on Friday 26<sup>th</sup> April at 8pm also in the Village Hall. Further meetings 9<sup>th</sup> MAY, June 13<sup>th</sup> and August 1st**

**The meeting ended at 8.50pm**