

Parish Council of Hempstead
Minutes of the Meeting of Hempstead Parish Council
held on Thursday 3rd September 2020

Present:

Mr Sean McCarthy (Chairman), Mr David Drane, Miss Diana Frost, Mrs Laura Saxel, Mr Alan Weedon, Mr Mark Welbourn and the Clerk.

The Parish Council meeting started at 8:00pm

58. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Mr Nicholas Turkentine, District Councillor Alan Storah and County Councillor Simon Walsh

59. REPORTS FROM DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCILLORS

County Councillor Simon Walsh and District Councillor Alan Storah had sent their monthly reports that had been circulated.

60. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

6th August 2020. Agreed as a correct record.

61. MATTERS ARISING

The Bluebell Inn – The Council discussed how The Bluebell is currently closed, with no apparent chance of it opening in the near future, and is being used solely as a residential dwelling.

Action: The Clerk to write to the Uttlesford Planning Enforcement Officer requesting a case be opened. The Parish Council to look at possible actions in the future to safeguard The Bluebell Inn as a valuable community asset.

62. PLANNING

Yeoman's Cottage: UTT/20/1756/HHF. Demolition of existing stable block and one bay of existing garage and erection of detached annexe. AWAITING DECISION

Newlands: UTT/20/2012/FUL. Erection of single storey dwelling.

Action: The Clerk to submit comments neither objecting nor supporting the application, but requesting that a restrictive covenant of circa 25 years on future building development of the site be applied if application approved.

Boytons: UTT/20/1946/FUL. New application for change of use to early years nursery.

Action: The Clerk to submit comments objecting to the application, using approved wording circulated prior to the meeting, specifically noting the valuable trees and hedgerow in the narrow section of Boytons Lane that could be adversely affected by the change in use.

Hylands Barn: UTT/20/2135/LB. Conversion of barn to dwelling, alternative scheme. NO COMMENTS REQUIRED

Bramley Hollow: UTT/19/2082/OP. APPEAL AWAITING DECISION

63. NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH AND WELLBEING

Neighbourhood Watch – Laura Saxel provided feedback on seminar attended: encouraged to learn about different initiatives, how collaboration occurs in some places and that others are in similar situations.

Action: Laura Saxel to look into how to expand the Neighbourhood Watch reach and the possibility of creating a "Calling Tree" to help maintain contact between residents.

Wellbeing Plan – Laura Saxel updated the Council. The Plan is almost complete, just requires liaison with the EALC and will update at the next meeting.

Mental Health Awareness – Laura Saxel attended a valuable training seminar, which helps provide the confidence to support others who may be facing mental health issues. She recommended it to others and the Council will consider how it could be promoted.

It was noted that it would be useful if future updates on these issues were put into the monthly Hempstead newsletter.

64. CORRESPONDENCE

Pond Safety Ring – Clerk to send note of thanks to Mr Wide and Mr Dymond regarding their recent action regarding the safety device.

Telephone Box Consultation – It was agreed that the Council should request that the telephone box be retained in working condition for emergency use due to poor mobile reception. If this was not possible to retain for alternative community usage.

Action: Clerk to reply as above.

Council Tax Consultation – It was agreed that this is for residents to personally respond.

UDC Tree Planting Initiative – It was decided that there is no requirement nor space for new trees on Parish Council land.

65. HIGHWAYS AND RIGHTS OF WAY

40mph Speed Limit and Highways – No update from Simon Walsh.

Affinity Water – The recent spate of water main leaks and resulting damage to road surface and road closures was discussed. Members of the Council had spoken with Affinity Water officials who confirmed that it is likely water main's renewal is likely to be programmed in the future.

66. ENVIRONMENT

Tree Felling/Pruning – All three quotes have now been received, from Mercer Tree Services, Josh Watson Tree Services and Chas Johnson. The Council discussed requirements and costings.

Action: Laura Saxel to revert to Chas Johnson to discuss and accept quote.

Railings – It had been agreed to pay Aaron McCarthy a deposit of £150, from total quote of £482 , for materials to begin refurbishment work.

67. FLOODING

Nick Turkentine had provided an update by email prior to the meeting, confirming that no productive feedback has yet been provided by ECC regarding flooding issues.

68. COMMUNICATIONS – No update

69. FINANCE – Invoices signed by Chairman.

70. DEFIBRILLATOR

The Clerk has now resumed responsibility for ensuring the defibrillator is regularly inspected and will organise any training required.

71. VILLAGE HALL

Regular hirers are able to return safely to the Village Hall to carry out their activities, with a limit of 16 participants. Keep Fit and Yoga classes can resume. The play area is yet to be opened.

72. EMERGENCY PLAN

Nick Turkentine confirmed by email prior to the meeting that the rewriting of the Emergency Plan is almost complete. The Council discussed the legal requirements of a Parish Council requiring an emergency plan.

Action: Clerk to contact the Uttlesford Emergency Plan Officer for advice.

Future Meetings: 1 October 2020 at 8pm, in the Village Hall
The meeting ended at 9:43pm