

Parish Council of Hempstead
Minutes of the Meeting of Hempstead Parish Council
held on Thursday 1st October 2020

Present:

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

The Parish Council meeting started at 8:01pm

73. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Alan Weedon and County Councillor Simon Walsh

74. REPORTS FROM DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCILLORS

County Councillor Simon Walsh and District Councillor Alan Storah had sent their monthly reports which were circulated. District Councillor Storah briefly spoke on his report, highlighting the Ward Members Initiative, Community Project Grant Scheme and the consultation on the Government's White Paper on Planning for the Future. District Councillor Storah then left the meeting.

75. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

3rd September 2020. Agreed as a correct record.

76. MATTERS ARISING

Hempstead Parish Council documentation – documentation for approval was circulated prior to the meeting: Discipline and Grievance Policy, Freedom of Information Act Parish Council publication scheme and Register of Complaints and FOI Requests. The documentation was APPROVED.

Bluebell Inn – Action – After brief discussion it was agreed that the Clerk should follow up with Planning Enforcement highlighting that the Bluebell Inn had only been open sporadically since Autumn/Winter 2019 and requesting if anything could be done to encourage the tenant to reopen.

77. PLANNING

Church Hill: UTT/20/2340/TCA. Remove 1 Field Maple, pollard 1 Field Maple and high coppice 1 Ash. NO COMMENTS REQUIRED

Oak House: UTT/20/1383/HHF. Proposed increase to height of existing wall and construction of fence. APPEAL SUBMITTED

Bulls Bridge Farm: UTT/20/0015/FUL. Revised scheme for erection of 2 new dwellings and conversion of existing building to 1 residential dwelling. AWAITING DECISION

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

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

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

Bramley Hollow: UTT/19/2082/OP. APPEAL DISMISSED

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

78. CORRESPONDENCE

UDC Ward Members Grant: Action – Councillors to consider what could be claimed.

Planning Consultation: Action – Clerk to respond to the consultation stating that Hempstead Parish Council opposes any changes proposed that will further centralise planning policy.

CPRE Petition: not a Parish Council issue. Can be signed personally.

Essex Highways User Survey: Action – Clerk to look into the survey and if possible express disappointment with the lack of Essex Highways work this year.

What 3 Words: Action – Diana Frost to publicise on the village website and newsletter.

79. NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH AND WELLBEING

Domestic Abuse Seminar – Laura Saxel had found this very informative and useful, and recommended it to any other interested Councillors.

Health and Wellbeing Plan – This is in final stages of drafting. Laura Saxel to circulate draft to Parish Council, for approval at the next meeting.

Neighbourhood Watch – Calling tree set up still being considered.

80. HIGHWAYS AND RIGHTS OF WAY

40mph Speed Limit – update received from Simon Walsh. Delays are due to backlog of legal work because of Covid restrictions. Hopefully it will be implemented by last quarter 2020/21.

Highways – Simon Walsh has put forward Hill Road to be part of the Essex Highways pothole scheme.

81. ENVIRONMENT

Wellyard Common Land – Action – Mark Welbourn to draft a letter for the Clerk to send to residents regarding its use for parking and the erection of “Private Parking” sign.

Tree Felling/Pruning – This work will now be undertaken by Josh Watson Tree Services. After discussion the quote of **£1350** for required work was approved.

Railings – Aaron McCarthy has started work refurbishing Wellyard’s posts and rails.

Harvey Way Hedge – this has been cut and now looking very smart.

Telephone Box – the Council considered what this could be used for in the future if it is to be disconnected, including whether it can be refurbished. It was agreed to revisit this when required.

82. FLOODING

Anso Road – Mr Norris had written to Nick Turkentine requesting assistance regarding flooding outside his house on Anso Road. Essex County Council (ECC) have confirmed that it is the responsibility of the landowners either side of the waterway to keep it clear. It was agreed that the Parish Council is unable to act in cases such as this. **Action** – Nick Turkentine to revert to Mr Norris explaining that the Parish Council cannot assist and write to ECC asking what steps they are taking to enforce the required action of landowners.

High Street – The natural spring next to Bellropes is the responsibility of Anglia Water.

83. COMMUNICATIONS – Diana Frost informed the Council that the monthly newsletter may require a change in email address it is sent from.

84. FINANCE – Invoices signed. CPRE renewal payment for **£36** approved. National Government Services Pay Agreement updated pay scales: the new hourly rate of **£10.86 (£282.36** per month) for the Clerk’s salary approved. Draft accounts and monthly reconciliations passed to Mark Welbourn for checking.

85. DEFIBRILLATOR – This continues to be regularly inspected by John Wilson. First Responder training to be arranged once Covid 19 restrictions are lifted.

86. VILLAGE HALL – No update.

87. EMERGENCY PLAN – Now in the final stages of drafting. Will be ready for November’s meeting.

Future Meetings: 12 November and 10 December at 8pm, in the Village Hall or remotely on Zoom

The meeting ended at 9:29pm