

Parish Council of Hempstead
Minutes of the Meeting of Hempstead Parish Council
held on Thursday 12th November 2020

Present:

Mr Sean McCarthy (Chairman), Mr David Drane, Miss Diana Frost, Mrs Laura Saxel, Mr Nicholas Turkentine, District Councillor Richard Freeman and the Clerk.

Prior to the meeting the Chairman said a few words about District Councillor Alan Storah who sadly passed away in October, and a minutes silence was held.

The Parish Council meeting started at 8:06pm

88. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Alan Weedon and County Councillor Simon Walsh.

89. REPORTS FROM DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCILLORS

County Councillor Simon Walsh had sent his monthly report which had been circulated.

District Councillor Richard Freeman introduced himself and gave a brief outline of current issues in Uttlesford, including the new Local Plan and Stansted Airport expansion planning appeal.

90. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

1st October 2020. Agreed as a correct record, with the inclusion of Nicholas Turkentine as attendee.

91. MATTERS ARISING

County Broadband – The awaited hard copy of the build document has been received and will be circulated. After discussion it was decided that once the build was completed pavements and road surfaces that had been excavated should be inspected, and any issues raised with County Broadband. **Action:** Clerk to inform County Broadband of concerns regarding the impact of excavations on the cleanliness of the roads, which could impact drainage. The Parish Council to highlight any issues requiring attention to County Broadband once "construction" has concluded.

The Clays – Concern has been raised regarding a gap being created in the hedge adjoining the Byway between Church Hill and Wellyard, which could create another access to the property. It was agreed that no action is required.

UDC Ward Members Grant – After discussion it was agreed that the Parish Council should apply for a £500 grant to replace the broken bench by the telephone box. **Action:** Clerk to complete and return application form.

92. PLANNING

The Firs: UTT/20/2487/HHF. Demolition of existing rear extensions and erection of two storey rear extension. After discussion regarding the age of the "extension" to be demolished it was agreed that NO COMMENTS REQUIRED

Church Hill: UTT/20/2340/TCA. Remove 1 Field Maple, pollard 1 Field Maple and high coppice 1 Ash. Awaiting Decision, but can go ahead as time limit has passed.

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. **APPROVED**

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

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

Hylands Barn: UTT/20/2135/LB. Conversion of barn to dwelling, alternative scheme. AWAITING DECISION

93. CORRESPONDENCE

Wellyard Parking Letter – A letter was sent to the residents of Wellyard requesting that the Private Parking sign be removed and ensuring that the common land is available for all residents to utilise. The Private Parking sign has now been removed, but there is still concern that Parish Council land is being exclusively used by a resident. **Action:** Legal opinion on possible next steps from Mark Welbourn.

Bluebell Inn – Response from planning received confirming that no action currently required.

Census 2021 – The Parish Council has been requested to help advertise the Census to residents, including putting up posters and sending out information electronically. Clerk to **Action**.

94. NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH AND WELLBEING

Health and Wellbeing Plan – First draft has been circulated, but is currently fairly limited due to COVID 19 social distancing regulations. It was suggested that any virtual clubs could be included.

Action: Laura Saxel to check permissions and then make available to residents via the newsletter and village website.

Calling Tree – **Action:** Laura Saxel to draft a speculative email/letter to residents to find out who may be interested in joining a Calling Tree.

95. HIGHWAYS AND RIGHTS OF WAY

40mph Speed Limit – No update

Road Surfaces – The Clerk had received an email from County Councillor Simon Walsh stating that he will arrange a meeting with the cabinet member to allow the issues to be aired.

96. ENVIRONMENT

Tree Felling/Pruning – Unfortunately work cannot start until February, before which a letter to affected residents will need to be sent. A query regarding the safety of a tall ash tree by Brookside Cottage had been raised, but this is on unregistered land and not the responsibility of the Parish Council (although there would be no objection to its removal).

Railings – Work is in progress as the railings on Church Hill and at the War Memorial have been cleaned, but painting progress has been hampered by wet weather.

97. FLOODING

High Street – Anglia Water are happy to come and inspect the suspected spring by Bellropes.

Anso Road – Nicholas Turkentine confirmed that it is the residents and landowners whose property front onto the ditch to ensure that it is kept clear to ensure the culvert is not blocked.

Action: Nicholas Turkentine to liaise with Mark Welbourn regarding legal basis for this.

98. COMMUNICATIONS – No update

99. FINANCE – The following payments were approved: **£36** for Laura Saxel to attend an EALC Health and Wellbeing conference and **£25** cheque for the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal.

100. DEFIBRILLATOR – No update

101. VILLAGE HALL – Currently not in use due to Covid 19 lockdown restrictions.

102. EMERGENCY PLAN – IT issues have delayed finalisation of draft. Will be circulated prior to next meeting.

Future Meetings: 7 January 2021 at 8pm, in the village hall or remotely on Zoom

The meeting ended at 9:28pm