

Parish Council of Hempstead
Minutes of the Meeting of Hempstead Parish Council
held on Thursday 11th March 2021

Present: Sean McCarthy (Chairman), David Drane, Diana Frost, Laura Saxel, Mark Welbourn, Nicholas Turkentine, District Councillor Richard Freeman and the Clerk.

The Parish Council meeting started at 7:32pm

135. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Alan Weedon and County Councillor Simon Walsh.

136. REPORTS FROM DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCILLORS

A report from the County Councillor had been circulated.

District Councillor Richard Freeman reported back on two issues raised at the previous meeting: he confirmed that there was no Uttlesford publicity material regarding littering and that he was awaiting a response on fly-tipping enquiries.

137. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING – The Clerk noted that the Minutes had recorded the incorrect date of the meeting. The amended Minutes of 4th February 2021 were agreed as a correct record.

138. MATTERS ARISING

The Bluebell Inn – The Chairman had received an update from Peter Hoskins, the principal tenant, that it is hoped that The Bluebell will reopen fully in July. This update to be added to the April Newsletter.

The Bluebell II – It was noted that a Bluebell II event at the Village Hall will be organised as soon as possible after restrictions have been lifted.

139. FINANCE

Online Banking Standing Orders – The Clerk requested advance approval for the monthly standing orders for the FY 2021/22 of the Clerk's salary £282.36 and Website maintenance for Brian Kitchen £100. Approval was given.

Payments Approved –

Wellyard Railings – £150 to Aaron McCarthy for labour costs.

Payment for Paint – £76.57 to Diana Frost, for paint and other materials used for repainting the posts and chains by the War Memorial and at the bottom of Church Hill.

Website Maintenance – £226.18 to Brian Kitchen for Website licence renewals.

Risk Assessment Document – Approval was given for the updated Risk Assessment document circulated prior to the meeting.

140. PLANNING

The Russets: UTT/21/0422/CLE. Removal of agricultural occupancy condition, allowing unrestricted residential occupancy. It was noted in discussion that The Russets would never have been built if there was no agricultural tie. However, it was also noted that a Lawful Use Certificate can be applied for if the owner/occupant of the property has not been employed in an agricultural business for a certain period of time during which no written complaints have been made, as in the case of The Russets. The Council agreed that NO COMMENTS REQUIRED.

Bracken House: UTT/21/0504/HHF. Erection of detached garage and workshop. NO COMMENTS REQUIRED

French's Farm: UTT/21/0437/HHF. Erection of single storey outbuilding and single storey double cartlodge. NO COMMENTS REQUIRED

5 Longcroft: UTT/21/0105/HHF. Erection of detached garden room. NO COMMENTS REQUIRED

French's Farm: UTT/20/3361/HHF. Extension to roof to form enlarged first floor accommodation and other proposed changes to existing building. APPROVED

The Hawthorns: UTT/20/3045/HHF. Proposed first and single storey rear extensions. AWAITING DECISION

141. CORRESPONDENCE

CENSUS 2021 – No action currently required.

142. NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH AND WELLBEING

Laura Saxel had attended a Learning Disability Awareness Training session, which is a pillar of the Wellbeing Plan. Following this she will now explore whether there is anything that the Parish Council should or could be doing to support residents in this area.

It was agreed that a Village social event should be organised for later in the year.

143. HIGHWAYS AND RIGHTS OF WAY

Potholes on High Street – Two large potholes on High Street have now been filled.

Road resurfacing – The cats eyes through the village have been removed in advance of resurfacing work, but have not been removed on the 30mph section of Hill Road. David Drane to enquire as to whether this section of road will also be resurfaced.

County Broadband contractors may further excavate on High Street. The Clerk to contact County Broadband to enquire and hopefully receive reassurance that any excavation would take place ASAP, before the planned resurfacing.

144. ENVIRONMENT

Railings – The hired contractor has completed work at the bottom of Wellyard, but was unable to continue with the other locations. Diana Frost and helpers have painted the posts at the War Memorial and the bottom of Church Hill, but the chains are rusty and difficult to clean and paint. It was agreed that quotes for the replacement of the chains and for sandblasting the existing chains should be obtained.

Robert Palmer will paint the railings in front of Turpin's Cottage with the paint purchased by the Parish Council.

Maintenance – David Dunn has volunteered to clean the **War Memorial**, to remove dirt and algae. The gardens had already been tidied. To match the work done in this area, the kerb at the bottom of Church Hill was also cleared. The **bus shelter** was swept and cleaned for children going back to school on Monday 8th March. The **new bench** was installed by the telephone box having had one coat of preserver treatment before installation. It has been screwed down for security.

145. FLOODING

Essex Highways engineers have looked at the flooding outside Bellropes and have agreed that the drains on High Street need to be cleared. The ditches and drains on Anso Road will also be cleared. Unfortunately, no date on this work has been given, as there are currently other priorities.

146. COMMUNICATIONS

Many new residents have signed up for the email newsletter and there are 164 members of the Hempstead Village Facebook page.

The Accessibility Statement has now been published on the website with a link to it on the front page.

147. DEFIBRILLATOR – The defibrillator continues to be checked on a regular basis.

148. VILLAGE HALL – The apparatus for the Glebe Play Area was re-installed, risk assessed, cleaned, and rules notices published by email, which allowed re-opening on Monday 8th March.

The Village Hall Committee held their AGM in February and elected 3 officers: Chairman – Russ Wide, Secretary – Diana Frost, and Treasurer – Claire Dietrich

149. ANNUAL REPORT – Draft circulated to Councillors prior to the meeting. A finalised version to be approved at the next meeting.

150. EMERGENCY PLAN – No update

Future Meetings: 15 April at 7:30pm remotely on Zoom and 20 May at 8pm in the Village Hall
The Annual Parish Meeting will be held on Friday 28 May 2021

The meeting ended at 8:57pm