

**Parish Council of Hempstead**  
**Minutes of the Meeting of Hempstead Parish Council**  
**held on Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> September 2021**

**Present:** Nicholas Turkentine (Vice Chair), David Drane, Diana Frost, Laura Saxel, District Councillor George Smith and the Clerk.

**The Parish Council meeting started at 8pm**

**85. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Sean McCarthy, Mark Welbourn, Alan Weedon and County Councillor Martin Foley.

**86. REPORTS FROM DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCILLORS**

A report from District Councillor Smith had been received and circulated prior to the meeting.

**87. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING** – The Minutes of 19<sup>th</sup> August 2021 were agreed as a correct record, and signed by the Vice Chair.

**88. MATTERS ARISING**

**The Bluebell Inn** – The continued closure of The Bluebell Inn was discussed. It was agreed that the Vice Chair would write to the freeholder and licensee to enquire what their intentions are over the next few months.

**Local Plan** – There had been a request by Uttlesford District Council (UDC) for sites in the village that might be put forward in the short term to fill the housing need for the next 2 years. With three sites (6 houses) not objected to by the Parish Council now rejected by UDC, clarification is needed as to whether UDC really wants locations in Hempstead to comply with the request for 20-25 houses per parish. Mark Welbourn had drafted an email, and it was agreed that the Clerk would send it on to the relevant Uttlesford Local Plan contacts.

**Community Special Constables** – The Clerk reported on an information session attended. After discussion it was agreed that it was not necessary for Hempstead to pursue further.

**Make-up of Parish Council** – Laura Saxel kindly agreed to add "Policing Matters" to her role as Parish Councillor, to be confirmed at the meeting on 14<sup>th</sup> October. It was noted that the most recent AMBO magazine had incorrect information regarding the Parish Councillors and their roles, which needs correcting.

**Electric Vehicle Charging Point** – The Council discussed the possibility of a vehicle charging point being placed at a location to be confirmed within the village.

**89. FINANCE**

**Financial Update** – Current Account balance at 16<sup>th</sup> September 2021 was £2990.59. The Clerk confirmed that £2080, from a budgeted amount of £2300, had been paid in respect of grass cutting. Next tranche of Precept, £4625, will be received in September.

**Invoices** – The Parish Council approved the following payments: £89 to Diana Frost for paint used on village railings. The Vice Chair signed the invoice for £89 to Diana Frost and a pre-approved invoice of £330 for grass cutting.

**Ward Members' Grant** – District Councillor Smith confirmed that a submission for £500 had been made to cover the cost of a wooden bench and its installation for the Glebe play area. Cllr Smith has passed on this request.

**90. PLANNING**

**The Moat House:** *UTT/21/2479/LB. Insertion of new window to ground floor.* NO COMMENTS REQUIRED

**Land at Fanes Cottage:** *UTT/21/2555/PIP. Application for permission in principle for the erection of between 3 or 4 dwellings.* AWAITING DECISION

**Newlands:** *UTT/21/2412/OP. Outline application with all matters reserved for the erection of 1 no. 1.5 storey dwelling.* AWAITING DECISION

**Iswas Cottage:** *UTT/21/1764/CLP. Conversion of garage to habitable accommodation.* APPROVED

**Barn 2 at Ruses Farm:** *UTT/21/0542/FUL. Extension and conversion of barn to form 1 no. dwelling.* AWAITING DECISION

**Cuckoo House:** *UTT/21/2110/HHF. Single storey extension.* APPROVED

**Boytons:** *UTT/20/1946/FUL. Change of use to early years nursery.* APPEAL DISMISSED

**Anso Corner Farm:** *UTT/21/1764/FUL. Demolition of 2 no. commercial units (with prior approval for conversion to residential) and the erection of 1 no. dwelling with linked parking.* AWAITING DECISION

**91. CORRESPONDENCE** – Nothing to discuss.

**92. NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH AND WELLBEING**

**Health and Well-being Plan** – Laura Saxel to review and update as required.

**93. HIGHWAYS AND RIGHTS OF WAY**

**Road resurfacing** – Essex Highways have confirmed that final work, including raising metalworks and painting white lines, will be completed by 24<sup>th</sup> September.

**Local Highways Panel** – Mark Welbourn has drafted the requests, including the extension of the 40mph limit and the implementation of “quiet lanes”. The deadline for submission is in November

**Footpath/RoW Cutting** – District Councillor Smith will assist David Drane with chasing County Councillor Foley.

**94. ENVIRONMENT**

**Tree Pollarding** – A formal quote from Chas Johnson for £500 had been received, for pollarding the willow by the War Memorial and the Ring O’ Trees. This was approved by the Council.

Laura Saxel has received advice from Josh Watson regarding the horse chestnut by the Village Hall. Any work will require permission from Uttlesford DC. It was agreed that the Council would discuss the cost of the work at the next meeting.

**Village Railings** – The Highways Rangers have confirmed they can clear the overgrowth around the small pond on Church Hill, to allow for all railings to be refurbished.

**Pond Area and Fountain** – Village clear up day/working party arranged for 10<sup>th</sup> October. It was agreed that the next Newsletter would include a request for help. David Drane to enquire whether the Highways Rangers could help clear the pond area. Diana Frost to investigate whether English Heritage funding would be available to repair/refurbish the water fountain.

**95. FLOODING**

Still awaiting drain clearance. Enforcement action now required by Essex Highways regarding the ditches on Anso Road.

**96. COMMUNICATIONS**

Diana Frost to re-start publishing a **Village Diary** in the Newsletter. The Gardeners Club information on the website has been archived, and Diana Frost will be looking into whether other non-active group information should also be archived (i.e. History Society and the Bellringers).

**97. DEFIBRILLATOR TRAINING**

The Clerk is in the process of arranging a date for the training to take place.

**98. VILLAGE HALL**

The Village Hall Committee has secured grants to go towards extending the patio and purchasing a sun awning. Work to start on 20<sup>th</sup> September for 3 weeks.

**99. PLATINUM JUBILEE**

It was agreed that Mark Welbourn will look into whether the closure of High Street might be possible for a village celebration.

**100. HEMPSTEAD OPEN HOUSE EVENT**

To take place on **18<sup>th</sup> September**, from 4pm to 5:30pm. A mobile bar has been hired and it is hoped that there will be a good turnout.

**101. EMERGENCY PLAN**

A location for an emergency services coordination point needs to be considered and Nick Turkentine will look to meet with a Fire and Rescue contact.

Any updates will be considered when the formal review takes place in January 2022.

**The meeting ended at 10.01pm**

**Future Meetings: 14 October at 8pm  
11 November at 8pm**