

## PARISH COUNCIL OF HEMPSTEAD

### Minutes of the Meeting of Hempstead Parish Council held on Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> May 2022

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

**The Parish Council meeting started at 8:11pm**

#### MINUTES

**22/014 Apologies for Absence** Apologies were received from Sean McCarthy and Alan Weedon.

**22/015 Public Forum** No members of the public in attendance.

**22/016 Declarations of Interest** None.

**22/017 Reports from District and/or County Councillors** No report had been received from County Councillor Foley, and he was not in attendance.

District Councillor (DC) Smith gave a brief update in regard to the Local Plan, where the timetable has been moved back to allow for further due diligence on newly proposed sites. The delay could be for two months, or more, pushing the consultation stage into late summer. There is concern that if it is overly delayed the Government will lose patience and impose a plan on UDC.

The ongoing issues regarding the un-raised ironworks on High Street were raised to DC Smith, and he undertook to contact County Councillor Lee Scott at ECC for assistance.

**22/018 Minutes of Previous Meeting of Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> April** It was noted that a minor amendment to the minutes was required, regarding Laura Saxel raising a pecuniary interest, in the planning application for Hill Cottage, at the previous meeting. The amendment was approved, the draft minutes amended and then signed by the Chair.

**22/019 Election of Chair and Vice Chair** The election of a Chair and a Vice Chair for the next year, until the elections in 2023.

**Chair: Nicholas Turkentine** was proposed as Chair by Diana Frost, which was seconded by Mark Welbourn. This was passed unanimously.

**Vice Chair:** Diana Frost was proposed as Vice Chair by Nick Turkentine, which was seconded by David Drane. This was passed unanimously.

**22/020 Register of Interests** Councillors had been asked prior to the meeting to check that their register of interests were up to date. All confirmed their information is correct.

**22/021 Finance**

**Item 1** – The Clerk confirmed the current account balance as £6636.84 and reserve account as £9256.27.

**Item 2** – Bank transfer of £1500 from current account to reserve account was approved.

**Item 3** – The Clerk had received the signed “Internal Audit” documentation from Ross Midgley and had forwarded an email from him regarding his governance check to all Councillors prior to the meeting. The Chair was pleased to confirm that the report had been positive. The Clerk presented further AGAR documentation for approval, which was duly given and the documents signed by the Chair.

**Item 4** – Asset Register: the Clerk presented changes that should be made to the Asset Register, in line with relevant guidelines. The changes to be made include removing the 1% annual uplift in asset values and only using the “book” values in future. These changes were approved and will be implemented at the end of the current financial year.

**Item 5** – Invoices: no invoices were presented for approval.

**22/022 Planning** No new applications had been received, but decisions were noted.

## PARISH COUNCIL OF HEMPSTEAD

**Lakehouse Farm:** UTT/21/1862 and 1863/FUL. APPROVED

**Anso Corner Farm:** UTT/22/0441/FUL. APPROVED

**Hempstead House:** UTT/22/0506/FUL. APPROVED

**Bulls Bridge Farm:** UTT/22/1119/FUL. AWAITING DECISION

**Hill Cottage:** UTT/22/1018/HHF. AWAITING DECISION

**Iswas Cottage:** UTT/22/0827/HHF. AWAITING DECISION

**22/023**            **Correspondence** Nothing to discuss.

**22/024**            **Community Speedwatch** Organised by Tricia Ridgeway it has not run in Hempstead for many years, in part due to Covid but also due to a lack of volunteers. Speeding through the village is still a problem and it is hoped that Speedwatch will get up and running again soon. It was suggested that the newsletter could be used to request new volunteers. Additionally, it is hoped that the Community Police speedwatch will be visiting Hempstead soon.

**22/025**            **County Broadband excavation of pavement** The Clerk had circulated correspondence regarding the Parish Council's concerns regarding the reinstatement of the pavement by the County Broadband contractors. After discussion it was agreed that Mark Welbourn would draft an email to be sent to County Broadband stating that the Parish Council is unhappy with the reinstatement work and for it to be rectified.

**22/026**            **Reports from Councillors**

**Policing/Neighbourhood Watch** The local PCSO will be in Hempstead on 22<sup>nd</sup> May. Laura Saxel has received resource information regarding anti-social behaviour. It was agreed that the best way to reach residents regarding crime/policing is via the email newsletter, as few are members of NW.

**Health and Wellbeing** The plan will be updated by the end of the month.

**Highways and Rights of Way** David Drane firstly noted that there is currently a lack of action from Essex Highways on repeated issues, for example the raising of ironworks.

Damaged railings – Of the three sets of railings damaged during recent road closures, only those at the bottom of Church Hill had been repaired and repainted. The other two sets have been reported to ECC Highways and repair is awaited.

Footpath cutting – David Drane had received confirmation that the village footpaths would be cut at some point between the 1<sup>st</sup> June and 31<sup>st</sup> July. Unfortunately, a more exact date could not be given.

Kerb cleaning – Diana Frost noted that the kerbsides on Hill Road and High Street are in need of proper clearing, not just by street sweeper.

### **Environment**

Tree work – The felling of the horse chestnut by the village hall has been delayed until 20<sup>th</sup> June, when UKPN will be available to turn off the power. Information regarding the power outage will be conveyed to residents via the newsletter distribution and Facebook.

Refurbishment of water fountain – This is scheduled to take place in mid-June. David Drane is in contact with someone who might be able to repair the dripping tap.

Dog waste bins – The Clerk had been in contact with UDC regarding the missing bin from the top of Boytons Lane. District Councillor Smith is assisting with having it replaced.

Noticeboard – Both village noticeboards are in need of refurbishment. It was suggested that volunteers could be sought to carry this out.

Grass cutting – It was confirmed that it is in the Parish Council's remit to continue to pay for the grass cutting in the churchyard.

## PARISH COUNCIL OF HEMPSTEAD

**Communications** The website had been updated with info on Platinum Jubilee celebrations.

**Village Hall** Car park resurfacing due to be carried out in the summer, once funding confirmed.

**Flooding** Nothing to report.

**22/027 Annual Parish Meeting** To be held on 27<sup>th</sup> May. Clerk to prepare and print handouts for attendees including the Annual Report, Financial Summary and last year's minutes.

**22/028 Platinum Jubilee** Grant will be paid when all receipts of costs have been provided.

**22/029 Matters Arising requiring decisions, to be included on the next Agenda:**

Allocation of wood from felled horse chestnut.

Planning: Neighbours decisions process.

Elections in May 2023.

**22/030 Future Meeting Dates** The **Annual Parish Meeting** will be held on Friday 27<sup>th</sup> May at 8pm in the village hall. The June Parish Council Meeting will be held on Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> June at 8pm in the village hall. It was decided that no meeting will be held in July.

**The meeting ended at 10:11pm**