

# PARISH COUNCIL OF HEMPSTEAD

## Minutes of the Meeting of Hempstead Parish Council held on Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2022

**Present:** Nick Turkentine (Chair), David Drane, Diana Frost, Laura Saxel, Mark Welbourn, District Councillor George Smith, County Councillor Martin Foley, the Clerk and 2 members of the public.

**The Parish Council meeting started at 8:02pm**

### MINUTES

**22/031 Apologies for Absence** – Apologies were accepted from Sean McCarthy

**22/032 Public Forum** – Two members of the public were in attendance. There was a brief discussion regarding the Bluebell Inn and the possibility of surveying residents regarding usage and appetite for a reopened pub. Although it was agreed that the Parish Council would not be in a position to take the lead on this, support would be provided where possible and Diana Frost confirmed that she would be happy to include something in the Newsletter, when provided, and that the Village Hall could be used as an address for which to send back survey responses.

**22/033 Declarations of Interest** – Laura Saxel declared a non-pecuniary interest in regard to Planning (22/038) as a neighbour of The Clays and Fairview Bungalow.

#### **22/034 Reports from District and/or County Councillors**

County Councillor Foley – A written report had been circulated prior to the meeting, which was briefly outlined as follows:

- Health – Essex County Council (ECC) have confirmed that the choice for Uttlesford residents to use Cambridge or Harlow/Chelmsford hospitals will be kept. The Chair raised a question on why Saffron Walden hospital can't be used for out of hours services. This is likely to be because of the centralisation of patient services. County Councillor Foley stated that he is happy to receive feedback from residents to pass on to the Health Committee at ECC.
- Rural Crime – The theft of drain covers continues to be a problem in the area. If it occurs the Police, who are taking it seriously, need to be informed ASAP and will take immediate action to make safe. Catalytic converter theft is also prevalent.
- Adult social care – a big cost to ECC, with demand for residential care far outstripping supply.
- Highways – Rissa Long, Highway Liaison Officer, is leaving ECC which could be an issue for the Highways Panel. The un-raised ironworks in the village have been reported to Highways, County Councillor Foley to report back in the next week.
- Flooding – The Chair raised the issue of Anso Road and Highways assistance to clear the ditches to ease flooding. It was noted that although Highways have stated that they are in contact with landowners, the landowners themselves have not been approached. County Councillor Foley offered to visit Hempstead with a Highways officer to discuss the current contentious sites, and will follow up in the next week. Diana Frost noted that there are still many blocked drains on High Street, to the North West of the village hall, a proper camera survey of which appears to be required. This would be added to the sites to be visited by the Highways officer.

District Councillor Smith – A verbal report was provided. The Local Plan consultation has now been pushed back to November. Uttlesford District Council (UDC) have offered a settlement of £1.4million to Stansted Airport. Consultation has started for the Council Tax Support Scheme. UDC street cleaner to make an assessment on the overgrowth in the village kerbsides. A response from planning enforcement in regard to The Bluebell Inn is still awaited.

**22/035 Minutes of Previous Meeting of Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> May** were approved and signed by the Chair.

**22/036 Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting** held on Friday 27<sup>th</sup> May were approved and signed by the Chair.

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### **22/037 Finance**

**Item 1** – The Clerk confirmed that the balance of the current account was £4,042.24 and reserve account was £10,756.27. This reflected the transfer of £1,500 from the current to reserve account. The Clerk noted that the £700 grant for the Platinum Jubilee had not yet been received, but was expected.

The Chair acknowledged the hard work of the Platinum Jubilee committee for all the work put in to make the long weekend a great success.

**Item 2** – The Clerk presented invoices as follows:

- Platinum Jubilee celebration expenditure totally £581.94, including £100 for the commemorative glass picture, and an invoice for £282.66 for flowers that decorated the church during the Jubilee weekend (for which only part payment, £118.06, can be made from the UDC grant, due to the £700 limit).
- Josh Watson's invoice of £1,370 for the felling of the horse chestnut by the village hall.
- Grass cutting invoices from Julian Basham totalling £660 for cuts in May and June.

All presented invoices were approved and signed by the Chair.

**22/038 Planning** to review and comment on new planning applications and to note any decisions as at 17/06/22.

**Fairview Bungalow:** UTT/22/1665/NMA. Non material amendment to UTT/20/1455/PAQ3. NO COMMENTS REQUIRED

**Clays:** UTT/1149/HHF. Proposed change of roof hip to gable on one end only. NO COMMENTS REQUIRED

**Stack Field House:** UTT/22/1411/DFO. Details following outline approval of 1 no. dwelling. NO COMMENTS REQUIRED

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

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

**Hill Cottage:** UTT/22/1018/HHF. APPROVED

**22/039 Correspondence** – The Clerk briefly raised an email received regarding “UK Shared Prosperity Fund”. It was agreed that there were no opportunities within Hempstead for this funding.

**22/040 Community Speedwatch** – Hempstead's Community Speedwatch team has restarted and carried out a session on 16<sup>th</sup> June, where 18 vehicles were found to be travelling at over 36mph on High Street and the highest speed recorded was 45mph. Tricia Ridgway has lodged a request with the Essex Regional Speedwatch Coordinator for more police presence in the village regarding speed reduction activities.

**22/041 Elections in May 2023** – District Councillor Smith offered to send on information regarding how to appropriately promote vacancies/parish council roles. It was agreed that this would then be discussed further at the next meeting.

### **22/042 Reports from Councillors**

**Policing/Neighbourhood Watch** – There had been a fraud alert regarding a fish salesman. This has been sent out to those on the Neighbourhood Watch mailing list and would also be highlighted in the next Newsletter email. It was noted that 18-24<sup>th</sup> July is Anti-social Behaviour Week, which will be promoted through the Newsletter.

**Health and Wellbeing** – Information had been received about “Forget Me Not Café”, a dementia café that is held in Thaxted. This will be promoted via the Newsletter.

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### Highways and Rights of Way

County Broadband pavement reinstatement – Mark Welbourn to draft email.

Footpath cutting – Still awaited, but should be carried out before the end of July.

Kerb cleaning – As mentioned in the report from the District Councillor.

Village railings – All damaged railings had now been repaired. Diana Frost to start repainting the railings by the smaller pond on Church Hill. The Clerk to ensure that the area under these railings has been added to the grass cutting list.

### Environment

Tree work – The horse chestnut by the village hall has now been felled, just requires an application of SBK on the stump to stop regrowth. The wood has been removed to be seasoned at Hill Farm.

Refurbishment of water fountain – This will start on 4<sup>th</sup> July. District Councillor Smith has submitted his Ward Grant request for £500.

Telephone kiosk refurbishment – BT have confirmed that the telephone box will be re-painted and the missing “TELEPHONE” panels replaced before the end of the summer.

Dog waste bins – District Councillor Smith to chase response from UDC regarding missing bin from the top of Boytons Lane.

**Communications** – The website needs to be updated with photos from the Platinum Jubilee.

**Village Hall** – The car park is to be resurfaced during the summer holidays.

**Flooding** – This was discussed earlier in the meeting during the County Councillor’s report.

**22/043**      **Matters Arising requiring decisions, to be included on the next Agenda** – Defibrillator and VETS. Parish Councillors and the 2023 election. Tree survey. Parish Council’s land boundaries.

**22/044**      **Future Meeting Dates** – No meeting in July. The following dates for the next two meetings were agreed; 4<sup>th</sup> August and 15<sup>th</sup> September both at 8pm in the village hall.

**The meeting ended at 9:59pm**