



Minutes of Hadstock Parish Council Meeting

Held on

Thursday 27 November 2025

at 7.45pm in the Village Hall Hadstock.

Present: Parish Councillors: David Johnson [Chair] Jude Hannam, John Lockton, Simon Gosling Parish Clerk, District Councillor John Morran and 1 member of the public

1. Councillor Johnson as Vice Chair acted as the Chair, welcomed all to the meeting, reminded Councillors of the fire safety procedure and announced that proceedings may be filmed or recorded.
2. Apologies and reason for absence were received and approved from Parish Councillor Wells **RESOLVED 25/11/02**
3. Declaration of Members' Interests & to remind Councillors of the need to keep up to date their Register of Members' Interests and to receive any Members' Dispensations – none notified.
4. The Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on **Thursday 30 October 2025** were accepted and approved **RESOLVED 25/11/04**. The Chair signed them as a true record.
5. **Public participation-** grave concerns were expressed about the overhanging vegetation on Walden Road stating it was extremely dangerous as the HGVs in particular are avoiding the area and eroding the verge area opposite so as to avoid vehicles approaching from the opposite direction which are avoiding the vegetation, but heading directly into oncoming traffic. The Clerk was able to give an update, it had been reported to Highways in April 2025 (Ref: 2984528). In July 2025 a report from Highways stated *This site has been inspected and we are in the process of issuing a clearance request to the relevant landowner.* A further report from Highways in early November stated that *We have risk assessed this enquiry and determined that it does not need immediate action. We have recorded this issue and will continue to monitor the area during future inspections. If the issue further deteriorates, we will consider including it in any future works in the area.* Following further intervention by County Councillor Foley a report stated *We have inspected this issue and now need to speak with a third party, such as a resident or landowner who may have some responsibility in addressing this issue before it can be resolved. We will update this enquiry when there is more information.* District Councillor Moran kindly advised to assist, he would inspect the concern and update Cllr Foley directly.
6. **Report from County Councillor** – no report received but Cllr Foley has been available via email which is very helpful
7. **Report from District Councillor Moran** ~ reported determination of the Devolution business plans submitted to central government from UDC and ECC may be known in December 2025, prior to the deadline of March 2026. Solving the ownership and responsibility for the drainage issues in Bilberry End continues to be troublesome with no authority acknowledging ownership. A member of the public was able to give first-hand knowledge of the issue which was very helpful and Cllr Moran will continue to investigate. HPC encouraged residents affected to compose a letter which HPC could support to the authority responsible for drainage [Anglian Water] **ACTION** Clerk
8. **Action points and matters arising from previous meetings:** Updates for information only.
 - [a] **The Clerk** reported that matters were included in the agenda
 - [b] Report from Councillors ~ matters were included in the agenda

9. **Planning Application/s to consider a consultee comment** – None
10. **To note decisions made by UDC on planning application/s** – None
11. **To receive an update on planning matters** – none
12. **Applications still awaiting determination** - none
13. **Lens path** ~ since the last meeting the Clerk had emailed the land owner as instructed with no response. Cllr Lockton had liaised by phone and the situation resolved with the land owner's permission and assistance
14. **Sustainable Hadstock** ~ Cllr Lockton referred to his report attached as appendix which includes reference to items 15 & 16 which were all noted and thanks were extended to all the work being undertaken
15. Signage and Wayfinding Project- no update as still awaiting the feedback report from UDC officers **ACTION** Clerk to chase
16. Hundred parishes funded project ~ a scheduled walk about with the proposed artist of the boards is planned in the next few weeks and the project will proceed even without further funding through the UDC project.
17. **Recreation Ground Report** ~
 - [a] The list previously approved and the quote received for the work required to the playground equipment was discussed and approved to be undertaken. **ACTION** Clerk to confirm that following cleaning of swing seats IB to inform if replacement required **ACTION** Clerk confirm if 2 x yearly inspection includes cleaning
 - [b] Monkey Challenge [Finding Fitness] has been resolved but no word re Climbing Tower [Sovereign] despite having to contact Inspector directly who confirmed the details and to expect report in a few days no report received to date **ACTION** Clerk to chase
 - [c] to receive report – Cllr Johnson confirmed
 - i. all play equipment has been visually checked and useable. Report received and noted by HPC

18. **Governance** –
 - [a] Cllr Wells/Cllr Hannam would arrange for review for the clerk in the new year
 - [b] HPC had considered the survey of four proposals for new unitary councils in Greater Essex previously sent and following a discussion did not feel a response was required
19. **FINANCE**
 - [a] HPC noted for 27 November 2025 and once confirmed by HPC were signed by the Chair of meeting
 - bank balance £28374.97 followed by reconciliation of £24735.82
 - expenditure of green skip outstanding **ACTION** Clerk to contact UDC to confirm costing for 2026
 - On reviewing receipts and payments it is not likely that an External Audit will be required.
 - **ACTION** Clerk will print bank mandate for Cllr Gosling to sign.
 - [b] HPC reviewed, agreed and approved payments listed below. **RESOLVED 25/11/19b**

Cheque	Payee	Description	Net amount	VAT	Total	
101602	Ms S Beckett	Clerk Salary month 8	611.04	-	611.04	
101603	The Hundred Parishes Society	Annual membership renewal	10.00		10.00	
101604	Mr J Lockton	SH expenses	337.29		337.29	
101605	Mr J Goldthorpe	Tree Labels	250.00		250.00	
101606	Ms S Beckett	Expenses travel printing stationary postage	Printing = VAT	11.25	253.28	
101607	Mr Richards	Village Grass Cutting	1956.00		1956.00	*
101608	HMRC	Repayment	56.54		56.54	*

[c] HPC reviewed, agreed and approved payments for appropriate invoices received after Agenda issued* **RESOLVED 25/11/19b**

[d] precept information from UDC received and noted at the last meeting but confirmed detail

[e] HPC considered a first draft of the budget for 2026/27 as presented by the RFO having previously discussed with the Chair. Each line was discussed, justified, and/or amended. The second draft budget will be presented for further consideration at the 18 December 2025 meeting.

20. Highways ~

[a] Highways ~

i. Walden Road vegetation [2984528] discussed at item 5. Walden Road drainage [2968495] & [2988691] Cllr Lockton stated this had still not been resolved by Highways and the drain appears to be collapsing to take up with Councillor Foley **ACTION** clerk

[b] Speed watch~ update and email exchange concerning vehicles reported for speeding to Essex Constabulary continues. It has become known that whilst the Speed watch team send reports of speeding to Essex Police, they only action vehicles registered in Essex, out of county vehicles are not reported. This has been taken up by the speed watch team leader for Hadstock who has actioned with a number of authorities and MP Kemi Badenoch who will write to the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner to ask for an explanation of this decision and whether it will be reviewed.

21. Listed Telephone Box Maintenance – deferred

22. Uttlesford Association of Local Councils AGM Monday 24 November 2025 [online]

attended by the Clerk. Only 8 parishes attended out of a possible 70 which is disappointing and perhaps demonstrates that a change of course is required. It was asked at the meeting if Cllr Wells would become a committee member. It was agreed to continue membership to allow input and **ACTION** Clerk to inform Cllr Wells of committee vacancy **RESOLVED 25/11/22**

23. Parish Land Report & PRoW's ~ footpath steps have been placed next to the Halfway

House/Cottage on Linton Road. **ACTION** exact location and relationship to a footpath to contact PRoW Officer. HPC needs to look at past detail of 'agreement' of Parish owned land

24. To discuss management of privately owned vegetation within village Cllr Johnson had hand delivered the letter to Bartlow Road/Moules Lane which had also been distributed via Hadstock Info. The Clerk reported a response had been received from approx. 6 households all very positive. **ACTION** Clerk To send details to HPC [JL] with owner's permission already confirmed so that they can be put down to plot locations and viability of project. Cllr Gosling declared an interest. Welfare concerns were expressed of residents who require more assistance. **ACTION** Clerk to contact Openreach to enquire details of work relevant to road closures

25. Village Hall Report ~ Cllr Hannam reported that she had stepped away from the VH Committee and would no longer be able to report. Jane Jennings is taking on booking's role. **ACTION** Cllr Hannam will request minutes from the VH meetings to be sent to HPC. Thanks were expressed to Cllr Hannam for her commitment and reporting over the years.

26. HPC considered the dates for the next financial year [2026] ~ a discussion confirmed that ordinary meetings for HPC would be the last Thursday of the month excluding August [no meeting]. The Annual Parish Meeting would be combined with Pub Night on Friday 24th April 2026 **RESOLVED 25/11/26**

27. Items for next agenda taken throughout meeting

28. To note the next Meeting will take place in the Village Hall on **Thursday 18 December 2025 at 19.15pm.**

29. A public exempt not required

30. Chairman closed the meeting @ 22.18pm

..... **Chairman of meeting**

Signed as a true record and RESOLVED to approve on 18 December 2025