



Minutes of Hadstock Parish Council Meeting

Held on

Thursday 29 January 2026

at 7.45pm in the Village Hall Hadstock.

Present: Parish Councillors: Denise Wells [Chair], David Johnson, Simon Gosling, Parish Clerk. County Councillor Martin Foley, District Councillor John Moran & two members of the public.

1. The Chair, Councillor Wells, welcomed all to the meeting, reminded all of the fire safety procedure and announced that proceedings may be filmed or recorded
2. Apologies and reason for absence were received & approved from Cllrs Lockton & Hannam
RESOLVED 26/01/02
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 18 December 2025** were approved
RESOLVED 26/01/04. The Chair signed them as a true record.
5. **Public participation-** a member of the public had attended specifically to express concerns about the speed and manner of driving through the village, particularly of the HGV's which appear to have increased in size recently. It was noted that it had been witnessed that an HGV had driven on the pavement near the old Post Office endangering those that use the pavement. HPC reassured those present that together with the Speed watch team these issues had been noted and actioned for years but without the cooperation of Essex Highways and Essex Constabulary considering seriously the management, HPC had little power. The 20's plenty scheme continues to be investigated but it is not favoured by Essex Highways without evidence of a certain speed being attained, although County Councillor Foley reported at the meeting, that a further speed survey is due to be undertaken in Hadstock in the near future and HPC can consider the new data with the historic data which it holds. It was suggested that the original planning consent for the companies that use the road through the village may have conditions attached **ACTION** Clerk to check. Essex Police Constabulary have acknowledged when requested the following *"Please confirm whether your constabulary issues warning letters to vehicle keepers identified by Community Speed Watch operating in your area in the following circumstances:*
Q1. When the vehicle is registered outside your county.
A-No
Q2. When the vehicle is leased or registered to a finance company.
A – No "
6. **Report form County Councillor** – Cllr Foley was welcomed back to meetings and reported that Essex County Council elections will be in May 2026 having been deferred from 2025. The Local Highways Panel [LHP] met recently and have agreed a list of priorities. Uttlesford District Council has had the new Local Plan approved at examination [Inspectors' report and adoption - Uttlesford District Council](#) Cllr Foleys written report had been sent to the Clerk and would be forwarded to all. The bus consultation has been extended and HPC was encouraged to participate acknowledging that whilst Hadstock no longer has a bus service at all, it's relevant to the rural environment.

7. **Report from District Councillor Moran** ~ Cllr Moran was thanked for his regular attendance and reported that the maintenance contract for any property owned by UDC has been taken back in house due to the very poor performance over the last year resulting in a big back log of work to be undertaken. Local Government reform continues and future partners should be known by the end of February. The saga of the ownership of Bilberry End continues and Cllr Moran is in communication with Essex Records office to seek who might have built the properties. **ACTION** Cllr Moran informed of the news that Ashdon PC had recently taken ownership of a new VAS and would ask the clerk of APC to inform HPC of details.

One member of the public, Cllrs. Foley and Moran left the meeting

8. **Action points and matters arising from previous meetings:** Updates for information only.
[a] The Clerk reported that matters were included in the agenda but highlighted the .org.uk email process had progressed and councillors will be receiving their new council email details shortly, The 30mph sign on the Linton Road has been reported.

Still waiting for news on VAS

Membership to RCCE is to be considered and a list of future events has been forwarded.

News of the locks on the noticeboards needs to be reviewed which may be an emergency situation that needs to be dealt with.

[b] Report from Councillors ~ Cllr Gosling expressed concerns about the flooding at The Grip. It was recognised that this is Cambridgeshire although the old chestnut of the ditch resurfaced which is Essex. **ACTION** Probably need to involve County Councillor Foley and to seek photographic evidence. Cllr. Johnson reported that some posts of Linton Road fencing are loose but acknowledge that funding has been added to the budget for future repairs and maintenance

9. **Planning Application/s to consider a consultee comment – none**

10. **To note decisions made by UDC on planning application/s – UTT/25/2869/LB|Replacement of roof timbers, new floor slab with damp proof membrane, installation of air source heat pump and gas boiler with associated flue and external vents|The Mill Linton Road Hadstock Essex CB21 4NU APPROVED with conditions.** The officers report showed that HPC had expressed concerns, but *The Parish Council and neighbouring development have raised concerns that the ridge height would be higher than that previously approved that such a change would be out of character for the agricultural setting of The Mill and would adversely affect the proportions of this historical structure. Officer noted that the proposal would result in alterations and replacement of the deteriorating roof which would result in a slight increase in its heights. Even though the replacement roof would slightly increase in height, its impact would be insignificant as the replacement would reuse the existing tiles and therefore that would conserve and moreover mitigate any visual or dominant impact on the character and appearance of main building. Paragraph 212 underscore that when considering the impact of a proposed development on the significance of a designated heritage asset, great weight should be given to the asset's conservation (and the more important the asset, the greater the weight should be). This is irrespective of whether any potential harm amounts to substantial harm, total loss or less than substantial harm to its significance. Even if there is harm in raising the roof, the harm would be considered to be at the low end of the spectrum (insignificant), in this case, the proposal would conserve the significance of the heritage assets. If there was significant harm the proposal would be refused and this will trigger paragraph 215 where it would be assessed against public benefits. The proposal in officers view would conserve the significance of the asset*

11. **To receive an update on planning matters – none**

12. **Applications still awaiting determination – none**

13. **Governance** ~ Councillor & Clerk emails .org.uk to be activated

14. **FINANCE**

[a] HPC noted that to date the reports of

- bank balance £24,023.49
- no income

- followed by reconciliation of £23,858.49 which is the total currently to consider for budget purposes. Once confirmed by HPC both were signed by the Chair of the meeting **RESOLVED 26/01/14a**

[b] HPC reviewed, agreed and approved payment listed below. **RESOLVED 26/01/14b**

Cheque	Payee	Description	Net amount	VAT	Total	
	Ms S Beckett	Salary	429.04		429.04	

[c] There were no invoices received after Agenda issued

[d] The clerk/RFO presented the fees for the Green Skip for 2026 those being £90.50 per 1 hour session which were approved by HPC **RESOLVED 26/01/14d**

[e] HPC discussed the increased village hall venue hire fees being a 20% increase from £25-£30 and **RESOLVED 26/01/14e** to request further consideration by the VHC **ACTION** Clerk to email for further consideration

[f] The Clerk explained the additional amounts included in the final draft which amounted to £310.00 the update and explanation had been sent previously to all. Giving an expenditure of £17,027.00 and income of £400.00

HPC considered the final draft of budget 2026/27 as presented following previous discussions and approval at previous HPC meetings to inform the Precept 2026/27 **RESOLVED 26/01/14f**

[g] HPC considered and approved the calculated Precept demand to UDC for 2026/27 in line with budget calculations approved at 14f **RESOLVED 26/01/14g** it to be £16627.00. This represents:

- Actual parish Band D figure 2026/27 of £96.28
- Increase of £3.86 on a Band D property
- % increase of 4.2%

15. Sustainable Hadstock Working Group [SHWG] Cllr Lockton deferred

16. Signage and Wayfinding Project~ deferred as no update from UDC

17. Hundred parishes funded project ~ delayed. The Clerk informed HPC that The Hundred Parishes Society were updating their Hadstock page [sent to all] and were seeking any errors or amendments **ACTION** Clerk to over see

18. Recreation Ground Report ~

[a] Cllr Johnson reported the work undertaken to the playground equipment as per list which has progressed very well. There is one hopping post was left in situ which will have to be removed.

[b] The Clerk confirmed biannual inspection but clean would not be a pressure wash. **ACTION** Cllr Wells would clean the swing seats

[c] update on work required to Climbing Tower [Sovereign] no update of date of visit to repair **ACTION** Clerk to chase

[d] to receive report – Cllr Johnson reported that some palings were again missing and he still needs to check the movable part of a piece of play equipment as reported last month

i. to confirm all play equipment has been visually checked and useable ~confirmed **RESOLVED 26/01/18di**

ACTION Councillor Wells will continue to investigate costings of bench [more than was thought] but prefers the hexagon design and has been promised a discount **ACTION** Clerk suggested we ask Cllr Foley for funding from Locality. **ACTION** Clerk to enquire for 2026/27

19. Highways ~ to receive an update on highways issues, discuss and resolve actions

[a] Highways ~ specifically

i. Update on management of privately owned vegetation within village and responses received ~ deferred

ii. Walden Road vegetation [2984528] report from Highways *We've inspected this issue. We're speaking to a resident, a landowner or other third-party, who may have some responsibility, before it's resolved.* Cllr Wells has also referred to a resident about the issue and ownership. Walden Road

drainage [2968495] Walden Road drainage Cllr Wells reported that drainage work had recently been undertaken and drew the attention of the damaged drain which was confirmed as needed work [b] Speed watch~ this has now stalled due to the previous correspondence and following a FOIR by the Clerk to Essex Constabulary which is confirmed as at agenda item 5. To decide next course of action.

[c] Twenty is Plenty deferred

[d] Bilberry End drainage~ the clerk had sent a letter of support for further action to resolve the flooding issues to the resident of Bilberry End but no further response

20. Listed Telephone Box Maintenance – awaiting quote but likely to be more than allocated in budget.

21. Defibrillator ~ Checked weekly and new pads have been fitted **RESOLVED 26/01/21**

22. Village Hall representation HPC approved that Cllr Wells as a parish councillor to be a member of the Village Hall Committee **RESOLVED 26/01/22 ACTION** Clerk to inform VHC

23. Parish Land Report & PRow's ~

i. Cllr Johnson reported that 10 of the posts of the Linton Road fence were loose together with one horizontal which can be addressed when weather permits as would the circular bench on The Green.

Branch on Arnolds Lane needs removing

FP4 has been attended and thanks expressed to Cllr Johnson

ii~ Village vegetation as 19ai but the Clerk added that Highways would need to be informed before any work undertaken by HPC as it is not within HPC's responsibility or power

24. Items for next agenda were noted through the meeting + RCCE membership – Welfare re UDC email.

25. HPC confirmed date, procedure and location for Clerks review RESOLVED 26/01/25

26. To note the next Meeting will take place in the Village Hall on **Thursday 26 February 2026 at 19.45pm.**

27. A public exempt not required.

28. Chairman closed the meeting at 21.35pm

..... Chairman of meeting

Signed as a true record and RESOLVED to approve on 26 February 2026