



## Minutes of Hadstock Parish Council Meeting

Held on

Thursday 26 February 2026

at 7.45pm in the Village Hall Hadstock.

**Present:** Parish Councillors: Denise Wells [Chair], Jude Hannam, John Lockton and Simon Gosling, the Parish Clerk & one member of the public.

1. The Chair, Councillor Wells, welcomed all to the meeting, reminded those present of the fire safety procedure and announced that proceedings may be filmed or recorded
2. Apologies and reason for absence were received & approved from Cllr David Johnson **RESOLVED 26/02/02**
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 29 January 2026** were approved **RESOLVED 26/02/04**. The Chair signed them as a true record.
5. **Public participation-** the member of the public wished to observe the consideration of the planning application at Agenda item 9
6. **Report from County Councillor** – Cllr Foley sent his apologies & had messaged a brief report to the Clerk .~
  - ECC budget set and council tax just under 4% [UDC just under 3%]
  - Worrying cuts to Highways Panel budget at ECC considering backlog of work
  - Further report to follow
7. **Report from District Councillor Moran** ~ Cllr Moran sent his apologies & a report via email
  - UDC passed their 26/27 budget on Tuesday evening. There were challenges from the opposition in regard to the rise in car parking charges, in some cases by 23%, the lack of new build council properties being planned and the continued high level of borrowing by the council.
  - The Local Plan will be voted on and almost certainly come into being at the full council meeting on the 25<sup>th</sup> of March.
  - I am investigating the apparent gap in the provision of fitness and leisure facilities across Uttlesford by the district council who do not seem to have reacted to the growth of population. I would welcome the views of residents.
  - I have discussed road safety with the chair of the county council this week, in particular in regard to Hadstock with the steep hill and the high level of hgv movements through the village. I am hoping to have a meeting soon with the cabinet member for highways. I will update you on any progress.
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 that in relation to the Hundred Parishes Society updating their Hadstock page, the brief had been sent to the Hadstock Society who had submitted some slight amendments, but HPC thought the proposed article was very good.

**[b] Report from Councillors** Cllr Wells reported her attendance at Sustainable Uttlesford which had been very much related to nature rather than energy. Whilst UDC do not have finances there is funding available from other avenues. It was felt that subjects should have been reduced to increase time spent on each and therefore impact. It was very much volunteer based but not great in terms of numbers of volunteers

**9. Planning Application/s to consider a consultee comment** UTT/26/0277/LB Garden Cottage Bartlow Road Hadstock Essex CB21 4PF ~ Councillors considered this planning application and were able to consult with the applicant which was helpful. **RESOLVED 26/02/09 to support**

**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. Governance ~**

[a] Membership to RCCE ~councillors considered membership and **RESOLVED 26/02/13a** to take membership for one year and review **ACTION** Clerk to arrange

[b] to review and approve policies ~ Councillors had received all draft policies for review by email prior to the agenda. Councillors reviewed all policies with the opportunity to clarify detail

i. Risk Management Policy **RESOLVED 26/02/13bi** to approve and adopt

ii. Document Retention Policy **RESOLVED 26/02/13bii** to approve and adopt

iii. Publication scheme **RESOLVED 26/02/13biii** to approve and adopt

iv. IT Policy **RESOLVED 26/02/13biv** to approve and adopt

v. Internal Control Policy **RESOLVED 26/02/13bv** to approve and adopt

vi. Financial Regulations 2025 **RESOLVED 26/02/13bvi** to approve and adopt

vii. HPC Standing orders 2025 **RESOLVED 26/02/13bvii** to approve and adopt

**14. FINANCE**

[a] HPC noted that to date the reports of

- bank balance £23,594.45
- no income
- followed by reconciliation of £22,456.61 Once confirmed by HPC both were signed by the Chair of the meeting **RESOLVED 26/02/14a**

[b] HPC reviewed, agreed and approved payment listed below which had been set up for online payment Cllrs Wells & Hannam for dual authorisation **RESOLVED 26/02/14b**

Payee	Description	Net amount	VAT	Total	
Ms S Beckett	Clerks Salary month 11	429.04		429.04	
Mr I Blackman	Repairs to recreation ground	543.80		543.80	

[c] There were no invoices received after Agenda issued

**15. Sustainable Hadstock Working Group [SHWG]** Cllr Lockton presented the report which had been sent to all prior to the meeting

A discussion about guest speakers **ACTION** Cllr Lockton to confirm

Hadstock Wood is still under a strategic review by the Charity owner

**16. Signage and Wayfinding Project** ~ no update from UDC despite a matter of urgency to meet before 18<sup>th</sup> February 2026.

**17. Hundred parishes funded project** ~ Due to various reasons there has been no further development. It was suggested that the draft plan could be addressed by a desktop application **ACTION** Cllr Hannam

**18. Village welfare considerations** ~ following an email from UDC councillors considered how they might be able to contribute to the welfare of residents of the village. It was recognised to be a difficult remit, but the first step would be to consult with others i.e. the vicar **ACTION** Cllr Hannam

**19. Recreation Ground Report** ~

[a] HPC had approved the work undertaken to the playground equipment as per list & agreed the payment to be made. One hopping post was left in situ **ACTION** Cllr Johnson to remove

[b] The work undertaken to Climbing Tower by Sovereign had eventually been completed. A large amount of matting had been left which could be stored. The work had been carried out satisfactorily as confirmed by Cllrs Wells & Johnson {email trail available]

[c] to receive report – Cllr Johnson had not sent a report

i. HPC confirmed all play equipment has been visually checked and useable **RESOLVED 26/02/19ci**

[d] HPC further discussed the purchase of a picnic table. Cllr Wells reported that the hexagonal picnic table would be available with a 5% discount from NBB’s. It was agreed that Cllr Wells would obtain confirmation of details via email and the clerk would then order. Cost to be split between HPC and SH **RESOLVED 26/02/19d** Cllr Foley had been approached for possible funding from Locality which could not be relied upon but could be reviewed after May 2026.

[e] HPC discussed the possible purchase of additional bench and **RESOLVED 26/02/19e** not to proceed

**20. 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 ~ to due time and weather constraints it was **RESOLVED 26/02/20ai** to defer until the autumn **ACTION** Clerk to inform respondents

ii. [2984528] Walden Road vegetation still awaiting ownership details [2968495] Walden Road drainage as reported last meeting reported to contractors on site awaiting update

[b] Speed watch~the speed watch co-ordinator has reported that watches will resume

[c] Twenty is Plenty ~suggest collaborating with other villages e.g. Little Walden/ Ashdon **ACTION** Clerk to communicate

[d] Bilberry End drainage ~ no further update

**21. Listed Telephone Box Maintenance** –quote received of **£344** and whilst recognising this was more than allocated in budget the fact that it is a listed ‘building’ and is in a very sad state having been delayed in any maintenance HPC **RESOLVED 26/02/21** to accept the quote

**22. Defibrillator** ~ Checked weekly confirmed by Cllr Wells **RESOLVED 26/02/22**

**23. Village Hall report**~ Cllr Wells reported that she had attended the last VHCM as an observer and would follow up actions at the next meeting. It had been suggested that HPC use the meeting room. It might be used to prepare pre meeting if key to back door is available or to move day of meetings ~to investigate. Future hire charges would have to be accepted.

**24. Village Magazine** ~ HPC discussed making a regular written contribution to the Village magazine. The Clerk reported that 3 articles had been sent by 19<sup>th</sup> February. It was resolved to send abridged draft minutes on a monthly basis **RESOLVED 26/01/24**

**25. Update of tree survey quotes and possible decision** ~ a quote had been received for the recreation ground for **TOTAL FEE** (including expenses & excluding VAT) **£540** HPC **RESOLVED 26/01/25** to accept the quote on the proviso that the small piece of Parish land on Bartlow Road is included

**26. Parish Land Report & PRow’s** ~

i.HPC discussed arrangements for ‘inspection of village PRow’s’ which had been carried out in the past by councillors. The pathway team have taken this over recently, but HPC needs to confirm organisational remit

ii.HPC discussed arrangements for the spring Village Litter Pick usually undertaken in March.

**RESOLVED 26/01/26ii ACTION** Cllr Wells to contact resident to arrange

**27. To note items for next agenda**~ noted throughout

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

**29. A public exempt not required.**

**30. Chairman closed the meeting at 22.02pm**

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

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