



## Minutes of Hadstock Parish Council Meeting

Held on

Thursday 30 April 2026

at 7.45pm in the Village Hall Hadstock.

**Present:** Parish Councillors: Denise Wells [Chair], David Johnson, Jude Hannam, John Lockton & the Parish Clerk

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 Gosling  
Apologies were received from County Councillor Foley
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 26 March 2026** with an amendment of the date were approved **RESOLVED 26/04/04**. The Chair signed them as a true record.
5. **Public participation-** none
6. **Report from County Councillor** – The Clerk reported that she had omitted to ask Cllr Foley about the involvement of ECC in relation to the new Council formation. Cllr Lockton was able to say that he had confirmed that they will have a central role. No report
7. **Report from District Councillor Moran** ~ no report
8. **Action points and matters arising from previous meetings:** Updates for information only.  
[a] The Clerk reported
  - i. the points raised by Cllr Gosling in connection with the policies approved at the last meeting were to be clarified by him. However, the clerk had researched the matter and presented a caveat that could be added to the relevant policies to read *All decisions made under this policy will be taken in accordance with the relevant legislation, statutory guidance, and the Council's governance procedures. Operational decisions are made by the Clerk as Proper Officer, and strategic or policy decisions are made by the Council by resolution. Where a decision involves the application of statutory tests, exemptions, or thresholds, the Clerk will follow the appropriate legal framework and ICO or government guidance, referring matters to the Council where the issue is complex, high-risk, or requires a formal decision.*
  - ii. Cllr Foley had informed the clerk that the village meeting previously spoken of to review highways will not take place immanently as the Cabinet member had resigned
  - iii. 20 is plenty campaign remains a high priority for Cllr Foley
  - iv. The website had been reviewed for accessibility and compliance by Next North with only 3 issues remaining which are related to WordPress and could only be resolved by a completely new website. A statement has been provided for audit purposes. The invoice is for approval tonight. The Clerk will be visiting Next North to cover the matters identified that need correction with regard to format and content.
  - v. Matting on the recreation ground has been addressed via email without a result to date.
  - vi. An email had been received by a resident re community funding for the possible purchase of a bench but I advised would not be acceptable as it is considered a capital expense which is not permissible under the funding. Councillors felt that there was no need for a further bench.

vii. HPC have a note to apply for Locality funding if available when the new council is formed later in May 26

viii. Play equipment inspection due for May 2026

ix. Data processing agreement signed with Scribe

**[b] Report from Councillors** Cllr Wells wished to express huge thanks to Cllr Johnson for presenting the Annual Parish Meeting which has been really positively received by the residents.

**9. Planning Application/s to consider a consultee comment – none** apart from conditions re Garden Cottage

**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 and for further comment if applicable ~none**

**13. Governance ~**

[a] HPC considered a request from Clerk to undertake e-learning course from SLCC on GDPR at a cost of £42.00 which was **RESOLVED 26/04/13a not approved**; however, it was agreed in principle [for a resolution at the May meeting as advance booking required ] for the Clerk to book 2 sessions of a course on the use of AI at a cost of £100.00

[b] HPC considered applying for Bronze Level of Local Council Awards Scheme and following a discussion it was **RESOLVED 26/04/13b** to apply for the award at a cost of £50.00, the additional cost of accreditation £50 and 6 hours additional work to be paid to the clerk. Target application September 2026 or January 2027

[c] Debrief of Newport Rivers talk ~ Cllr Wells was deferred to be presented at the May meeting

[d] Debrief of Annual Parish Meeting held on Friday 24 April 2026~ Cllr Johnson reported that it was well attended noting the positive feedback from councillors and the appreciation expressed.

[e] HPC considered the levels of Insurance prior to renewal noting that the 3-year term will end for renewal in 2027. It was confirmed that HPC had not opted out of index linking. It was **RESOLVED 26/04/13e** to remove the gang mowers but keep the 2-x strimmer's at a cost of £1000.00 each

[f] Cllr Well informed HPC that the Clerk's appraisal should be carried out in May a date to be confirmed.

**14. FINANCE**

[a] HPC noted that to the date of 31 March 2026 the reports of

- bank balance £ 20447.21
- no income to date above but half the precept for 2026/27 had been received on 24 April 2026
- followed by reconciliation of £19860.22 Once confirmed by HPC both were signed by the Vice Chair of the meeting **RESOLVED 26/04/14a**
- The bank balance as at 24/04/2026 is £28103.72 which includes the 1<sup>st</sup> precept payment

[b] HPC reviewed, agreed and approved payment listed below which had been set up for online payment for dual authorisation **RESOLVED 26/04/14b**

[c] Invoice received after Agenda to authorise and pay \*\* = list supplied to HPC at meeting

Cheque	Payee	Description	Net amount	VAT	Total	
101622	Ms S Beckett	Clerks Salary month 1	403.04		403.04	
101621	Mr J Lockton	Projector	333.33	66.66	399.99	
	NextNorth	Annual hosting fee Annual SSL Certificate	200.00	40.00	240.00	
	**NextNorth	Accessibility check	200.00	40.00	240.00	
	EALC	Annual EALC/NALC fees	128.27		128.27	
	Ian Blackman	Emergency Repairs to fencing	112.18		112.18	
	Ms S Beckett	Reimbursement USB stick	20.83	4.16	24.99	
		Envelopes	2.50		2.50	
	**Cleartax	Annual payroll	170.00	34.00	204.00	
	**SLCC	Annual membership 2025*	150.00		150.00	
					<b>1904.97</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>

\*The cheque for the 2025 payment was not cleared therefore this has been reissued

15. HPC discussed and considered the way forward for the provision of a Vehicle Activated Sign [VAS] It was felt that the post of the being used for the original sign at the top of Walden Road may be suitable and no other post has been to be suitable. The cost of new posts was not in the budget for 2026/27 as we were only informed of a likely cost for brackets. It was decided to request a visit by someone appropriate from Highways to discuss on site. **ACTION** Clerk to email and additionally contact Ashdon Parish Council to see how theirs is working
16. **Sustainable Hadstock Working Group [SHWG]** nothing further to report as was available at the Annual Parish Meeting  
Cllr Lockton presented a slide report to address items 17, 18 and 21
17. **Uttlesford Big Green Week** - Cllr Lockton reported on the initiative which is from the 5-14 June 2026 with a series of key events during the week, three of which are being supported by Sustainable Hadstock  
[Uttlesford Big Green Festival event calendar - Uttlesford District Council](#)  
**Friday 5<sup>th</sup> June** a Panel discussion attended by Ian  
**Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> June** Energy Event at Stansted attended by Peter  
**Sunday, June 14<sup>th</sup>** The Nature Day at Westwood from 10 am to 2 pm at West Wood, Little Sampford. This is being supported by the Green Team
18. **Signage and Wayfinding Project~**  
SH are asking UDC to produce 3 boards one each for The Green, Recreation ground and Village Hall To show a path map and information  
Using map by Richard Dolby showing parish paths, formal and informal e.g. Len's Path and a second map showing the detail of the Village centre being prepared under the Hundred Parishes Funding using their templates  
A discussion was about the size of the maps  
UDC will supply boards and stands made in metal as part of their funding.  
Clarification about planning permission, licensing, highways was sought which UDC were dealing with.  
Clarification will be needed on Insurance and the necessity for HPC to pass a resolution allowing the installation on The Green and the Recreation Ground both owned by HPC but not signed off as yet.
19. **Hundred parishes funded project ~** It was hoped to use some of the Hundred Parishes funding to go towards brochures, postcards and advertising combined with the UDC Signage and Wayfinding Project. Also to pay £500 towards the designer.
20. Village welfare considerations ~ still to arrange a further informal meeting
21. National Emergency Briefing~ Cllr Lockton reported **Thursday, June 11** 7:30 PM - 9:30 PM National Emergency Briefing film Saffron Walden Screening in partnership with Sustainable Uttlesford, Saffron Walden Town Council, University of Essex and other partners. A similar event could be run in the future at Hadstock as a relaunch of part of Sustainable Hadstock - [Film screening - People's Emergency Briefing Tickets, Thursday 11 June 19:30 - 21:30 | Eventbrite](#)
22. **Recreation Ground Report ~**  
To receive report – Cllr Johnson  
Cllr Johnson reported that the movable goal posts need to be secured within themselves **ACTION** Cllr Johnson to have a word.  
Cable ties required for nets  
The top of the slide needs attention had been picked up previously  
Thistles near tractor need removing  
Bench needs sanding down to clean  
Bird guards have all disappeared apart from one ~ do not require replacing  
Matting is still in situ and could be used under the new bench with a membrane under and bark chipping on top. Councillors to meet to decide final position  
Gate latch needs attention

i. was able to confirm all play equipment has been visually checked and useable **RESOLVED 26/04/22i**

ii.the new picnic bench had been installed but may need to be moved. It was **RESOLVED 26/04/22ii** to split the cost between the funds allocated under SH and HPC

**23. Parish Land Report & PRow's** ~ discuss any issues reported and approve actions required specifically with budget allocation.

**[a]** Cllr Wells gave an update on Village Litter Pick held on Sunday 29 March 2026 ~ 18 bags were collected including a tyre and hub cap. A note and photos were in the magazine. UDC collected the bags the following day.

**[b]** To review Tree survey ~ Cllr Lockton had sent a note to all to review as a Council and agree any work required and by who

Cllr Hannam reported an issue on Waters Lane

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

**[a]** Highways ~ specifically

i.Walden Road vegetation [2984528]

ii.Walden Road drainage [2968495]

iii.Walden Road verge damage [4008169] The Clerk reported that having checked all the reports available on the Highways tracker a Freedom of information request [FOIR] had been submitted requesting all reports and actions

**[b]** Speed watch~ not yet re commenced

**[c]** Twenty is Plenty ~ ongoing interest but as ECC has no appetite will consider after elections

**25. Defibrillator** ~ Checked weekly confirmed by Cllr Wells **RESOLVED 26/04/25** A resident had reported that the door was not locked but reassured as new procedure

**26. Telephone Box**~ It was reported that the paint obtained from the British Coating Foundation was not correct this had been obtained free of charge and should be BS 381C:538 colour **ACTION Clerk** to clarify.

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

**28. To note the Annual Parish Council Meeting** will take place on **Thursday 28 May 2026 at 19.45pm.** in the Village Hall. The Clerk advised that this would be the meeting where the election of the Chair and Vice Chair takes place. It was also noted that Councillor responsibilities will need to be reviewed and the structure of Sustainable Hadstock Working Group and other responsibilities such as volunteer groups

**Chairman closed the meeting at 21.50pm**

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

**Signed as a true record and RESOLVED to approve on 28 May 2026**