



Minutes of Hadstock Parish Council Meeting

Held on

Wednesday 30 September 2026

at 7.00 pm in the Village Hall Hadstock.

Present: Parish Councillors: Denise Wells [Chair], David Johnson, Jude Hannam [arrived at 7.09pm], Simon Gosling & the Parish Clerk. District Council John Morran and 4 members of the public also attended

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 ~ Cllr Hannam would be a little late but not required as all parish councillors present.
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, but the Clerk advised no requirement to include home address and suggest members of interest should be updated as a matter of routine
4. The Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on **Thursday 30 July 2026** were approved **RESOLVED 26/09/04**. The Chair signed them as a true record.
5. **Public participation-** members of the public wished to
 - [a] speak about the website and questioned ownership stating that it was not owned by the Parish Council.
 - [b] speak about the need for benches in the village to be oiled as they all seemed very dry
 - [c] confirmed that the request for Halloween funding had been sought from another source
6. To receive and note any report from County Councillor Davis ~ no report/no apologies
7. To receive and note report from District Councillor Moran ~ was welcomed and reported that government reorganisation had ceased for the moment meaning District Council elections will proceed in 2027, together with Parish Council elections. There will not be boundary changes. The Mayoral elections may go ahead in 2028 and may include Essex, Suffolk and Norfolk. A complaint had been received about housing maintenance in Hadstock and he is trying to progress the speed of this being dealt with but not expected to be until early 2027. There will be no more social housing in rural environments, an application for such, in Little Walden but as not in the Local Plan it remains to be seen if this is approved. In response to a question from a member of the public Cllr Morran informed that the Local Plan has been adopted and in place until 2043
8. **Action points and matters arising from previous meetings:** Updates for information only. (no resolutions will be made) refer to Action reporting document
 - a. Report from Clerk ~ items not on the agenda ~ Despite the Clerk contacting County Councillor Davis again there has been no response.
Dealt with the horse field correspondence
Neighbourhood watch annual conference 08 October 10-12
Requested through Hadstock info for funds to a community event for Halloween advised to make a direct request
Salt ordered but no confirmation of delivery
Phone call from a lady re planning
 - b. Report from Councillors ~ items not on the agenda ~
 - i. Cllr Wells reported that she understood the vegetation on Walden Road that was a concern would be attended to imminently
 - ii. Cllr Gosling expressed concerns about the manner of driving of the school bus~ **ACTION** to find operator
9. **Planning Application/s to consider a consultee comment –**
 - [a] **UTT/26/2415/TCA** | Removal of 1 no. Silver Birch | 4 The Row Linton Road Hadstock Essex CB21 4NY.
HPC RESOLVED 26/09/9a no comment

[b] **UTT/26/2267/TCA** | 1 no. Plum - remove major dead wood and reduce crown by up to 1m, 1 no. Cherry - up to 2m crown reduction, 1 no. Willow - 3 to 4m crown reduction | White House Bartlow Road Hadstock Essex CB21 4PF. HPC **RESOLVED 26/09/9b** no comment

10. To note decisions made by UDC on planning applications UTT/26/1894/PAM3 | Prior Notification of change of use from commercial, business and service (Use Class E) to 4 no. dwellings (Use Class C3) | Operations Block Bowers Lane Hadstock Cambridge CB10 1XQ **REFUSED FULL PLANNING PERMISSION REQUIRED**

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

12. **Applications still awaiting determination and for further comment if applicable** ~none

13. **Review of training** ~ how to read a planning application ~ Cllr Hannam had found the webinar useful but both she and the clerk agreed that it wasn't quite what was expected. **ACTION** Clerk to send slides/recording when available

14. **Governance.**

[a] To arrange a site meeting between Shirley Anglin PROW Lead Officer Essex County Council and the current Green Team ~ this was discussed in detail with the benefits of being part of the scheme highlighted. HPC **RESOLVED 26/09/14a** that Cllr Hannam would be the lead in overseeing this by including a WhatsApp group and arrange a F2F meeting **ACTION** Cllr Hannam to arrange meeting

[b] The trial bus service update from Saffron Walden Town Council had been sent to all and noted. It was felt that HPC would not take this forward any further

[c] Cllr Wells would lay the wreath [purchased last year] at the Remembrance Sunday service and a donation of £100 would be given to Veterans Aid **RESOLVED 26/09/14c ACTION** Cllr Wells to provide details

[d] The Clerk reported that it was disappointing that only a very small proportion of those invited to attend a village meeting had given a positive response and suggested that it could be included in the Annual Parish Meeting at Pub night as the previous year HPC discussed and **RESOLVED 26/09/14d** that to be a good idea **ACTION** Clerk to liaise with organiser

[e] Clerks appraisal ~ **RESOLVED 26/09/14e** to discuss as public exempt

15. **FINANCE 2026/27**

[a] HPC noted that the 2nd half precept had been received no further finance detail provided

[b] HPC agreed and approved payments listed below **RESOLVED 26/09/14b** noting those paid by cheque or online and that delegated powers were used to authorise the payment to Saffron Walden Town Council due to time limitations. Cllr Lockton had reported to the RFO that the cheque previously issued for the Epson projector should be stopped therefore this was authorised to be paid online **ACTION** Cllr Johnson to authorise as he was able to confirm that all was in order with Barclays for him to authorise again

[c] HPC noted the VAT reclaim had been received

Cheque	Payee	Description	Net amount	VAT	Total	
101636	Ms S Beckett	Salary September	415.24		415.24	
101637	Ms S Beckett	Salary August Roll Over	115.24		115.24	300.00 PD July
101638	HMRC	PAYE	320.79		320.79	
	Mr J Lockton	Projector	333.00	66.00	399.99	DJ autho
101635	Saffron Walden Town Council	Saffron Walden Bus	500.00		500.00	
101639	Ms S Beckett	Expenses incurred for McAfee renewal	95.83	19.16	114.99	
101640	Mrs D Wells	Mileage and parking fees for EALC HR Conference	39.99		39.99	
101641	Ms S Beckett	Mileage and parking fees for EALC HR Conference	72.25		72.25	

16. HPC discussed the VAS provision and decided to enquire if a new machine [through the scheme] could utilise and use the post and replace the established machine which is old **ACTION Clerk to inquire of UDC/ECC**

17. **Debrief of Newport Rivers talk** ~ since the film had been shown recently at pub night and no update had been received from the talk some weeks ago **RESOLVED 26/09/17** to remove from agenda

18. **Sustainable Hadstock Working Group [SHWG] –**

[a] The Clerk presented the report which had been sent to all councillors.

[b] HPC had previously been updated via email from Cllr Lockton who gave an over view to councillors that the Working group had decided to opt to forming a volunteer group outside of the Parish Council and not combined with the Hadstock Society to be the 'Sustainable Hadstock Society'. A constitution had been agreed and signed and a committee of 6 volunteers formed, a bank account arranged, approval from UDC had been

sought and approved to go forward with a prepared plan and for the transfer of funds from HPC to the new Sustainable Hadstock Society.

[c] The clerk advised that decisions cannot be made via email and recommendations for consideration need to be a detailed agenda item so any decisions would have to be made accordingly at the next HPC meeting scheduled for October 21st.

[d] From an RFO perspective for HPC, it was advised that rather than funds being transferred from HPC to the Sustainable Hadstock Society [to be known as Sustainable Hadstock SH] funds should be returned to UDC who originally granted the funds. This promoted a discussion and whilst this process had been confirmed by UDC as being acceptable Cllr Lockton was concerned that this would mean extra administration for UDC officers.

[e] Confirmation from UDC had also been forthcoming that they were content for SH to be a separate entity

[f] Concerns that the clerk had about the website had been discussed at Agenda item 5 but as this was public participation it was agreed that the Clerk would confirm the detail from HPC's stance. This was felt necessary to address, as SH according to the future plan, were considering a website review of their section which essentially has been a Parish Council section rather than a village group section. **ACTION** clerk to confirm detail of ownership of the website that is used by the Parish council and village groups and how it might be appropriate to operate differently should that be required in the future.

[g] The Clerk also advised that the email addresses used for SH should not include 'Cllr' as it implies acting in councillor capacity or endorsement and exposes a GDPR risk and FOI exposure

ACTION recommendations as discussed to be on the agenda for a decision

- 19. UDC Signage and Wayfinding Project-** Cllr Lockton gave an update in that the UDC officer Stuart Harrison had visited Hadstock to view the proposed sites for the information boards being A0 in size those being

Site 1 ~In the vicinity of the telephone box adjacent to the green

Site 2 ~The recreation ground

Site 3 ~The area to the right of the VH car park

Each site was deemed to be suitable by UDC and the manufacture and installation would proceed.

The Clerk advised that the ownership of site 1. would need to be confirmed and HPC would need to give permission for site 2. This would be on the agenda for the next scheduled meeting in October. If a date for installation was before authority could be given, HPC would need to call an EOM. It was felt unlikely to happen due to the time scale to date. UDC would need to confirm ownership of site 1. Clerk had previously contacted ECC and has an email trail. It was stressed that this is a UDC project so permissions would need to be sought by them.

Smaller boards may come forward at a later date

ACTION A resolution will be needed by HPC for placement on the recreation ground and to consider insurance and adding to the asset register.

- 20. HPC Hundred parishes project** ~ The Clerk had contacted the PCC who had confirmed that site 3 as above for Agenda [19] above would be acceptable however it was unclear if this was for the UDC board or 100 Parishes. The need for a further board was discussed. The Clerk clarified that the funding had been given in response to specific questions Design produced can be used for various items

Cllr Hannam had info from Linton but had only been provided a link. A donation to the artist was again discussed but not resolved. It may be necessary to reaffirm conditions of grant from the Hundred Parishes. Clear brief and costing required before decisions can be made as to whether to proceed with a board as originally funded or for more of a framed picture / leaflets/ website/postcards.

ACTION Cllr Hannam to prepare a design brief for quotes for a board A1 [If prices have been confirmed then a decision can be made for the final way forward and how the illustrator could be paid]

- 21. To discuss and resolve action re Essex Local Nature Recovery Strategy.** Cllr Lockton had already had contact HPC **RESOLVED** that Cllr Lockton would set up an Expression of Interest and attend the webinar. The Clerk advised that funding through the Zero Carbon Communities Grant scheme - Uttlesford District Council is currently available which HPC could apply for its own parish council strategy if required for a particular project.
- 22. Energy Discovery Day** was discussed but too far away to warrant attending **RESOLVED 26/09/22** not to attend
- 23. Recreation Ground Report** ~

[a] to receive report – Cllr Johnson reported that some of the fencing had been repaired but the gate on north side of the fenced area needs attention and the tractor requires a repair to the floor. **ACTION** Clerk to contact IB for quote.

I. Tractor needs attention but undecided how or what to repair ~ concerns were noted re H&S which must not be ignored ~ long term decision to be made **ACTION** Cllr Johnson to obtain quote for tractor work from a builder

- ii. HPC confirmed all play equipment has been visually checked and useable **RESOLVED 26/09/23**ii
- iii Cllr Lockton reported that having attended the recreation ground and reported that 10 trees had been lost due to the adverse weather conditions of the summer. Due to the lack of growth of the grassed areas, it was likely that this could be cut without the need to hire a special machine ~ this would be known by the end of October. Two or three apple trees have died but money in budget **ACTION** item for next agenda

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

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

[a] Highways ~ Cllr Wells reported that she understood the vegetation on Walden Road that was a concern would be attended to imminently.

The damaged verge area on Walden Road [opposite item a] requires further investigation by highways

[b] Speed watch~ update received and continues to operate and a higher number of vehicles likely due to Ashdon being closed with 15 vehicles reported to police this week Top speed 46mph

[c] Twenty is Plenty ~ remove from agenda unless a further update on position of ECC who have no appetite to

26. Defibrillator ~ Cllr Wells confirmed checks carried out twice weekly

27. Salt bag partnership ~the clerk reported that having enquired about the delivery there had been no response from the partnership but Cllr Johnson reported that the salt had been delivered and the grit boxes refilled

28. Grange Farm & S.A.V.E update ~ no update from the group but HPC had submitted an objection as **RESOLVED** previously

29. To note items for next agenda ~ noted through meeting to include replacement of apples trees on the recreation

30. Councillors were reminded the next **Parish Council Meeting** will take place on **Wednesday 21 October 2026 at 19.00pm.** in the Village Hall

31. It was **RESOLVED 26/09/31** that under the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, the public and press be excluded for this item because it concerns confidential information relating to employment and publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest.

To discuss a staff matter

Cllr Hannam left the meeting to accompany a member of the public

Ref agenda item 14e~ Cllr Wells presented the confidential report but Councillors wished to read the report before making a decision and deferred again to the next meeting. Cllr Hannam returned to the meeting

31.The Chairman closed the meeting at 9.12 pm

..... Chairman of meeting

Signed as a true record and RESOLVED to approve on 21 October 2026