Minutes of Hadstock Annual Parish Council Meeting

Held on

Friday 15 May 2026

at 6.30 pm in the Village Hall Hadstock.

Present: Parish Councillors: Denise Wells [Chair], David Johnson, John Lockton, Simon Gosling & the Parish Clerk

1. **The previous Chair of Hadstock Parish Council, Cllr Denise Wells read the fire safety notice and announced that proceedings may be filmed or recorded and invited nominations for the Election of Chairman of Hadstock Parish Council for 2026/27**
   Councillor Denise Wells indicated that she would like to put herself forward and with there being no other nominations was nominated and accepted **RESOLVED 26/05/01.** Cllr Wells signed the acceptance of office for 2026/27 and thanked fellow councillors for their confidence in voting for her again.
2. Apologies and approval of reasons for absence were accepted from Cllr Hannam **RESOLVED 26/05/02**
3. **The Chair invited nominations for Election of Vice Chair ~** Councillor David Johnson was nominated and accepted. The vote being unanimous **RESOLVED 26/05/03.**
   Cllr Johnson signed the acceptance of office for 2026/27 and thanked Councillors for their vote.
4. **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.
5. The Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on **30 April 2026** were confirmed as a true record **RESOLVED 26/05/05** and signed by the Chair.
6. **FINANCE**
   HPC noted that to date the reports of
   - Gallagher Insurance has not increased dramatically £617.00 to £622.00 which was welcomed
   - SLCC payment last month was for previous year when cheque was not presented for payment. SLCC payment below is for current year
   - Payment for telephone box. If gold paint is supplied this will be used to finish the work
   - bank balance £ £20447.21 to 31 March 2026
   - followed by reconciliation of £19860.22 Once confirmed by HPC both were signed by the Vice Chair of the meeting **RESOLVED 26/05/06**
   - half the precept for 2026/27 had been received on 24 April 2026 = £8313.50
   - The bank balance as at 29/04/2026 is £28103.72 which includes the 1st precept payment as above
   - RFO reported that reconciliation on Scribe not working 100% on the day and a reconciliation to the end of April not available
   - RFO reported problems with internet payments and Nextnorth have been paid twice. Clerk has emailed asking for £480.00 to be returned no response to date.
   - Additional bank signatory has been unable to complete verification process.

[a] HPC reviewed, agreed and approved payment listed below by cheque due to the difficulties experienced following the last meeting RESOLVED **26/04/06a**
[b] No invoices received after Agenda issued

Cheque	Payee	Description	Net amount	VAT	Total	
101624	Gallagher	Annual Insurance	£622.73		£622.73	
101625	SLCC 2026/27	Annual membership	158.00		158.00	
101626	No Butts Bin Company Limited	Bench split 50:50 with SH funding	643.50	128.70	772.20	
101627	Ms S Beckett	Clerks Salary month 2	403.04		403.04	
101628	Ian Blackman	Prep and painting telephone box	344.00		344.00	

7. **Urgent action points and matters arising from previous meetings**
Remaining paint from telephone box to go in VH shed
FOIR responses from Essex Highways have been received. To note Walden Road overgrown vegetation will be addressed by householder after nesting season. The other 3 have been assessed and awaiting action
ACTION~ VAS ~ Clerk write again to officer requesting a visit
ACTION ~ Clerk to respond to email re sending planning applications to Hadstock Info as discussed
8. **Planning Application/s to consider a consultee comment –** UTT/26/0988/HHF. Erection of single storey rear extension. Broadmarsh Cottage 5 The Row Linton Road Hadstock Essex CB21 4NY. Hadstock Parish Council considered this planning application at the meeting of 15th May 2026. It was **RESOLVED 26/05/08** that the Parish Council had no objection to the application, but members expressed concern about whether neighbouring residents had been appropriately consulted and would like confirmation from the planning authority that this had been undertaken adequately
9. **Consideration and clarity of working groups 2026/27~** Cllr Wells as Chair opened the discussion about Sustainable Hadstock Working Group being the only working group of the Parish Council .Cllr Wells referenced her report noting that Sustainable Hadstock began as a working group of Hadstock Parish Council and has been extremely successful, thanks to Cllr John Lockton and the many skilled volunteers involved, but its growth now means the governance arrangements need reviewing due to increased scrutiny of parish councils and external audit expectations. It was important to remember that HPC supports Sustainable Hadstock, but improved governance would be required if it remains a working group as a working group has no legal status — including prior authorisation of actions and spending, proper VAT handling, dedicated email accounts and clear delegated authority. Cllr Wells proposed that this should be taken to the meeting arranged for the members of Sustainable Hadstock working group in June for further discussion by those involved but this did not proceed to a vote. Cllr Wells questioned the additional working hours undertaken by the Clerk but there is no staffing element allowed within grant funding. An end of year report is required by UDC stating update on actions completed and possibility of retaining funding for further identified use.
A discussion included the following matters
Emails~ dedicated emails for group
GDPR [General Data Protection Regulation]~ FOIR's [Freedom of Information Requests] and release of data.
Risks~ to HPC and those involved in the group
Insurance ~ liability participants
Decisions/Actions/Expenditure ~ require authorisation by HPC prior to implementation
Control ~ SH is a working group of HPC
Finance~ grant funding has restrictions- year end report required by UDC cc HPC
Implications of report emphasised ~ to review not to shut down but to move forward with further projects
Way forward ~ to investigate ways and examples and comparisons of other groups
Outcome Continued support for the project by HPC – UDC to confirm further use of existing funds - revised TORs to continue as a working group ~ Approval of draft TOR's by HPC – Approval of TOR's by

SHWG - relaunch of the work to be carried out having completed most of the original plan – Review in February 2027.

ACTIONS [a] Cllr Wells would oversee drafting of TOR's
[b] End of year report submitted to UDC
[c] Draft TOR's presented at June meeting for discussion
[d] HPC consult with SHWG with revised TOR's
[e] HPC resolve confirmed way forward

10. **Consideration and clarity of volunteer groups ~** deferred
11. **Election of members as Council Representatives ~** deferred
12. **To note items for next agenda ~** Cllr Lockton requested to consider village welfare issues
13. **To** note the next **Parish Council Meeting** will take place on **Thursday 25 June 2026 at 19.45pm.** in the Village Hall this is an important meeting for councillors to attend as approval of AGAR is required
14. **Chairman closed the meeting at 19.50pm**

…… Chairman of meeting

Signed as a true record and RESOLVED to approve on 25 June 2026.