

**HARGRAVE PARISH COUNCIL**  
**Minutes of the Meeting held on Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> May 2017**  
**at 7.30pm**  
**Hargrave Village Hall**  
**ANNUAL PARISH MEETING**

**PRESENT**

**Parish Council:**

David Taylor - Chairman (DT)  
Sally Cansdale (SC)  
James Perry (JP)  
Paul Rogers (PR)  
Cat Williams (CW)  
Jasmine Ince – Clerk (JI)

Mary Evans, County Councillor (ME)  
Clive Pollington, Borough Councillor (CPo)

**Neighbourhood Plan:**

Colin Painter (CP)  
Ian Poole – Consultant (IP)

**WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION**

•	DT introduced himself as the new Chairman and gave a warm welcome to all present. He advised that CP and CW had resigned from the Parish Council and thanked them both for all the hard work they had put in during their time as Parish Councillors. As a result of their resignations, there were now two vacancies on the Parish Council and DT encouraged villagers to put themselves forward and anyone interested should speak to either him or any other of the Parish Councillors.	
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**APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

•	Peter Reddick (Pred)	
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**MINUTES OF THE LAST APM MEETING – 26.05.2016**

1.	The minutes for the APM on 26.05.2016 were discussed, approved by all present, proposed by Andrew McGovern, seconded by Harry Wiseman and were signed by the Chairman (DT).	
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**PARISH COUNCIL ACCOUNTS**

2.	A copy of the Statement of Account for the year ended 31 <sup>st</sup> March 2017 was provided to each person present (attached to the agenda and the minutes of the previous year). No queries were raised.	
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## LOCAL GROUP REPORTS

3.	<p>Please see copies of reports attached:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The Trustees of the Parochial Charities</li><li>• Village Hall Chairman's and Treasurer's Report</li><li>• Neighbourhood Watch</li><li>• Village Newsletter</li><li>• Borough Council</li><li>• County Council</li></ul> <p>CP advised that these were displayed on a table at the end of the room for villagers to view and that representatives of the various committees were present at the meeting, should anyone have any queries regarding the reports.</p> <p>CPo gave an update to the meeting, in addition to providing a report in advance:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Proposed merging of St Edmundsbury and Forest Heath Councils</b> – the decision still needed to go to main Cabinet to be passed but he considered that it was likely to be approved as merging of some council services already had saved £4m.</li><li>• <b>Locality officer</b> – a new locality officer has recently been appointed, Ellie McCarthy, who would be attending a future meeting of the Parish Council to explain about funding opportunities.</li><li>• <b>Waste Hub</b> – is still awaiting planning permission.</li><li>• <b>Increased security level</b> – Due to the terrorist attack in Manchester and the raising of the security level there would now be armed police in Bury St Edmunds and Ipswich.</li><li>• <b>Drug problems in schools</b> – Tim Passmore, the Police Commissioner, has advised that there is a large scale problem in schools. Drug dealers are recruiting young people in London to act as “mules” to bring drugs into schools.</li></ul>	
4.	<p><b><u>ANY OTHER BUSINESS TO BE RAISED</u></b></p> <p>Andrew McGovern raised highways issues at Birds End which were later covered by ME's report at Item 5.1.</p>	

## 5. PARISH COUNCIL REPORT AND PRESENTATION

5.1	<p><b>Highways</b></p> <p>ME gave an update to the meeting as well as providing a report in advance of the meeting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Ditches at Birds End</b> – ME explained that a new drainage contractor had been appointed. She had recently met with the new drainage team and was very impressed with them. They confirmed that they have prioritised the work to be undertaken at Birds End. As the water main beneath is very fragile, pile-driving will be undertaken using rolled steel. The drainage team have promised that the work will be undertaken during late summer/early autumn, when the water level will be slightly lower. She advised residents, if any other ditches become blocked, to take a photograph, upload it to the Council website and send her a copy so she can follow it up.</li><li>• <b>Speed limit</b> - ME advised that a case had been approved in North Suffolk for rationalising a speed limit. ME had asked for a similar application to be made for Hargrave i.e. rationalising the 40-60-30 limits which affect Birds End. ME is confident that this will be approved but, as yet, the date is not known. In relation to this, the danger was raised concerning walkers using the footpaths in Birds End between Barrow and Chevington which are widely used. ME advised that the speed limit criteria is taken into account on roads where there is walking, cycling or horse-riding. ME will need to fund this work from her highways budget which has recently been cut (amount not known at the time of the meeting). She explained that the signage didn't cost a significant amount of money but the legal process is very expensive.</li><li>• <b>Speeding</b> – In addition to the speed cam van being asked to undertake speed checks in the village, special constables also have the authority to do them. ME has therefore asked for the special constables to also carry out speed checks. She advised that a fine for speeding can be a multiplier of a driver's weekly wage. CP advised that PR had been analysing the VAS data which has been provided to the speed enforcement team. A monitor had also been placed in Bury Road which showed that 30% of drivers entering the village from the Wash and 50% entering the village from Wickhambrook were speeding.</li></ul>	
5.2	<p><b>Play area</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• DT advised that most of the play equipment, including the track, has been installed. There is still one piece of equipment to be purchased and installed, for children under the age of 7. After holding funding raising events in the village throughout the year and a donation from Hargrave Parochial Charity, the play area committee are now well on their way to being able to fund this and DT will be making a bid to Havebury for the remaining amount required.</li><li>• Currently the committee are working on a natural area using donated logs, with natural planting and a bug hotel.</li></ul>	

**5.3****Neighbourhood Plan**

A copy of a powerpoint presentation was provided to all attendees at the meeting. CP explained in detail the various topics covered:

- **The story so far**, including what constitutes a Neighbourhood Plan.  
CP explained that the Neighbourhood Plan team had engaged a professional planner, Ian Poole to assess the work undertaken so far and he had considered it to be very robust. His continuing services were being paid for by a grant received from the Locality fund.
- **Planning policies included in the Plan** need to be based on facts and evidence, taking into account the village review of 2013, population change between 2012 – 2015, house sizes (number of bedrooms) and age profile of residents.
- **Previously proposed objectives and proposed community actions** relating to:
  - Highways
  - Transport and access
  - Green infrastructure and the natural environment
  - Village and countryside character
  - Prosperity and welfare
- **Planning for growth** – how to provide opportunities for new homes by identifying a housing settlement boundary **either** by adopting the previous settlement boundary (previously removed by the Local Plan) which ran from the bungalow opposite the village hall to Chevington Road **or** by identifying a new settlement boundary.
- **Village hall** – should we consider improving or replacing the hall which can be cold and damp in the winter and, at times, of insufficient size?  
CP reported that Ousden village hall has serious problems with asbestos and demolishing and rebuilding costs would be very expensive. CPo advised that the cost was in the region of £200k.  
CP suggested that attendees might wish to consider the possibility of having a new village hall at Hargrave, provided by a developer, in association with new houses, to be used as a community facility with e.g. a shop and library.
- **Timeline of actions to be undertaken** covering: writing the draft Plan taking into account villagers comments followed by a 6 week consultation period; amendments in response to comments; submitting the Plan to St Edmundsbury followed by a 6 week consultation with St Edmundsbury; consideration of the Plan by an Independent Examiner and ending with a village referendum in June 2018 to decide whether the Plan should be approved.  
CP advised that, for the Plan to be approved, it needed to be approved by 51% of those voting in favour at a referendum.
- **Comments Form** – villagers were asked to respond with their comments on the various topics, either by completing the Comments Form at the back of the Neighbourhood Plan document or to the Hargrave Facebook page or by email on the Village website. All feedback to be provided by 10<sup>th</sup> June 2017.  
It was agreed that PR had done an excellent job in setting up and maintaining the new village website.  
CP explained that boards set up in the room covered the various topics for attendees to view and raise any issues with members of the Neighbourhood Plan team.

**DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next APM will be in 2018 – date to be confirmed.

The next Parish Council meeting will be on Thursday 6th July 2017 at 7.30pm.

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Signed (Chairman)

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Date