

HARGRAVE PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of the Meeting held on Thursday 30th May 2019
at 7.30pm
Hargrave Village Hall
ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

PRESENT

Parish Council:

David Taylor - Chairman (DT)
James Perry (JP)
Sue Hammond (SH)
Peter Reddick (PRed)
Antonia King (AK)

Mary Evans, County Councillor (ME)
Mike Chester, District Councillor (MC)

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

1.1	DT introduced himself and the parish councillors, and warmly welcomed all present.	
------------	--	--

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

1.2	SC, PR and RA sent their apologies.	
------------	-------------------------------------	--

MINUTES OF THE LAST APM MEETING – 24.05.2018

2.	The minutes for the APM on 24.05.2018 were discussed and approved by all present. Proposed by JP, seconded by PRed and signed by the Chairman (DT).	
-----------	---	--

PARISH COUNCIL ACCOUNTS

3.	A copy of the Statement of Account for the year ended 31 st March 2019 was provided to each person present (attached to the agenda and the minutes of the previous year). No queries were raised.	
-----------	--	--

LOCAL GROUP REPORTS

4.	Please see copies of reports attached: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Trustees of the Parochial Charities• Village Hall Chairman's and Treasurer's Report• Village Newsletter	
-----------	--	--

DT explained 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.

- County Council:

Mary Evans reported that this years budget has been set at £520million, 75% of that budget will be spent on people services such as adult social care, with the remaining being divided amongst Highways, Police, Fire and Rescue, emergency planning, etc.

£45million has been invested in building 850 new places for special needs and disability school places. There has been a 18% increase in such a need in part due to: the survival rate for children with very severe needs has improved and early diagnosis of autism spectrum children. 3 new special schools are to be created, one of which will offer residential places. OFSTED have inspected the children special services team, and rated them outstanding, making them 1 of only 9 with that rating in the country.

Highways are reviewing their maintenance plan and are focussing on doing more work in one place. They are now filling smaller, shallower potholes as well as the larger ones. This year twice as many potholes have been filled. However, ME urged everyone to continue reporting potholes. New software is also being trialled to scan roads constantly to monitor their condition.

A grant has been won for updating streetlights, currently £2.3 million is spent on electricity and the aim is to make them self-sufficient. They would also be used to monitor air quality, speed of traffic and road temperature for gritting purposes.

Road closures are causing problems for local businesses, and is a top priority for the traffic management team. Roadworks.org is an informative website for any local closures.

The Rural Policing Crime Unit are planning another meeting in October bringing together neighbouring communities to tackle problems.

- District Council:

Mike Chester introduced himself and explained the change the Boundary Commission have made in order to make all wards more representative of the electorate. They have reduced the number of Councillors from 72 to 64 and as consequence there is now the new Chedburgh and Chevington Ward containing the villages of: Rede, Depden, Chedburgh, Chevington, Hargrave, Ousden, Lidgate and Dalham.

Mike Chester spoke of the future of the area, namely the Mildenhall hub, West Suffolk recycling hub, the town centre masterplan for Bury St Edmunds and the planned regeneration of Newmarket and Haverhill. It is very much hoped that rural villages such as Hargrave will benefit from all of

	this.	
--	-------	--

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

5.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PRed talked through the ongoing efforts being made to raise funds for the church wall. £27k of £40k has been raised so far, with the second attempt for funding from the Heritage Lottery fund now being made. • Oil theft in Hargrave – 1000l of oil were stolen during the day from an oil tank. Everyone was warned to be vigilant. • The Neighbourhood Plan committee were formally thanked for their hard work in achieving the neighbourhood plan. We are still the only village in West Suffolk to have one. 	
-----------	---	--

PARISH COUNCIL REPORT AND PRESENTATION

6.1	<p>Footpaths</p> <p>DT reported on the ongoing audit being carried out on the footpaths of Hargrave looking at their condition and accessibility for all. The aim is to write to the footpath department of the county council to ask for repairs etc. The main aim is to remove all the stiles to enable more people to use the paths. There are many simple alternatives that can be used. Priority is being given to the Green Farm footpath because of the stile. It was reported that the Southwood Farm footbridge is broken, with one parishioner slipping off it into the ditch last winter. The footpath sign at Birds End is still broken, despite it being reported last year.</p>	DT
6.2	<p>Village Hall</p> <p>DT updated the meeting as to the planning for the village Hall. An energy audit has just been completed and lays out areas for improving the energy efficiency of the Hall. The actions are broken down into 3 time scales: Immediate, Medium term and long term. Expenditure will have to be derived from a mixture of existing funds and grants applied for. In addition planning is going ahead to decide on what, if any, options there are to expand the village hall bearing in mind its location and the needs of the village. Mike Chester expressed a wish to help where he can. It may well be that if work is needed to improve and/ or expand the hall volunteers will be needed to assist with all the various stages of the work. An early clarification as to the ownership of the land immediately to the front</p>	DT

	of the Hall will need to be established. The next meeting of the planning group for the Hall will meet at the beginning of July	
6.3	Environment AK spoke about the popularity of Parish Diversity Plans and the focus they give on the village biodiversity. It was suggested that rather than have a formal group set up, everyone does their bit however large or small. (see attached). Children should be encouraged to get involved – carrying out a garden survey for birds or wildlife. Roadside verges, rubbish collecting and bee keeping could be more community focussed projects. A small section of Knowles Green could easily be utilised for wild flowers, tree planting or community bees. It would be good to have a section in the village magazine for villagers to report on the things they have done no matter how small.	AK
6.4	School Transport JP reminded everyone of the need to opt in for free transport.	
6.5	Precept Increase DT talked through the increase in this year's precept. He emphasised that it is still well below the average for the West Suffolk in the council tax banding for Band D (£42 compared to £60).	
6.6	Defibrillator AK reported that it is now 'live', and registered with the emergency services, so they know its location and can tell the caller to go and get it. They have the code to open the box. It was reaffirmed that the defibrillator is designed for absolute beginners. An article will be written for the parish magazine to clarify this.	AK

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next APM will be in 2020 – date to be confirmed.

The next Parish Council meeting will be on Thursday 11th July 2019 at 7.30pm.

Signed (Chairman)

Date