

The Parish Councillors of HARGRAVE PARISH COUNCIL are summoned to a meeting of the Parish Council on Tuesday 7th July 2026 commencing at 7.30pm in Hargrave Village Hall.
Members of the public are welcome to join the meeting and can speak during the public forum, thereafter, the public are welcome to stay and observe the meeting but may not address the council.

Councillors present: Antonia King, Simon deLaat, David Taylor, Sally Cansdale, David Williams
Also present: Nicola Calder (Clerk), DC Mike Chester

MINUTES

1.	Chairman's welcome and opening statement
2.	Apologies – Toby Bancroft, Sharon Mattheus, CC Beccy Hopfensperger To receive and accept apologies and reason for absence.
3.	Declarations of interest - NONE a) Declarations of disclosable pecuniary interests, other registerable interests and non-registerable interests. b) To receive notification of gifts of hospitality exceeding £50.00. c) To note the determination of requests for dispensation.
4.	PUBLIC FORUM – a) Richard J – footpath update. b) Footpath overgrown at the bottom of Barrow Hill, righthand side. RJ has chased up the rights of way. We have received numerous complaints. The foot has since been cut.
5.	To receive and approve the minutes of the last meeting held on 12/05/26 – Approved A King <i>(Paper copies to be signed off by the Chairman for the file)</i>
6.	REPORTS FOR INFORMATION – a) Report from County Councillor – Beccy Hopfensperger https://hargravesuffolk-pc.gov.uk/assets/Parish-Council/Minutes/2026-2027-Associated-Papers/26-07-Suffolk-County-Councillor.pdf b) Report from District Councillor – Mike Chester https://hargravesuffolk-pc.gov.uk/assets/Parish-Council/Minutes/2026-2027-Associated-Papers/26-07-Hargrave-PC-July.pdf c) Report from Village Hall Charity – Simon de Laat – New banner is now up on the village hall – 23 rd August big village event – open gardens – classic car show – BBQ – Tennis – Stalls – Music – Drinks and more.
7.	Matters arising from Minutes of the previous meeting – This covers any updates of actions agreed at the last meeting which are not an agenda item. ● None, all agenda items
8.	To receive and consider all financial matters coming forth from the RFO – a) To approve items for payment – future and retrospective – All agreed b) To note the accounts paid since the last meeting – All agreed c) To consider and receive the Bank Reconciliations for period need the dates – period ending 31.05.2026 and 30.06.2026 – All agreed d) To note the budget to actual position – For Quarter 1 2026/27 – All agreed e) To approve and sign the internal controls checklist. – All agreed f) To note the clerk claimed 12 hours overtime for May/June. – All agreed
9.	To receive and consider matters relating to the following:

- | | |
|--|---|
| | <p>a) To discuss the Forest City project - This is a project to build a new city between Newmarket & Haverhill Forest City 1 Britain's Next Great City – City with 1 million people spreading to Hargrave. The Parish Council will continue to keep the residents updated.</p> <p>b) To discuss and approve the cutting of Knowles Green verges – A resident e-mailed concerned that it was blocking visibility when pulling out of the junction. – Has been cut by McGregor's at the cost of the Parish Council. It was noted that Highways has since cut the remaining verges in Knowles Green, so it was agreed that this will not be added to the regular cuts that are carried out in the village.</p> <p>c) To discuss the cutting of wildflowers on The Green – The wildflower patch on The Green was cut by the grass cutting contractors in what a resident believed to be too early. – DT to meet with the grass cutting contractors to discuss.</p> <p>d) To discuss the replacement of the Basketball hoop in the play area – We have removed the broken basketball hoop. – To be replaced NC to source.</p> <p>e) To receive and discuss the report from Cllr Bancroft regarding the parish green spaces and tree planting. – Not in attendance carryover.</p> <p>f) To receive and discuss the report regarding the SID speed data from Cllr Williams. – We require Police support to combat speeding through the village. Repeater signs missing. 95mph top speed through the village and HGV's travelling through the village has increased.</p> <p>g) To note the recent change in legislation regarding councillors Register of Interest – home address disclosure. - Noted</p> <p>h) To note the new Local Plan scoping consultation is running until 28th July and discuss if any input from Hargrave Parish Council should be submitted. – Noted. Clerk to add comment - Please refer to our neighbourhood plan.</p> <p>i) To receive a report from the clerk who attended a Highways forum regarding the Community Self Help scheme they offer and discuss if it is something that Hargrave could utilise. – A volunteer group would need to be formed. A head of the volunteer group has a highways qualification and would be able to direct the team. Tasks that could be undertaken are cleaning of signs, cutting back vegetation, replacing repeater signs with stickers and more. Highways will reimburse any costs incurred for equipment bought. It was agreed that whilst it was a useful scheme to be aware of, it was not something that Hargrave could utilise at the moment.</p> <p>j) To acknowledge the start of the annual canvass process for the electoral register via West Suffolk Council. – Noted.</p> <p>k) To discuss the speed of lorries travelling through the village and if joining with Depden PC to see if we can attack it together – reply from Depden PC <i>The only traffic issue Depden has at the moment with HGV traffic is the building work at HMP Highpoint. We have asked Suffolk Highways to contact the contractor requesting they use the A143 but the drivers find a quicker route to the A14 via Depden and then Hargrave to Barrow. We hope the situation is only temporary.</i>
 It was agreed that we would ask for volunteers to form a lorry watch group to record the movements of the lorries through the village. If we can prove that we have an unnecessary amount of HGV's travelling through the village we would have a more rounded argument to take to offending contractors, Highways and Suffolk Police.
 Discuss e-mail from resident regarding HGV's travelling fast through the village – Clerk reply to resident to collect more information on the incident.</p> <p>l) To follow up on grant from Mary Evans £3500. Can we repurpose this for other highways issues. – What can we do with this? The cost of many projects would prohibit many options, however extra road markings could be a consideration. The clerk is to contact Highways to discuss options for this. For example - Roundels (30mph) on the road.</p> |
|--|---|

	m) To organise a working party to tidy the weeds on Knowles Green. – email TB and residents of the trees. n) To discuss and organise a party to clean the road signs in the village – Add to newsletter for volunteers and dates.
10.	Internal Audit 2025/2026 a) To discuss the finding of the internal audit and consider any recommendations that were highlighted – Minor recommendations discussed and an action plan put in place. https://hargravesuffolk-pc.gov.uk/assets/Parish-Council/Finance/2025-2026/2025-26-Audit-action-plan.pdf b) To review the effectiveness of the internal audit – all agreed.
11.	Planning Applications to be considered by the council – None received.
12.	To receive any items of correspondence not previously circulated.
13.	Items for discussion at the next meeting. a) Toby Bancroft Tree report b) Forest city c) Speeding HGV's
14.	Date of future meetings 08/09/26, 10/11/26
15.	Close of meeting 8:52pm