

Hargrave Parish Council

February 2026



Welcome to the first newsletter from Hargrave Parish Council. Our aim is to share information from the Parish Council meetings regarding issues that have been agreed or are still under discussion. Everyone is always very welcome to attend the parish meetings, we have a public forum at the start of every meeting where you are able to comment on items on the agenda, or raise a matter regarding Hargrave in general. Mike Chester (District Councillor) and Bobby Bennett (County Councillor) also regularly attend the meetings and would welcome the opportunity to speak about any local concerns you may have. All previous meeting minutes can be found on the Hargrave website: www.hargravesuffolk-pc.gov.uk .

Village Precept 2026-2027

Due to increased website fees and asset management expenses, the annual precept for Hargrave has been set at £6,030.00 for the upcoming year. For residents, this corresponds to a £2.37 increase (based on a Band D property) in the portion of council tax allocated to the parish council. Details of the budget breakdown can be viewed on the Hargrave website under Parish Council Finance, 25-11 meeting.

Traffic Speeds

This remains an ongoing concern to the village, and something that we are constantly monitoring through our Speed Indication Device (SID machine) that we share with Ousden. It can be located at both ends of the village and the detailed results we get from it, we share with the authorities. It does appear that the camera has some positive impact, but sadly some vehicles are still travelling through the village at ridiculous speeds. In particular we would be very interested to obtain the registration of a motorbike that enjoys speeding through the village on a very regular occurrence enjoying speeds of 88mph!

In addition to the shared SID machine, we are part of the Suffolk ANPR Camera Project. Suffolk County Council are in partnership with the Police Roadsafe team using Automatic Number Plate Recognition cameras to tackle speeding hot spots across the county. You may notice the little yellow camera on the post along Bury Road occasionally.

As a Parish council we have also teamed up with over 20 other local parishes to apply combined pressure for greater action against rural speeding and to get more support from the relevant authorities.

Finally, thanks to a very determined resident, we are getting more enforcement visits from traffic officers. The most recent of these visits was in December which resulted in 6 drivers being issued with penalty notices.

Lorry Routes

Whilst it appears that the influx of HGV lorries has lessen over the past months, we are still very aware that our village is being used as a cut through by certain companies. Despite our numerous complaints to the Senior Monitoring and Enforcement Officer at Suffolk County Council, Lorry Routing Plans only cover the

area above the A14 and there are no restrictions on the roads below the A14. Unless there is a specific Lorry Route Plan included in the original planning application (as was the case with the SPA lorries), our hands are tied. Nevertheless, if the amount of lorries does increase significantly again, we will endeavour to do as much as we can to prevent it.

Village Play Area

West Suffolk carry out regular inspection of the play area, and it was recently reported that one of the swings needed replacing. This has now been carried out, and we would like to thank County Councillor Bennett for helping to fund this expense.

Additionally we plan to carry out some hedge trimming before the bird nesting season begins.

Hargrave Heritage Website

Paul Rogers has worked tirelessly behind the scenes creating and managing the current Hargrave Heritage website. However, due to updated accessibility and GDPR standards a new site needs to be adopted. Paul is now in the process of transferring all the data over and already almost halfway through. Once complete, the Parish Council will become custodians of all the records to ensure the information remains within the village indefinitely. As ever we are indebted to Paul for his dedication and hardwork.

Village Hall

Work to rebuild the village hall continues, our thanks to all the Village Hall Committee and Trustees for their work to realise this project. Regular reports can be found in the Community newsletter and Benefice magazine.

Upcoming Projects

This year we are hoping to receive a report with recommendations on how we can best improve the village environment. It will look at options for grass verge management and tree planting.

We haven't held a village litter pick for a couple of years, but since the verges have been trimmed it is apparent that we should organise another. Likely to be planned for March (when the weather is milder), please check social media or the noticeboard for the date and time.

As always if there are any projects or ideas that you would like to share with the parish council please feel free to speak to any of our councillor or email: clerk@hargravesuffolk-pc.gov.uk

Planning Applications

As statutory consultees in the planning process, the Parish Council are informed of all planning applications and asked to comment – either to support or object. All planning applications submitted to the parish council for comment are listed in Planning Summary within the Parish Council section on our website.

Alternatively, if you would like to view any applications in full or to make a comment, go to

www.planning.westsuffolk.gov.uk/online-applications.

Your Parish Councillors

David Taylor (Chair)
Simon de laet (VC)
Toby Bancroft
Sharon Mattheus

Nicky Calder (Clerk)
Sally Cansdale
Antonia King
David Williams

Dates of Future Meetings

March 10 th 2026	November 10 th 2026
May 12 th 2026 (AGM & APM)	
July 07 th 2026	
September 08 th 2026	

All meetings will take place in the village hall at 7.30pm unless otherwise stated on the agenda.