

Hargrave Annual Parish Meeting

Monday 20th May 2019, 7pm

Hargrave Village Hall

Chaired by Councillor J Gunthorpe

In attendance 40 members of the public

Minutes

1. Welcome and introductions

Councillor Gunthorpe welcomed those present

2. Approval of the Minutes for the meeting held 14th May 2018

The Minutes for the meeting held 14th May 2018 were signed as a correct record.

3. Apologies from those unable to attend

Apologies were received from Councillor Brotherton and Councillor How.

4. Report from the Village Hall Committee

Councillor Jones reported on the functions held and regular activities that take place in the hall. The hall is well supported by local people. The Committee have one or two work days a year to undertake maintenance.

5. Report from the Parochial Church Council

Mrs Parry spoke of how well the new rector was fitting into the community and about the various church activities including 'messy church' on the second Sunday afternoon of the month that was more of a social gathering. She invited everyone to visit them in church as a warm welcome was always on offer.

6. Report on the activities of the Hargrave WI

Mrs Shepard outlined the varied activities undertaken by the Hargrave WI over the previous twelve months and the newly instigated craft evenings.

7. Report from the Wind Farm Trust

Councillor Farrington, as one of the two Hargrave Trustees, explained the origins of the Trust that was now five years old. He outlined how the money administered by the trust was divided between the four parishes and how the money was being used to make a real difference to the communities.

8. Report from the Hargrave Musical Festival

Mr Thantrey announced that this September would be the fifth music festival with four days of events featuring international quality artists with extraordinary talents. There would be a variety of musical styles on offer.

9. Report from the Hargrave Herald

Mr Hopper outlined the difficulties experienced over the past twelve months with producing the Hargrave Herald. Circulation had reduced due to two previous outlets for hard copies had changed hands and no longer carried copies of the Herald. He thanked those undertaking

local deliveries and proofing reading. He invited suggestions for revenue streams and welcomed the submission of articles for inclusion in the Herald.

10. Report from the Parish Council (Cllr Gunthorpe)

For the past year, Hargrave Parish Council has continued to serve its community. Meetings every two months and extra planning meetings have been conducted with impartiality – agenda items have been debated until majority agreement, consensus is achieved. We are delighted that meetings are attracting greater public attendance and we would like to emphasise that whilst individual invitations to attend are not extended, everyone is welcome whenever we meet. If you are unable to attend, Minutes can be viewed online.

On two special projects: The mobile speed sign purchased this year is already providing valuable data – we are slowly but surely learning how we can most usefully position it and interpret the data produced.

We are producing a new footpath map – an updated foldable version that will be presented to all residents free of charge.

Looking forward: The development of a Neighbourhood Plan is an exciting opportunity for Hargrave that we hope will address many of the issues raised in the village on a regular basis. We can also look forward to Parish Council Elections at some point over the next 24 months – potentially a very positive process, last performed in Hargrave some years ago.

Thanks, as always, go to our dedicated, exemplary Clerk – Jenny Hodgson

11. Report from East Northants Councillor Howell

Councillor Howell explained the processes that were in place to facilitate the transition from the county council and seven borough and district councils to two unitary authorities now that the Secretary of State had approved the plan. ‘Shadow’ unitary authorities would function in tandem with the authorities to be abolished so that on 1st April 2021 it would be fully functioning and be able to take over with immediate effect.

12. Report from Northants County Councillor Hughes

A report was not received.

13. Discussion about whether Hargrave should undertake a Neighbourhood Plan

Councillor Gunthorpe gave a short, informative presentation detailing the potential benefits a Neighbourhood Plan for Hargrave. There followed a question and answer session with answers provided by ENC Councillor Howell, Councillor Gunthorpe and the Parish Clerk.

Questions were asked about

- the support available, both practical and financial
- how members of a steering group would be selected
- what had happened to previous plans?
- the Raunds Area Preferred Options report 2002
- how much notice the planning authority or developers would give to a Hargrave Plan
- the plan processes
- who would be consulted; would young people have a say?

There was a discussion about future of the Nags head and the appearance of the building in its current state. Concerns were raised about road safety and the condition of the road surfaces generally.

The meeting was asked to give a show of hands whether they supported the proposal to undertake a neighbourhood Plan and the majority were in favour. Pledge forms were circulated to collect contact information from those who felt they could contribute in some way.

There were two mood boards available for comment throughout the meeting. The comments are transcribed below as written:

‘What do you like about Hargrave?’

- The people
- Sense of community
- The people
- No access to NHS Services. No bus services
- Peace and quiet and the wildlife
- Good neighbours, supportive community, trees, the landscape
- Being anonymous
- Thatched roofs
- Village pond
- Large country gardens
- Accessible public footpaths
- Dangerous footpath especially for old and invalid
- The village life
- Peaceful and good neighbours
- Wildlife, trees and public footpaths
- The trees are important
- Footpaths to be maintained
- The great warmth and friendliness
- Mutual respect, peaceful, quiet, welcoming and beautiful countryside.

‘How could Hargrave be better?’

- 20 mph speed limit
- By stopping DPD vans
- Speed bumps
- No motor bikes on B645
- No speed bumps for tractors
- All villagers to pull together and not be divided
- Extend footpath down Church Street. Nowhere at present to get away from huge lorries
- Set more wild flowers in bushes
- Led traffic
- Resurface roads
- Bus service to St Neots/Rushden
- Motorbikes now a concern
- Improve boarded up pub
- Pub such an eye sore
- (Pub) Ruins village today
- (Hargrave) not grow any bigger
- Open a pub
- Where’s the parking on Elm Close?
- Let the pub become a house
- There’s no parking

- Slow Traffic and no racing motorbikes
- Widen the end of Brook Street