

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting of Hargrave Parish Council Held on Monday 2nd September 2019 in Hargrave Village Hall

Members present:
Cllr J Gunthorpe in the Chair

Councillors
J Brotherton M Clarke N How
Clerk- Ms J Hodgson

7 members of the public were present.

The meeting started at 7.30pm

19-42 Apologies for absence

It was **RESOLVED** that the reason for absence for Councillor Farrington and Councillor Jones be approved.

Apologies were sent by Northamptonshire County Council Councillor Hughes

19-43 Minutes

RESOLVED: that the Minutes for the meeting held 1st July 2019 be approved and signed by the Chairman.

19-44 Declaration of interests

No declarations of interest were made.

The Chairman changed the order of the agenda so that item 19-48 became item 19-45 and subsequent agenda/Minute numbering are altered

19-45 Resignation of Councillor Thrift and co-option of a new member

It was noted that following the July Council meeting Councillor Thrift had resigned from the Parish Council. Due process was followed and East Northamptonshire Council determined that the Parish Council was able to co-opt to fill the vacant seat. It was **RESOLVED** that Mrs Helen West be co-opted to the Council. Mrs West joined the Council table for the duration of the meeting but did not take part in the voting.

19-46 Discussion with Mr F Hickling of Phillips Planning Services Ltd re land adjacent to Rectory View

Mr Hickling had requested the opportunity to address the Council and the item had been included on this agenda. He said that the principle of development on the land to the rear of the plot had been established by the fact that the Planning Refusal Notice for 19/00454/FUL had not specifically stated that development was not permitted at this location. He advised that the comments made by Planning Services had been taken on board and that revised proposals had been drawn up. These plans were made available for Councillors to view.

Mr Hickling stated that the revised proposal took into greater consideration the presence of established trees and in place of two storey dwellings, a one and half storey chalet bungalow style dwelling and a bungalow on the side of the plot closest to Xanadu was being presented.

He advised that they were looking to provide two generous size dwellings rather than an affordable housing mix that would generate seven properties on the plot. He stated that the intention was to work with the Parish Council in a transparent manner with a view to securing planning permission.

Councillor Brotherton commented that parish councillors were lay people and not planning experts and need to take time to review the proposals against the planning policy framework and would not want to risk pre-determining the application.

District Councillor Howell, when invited to speak by the Chairman, declared that she was a member of the East Northamptonshire Council Development Control Committee and spoke generally about the process of discussions with developers prior to applications being made and how this could be useful.

A question was asked regarding the rationale behind the proposed dwelling heights. Mr Hickling responded that this was to mirror the adjacent property heights, with the bungalow adjacent to Xanadu and the chalet bungalow closer to Elm Close.

A question was asked regarding the siting of the dwellings. Mr Hickling advised that the sites were chosen to be less intrusive and keep within the existing established building lines and to marry up the ridge lines.

Mr Hickling advised that a planning application would be submitted to demolish the poor quality extension at Rectory View and to replace it with a new extension.

The Chairman thanked Mr Hickling for attending.

19-47 Public Speaking Time

A resident queried a statement made by Mr Hickling regarding the density of the development for the plot and an answer was given.

A resident raised the issue of the volume of traffic on the village roads and the associated safety issues for residents moving about on foot.

A resident spoke against the proposed changes to the Covington Right of Way route (Minute 19-52 below refers)

19-48 Report from NCC & ENC Councillors

NCC Councillor Hughes had not provided a report. A written report from ENC Cllr Howell had been circulated to all councillors. In addition, Councillor Howell stated that the planning enforcement team were examining the planning conditions and traffic management plan for Warth Park to determine whether any planning conditions exist that could be used to address the issue of delivery vans using Hargrave as a cut through to the B645.

Councillor Howell stated that whilst it was primarily Northamptonshire County Council's role to respond to the Covington Rights of Way consultation, she would be happy to write to Cambridgeshire County Council as a District Councillor.

She advised that when any 'non-material' planning application were made, the ward councillors would now be notified. This is a change to procedure as planning officers were previously able to make a decision without reference to ward councillors. Non material planning applications are not sent to town and parish councils for consideration.

19-49 Financial Matters

- a. Cheques for payment

RESOLVED that the following payments be authorised.

100873	Greenbiro Ltd – internal audit fee – LGA 1972 s111	£150.00
100874	Aylesbury Mains Ltd – street lamp repair Parish Councils Act 1957	£114.24
100875	J Hodgson – 2x salary & Expenses LGA 1972 s111 & s112	£434.90
100876	HMRC 2 nd quarter tax & NI - LGA 1972 s112	£151.80

- b. Financial report from the Clerk - As at 14th August 2019 (the latest bank statement) the Council had cash holdings of £13149.89. Councillors were provided with a budget variance report for the financial year to date.
- c. Arrangements for grass cutting – Further to Minute 19-21 Mowerman Grounds Maintenance have been instructed to undertake grass cutting until the end of the current season.
- d. Hedge works (Kimbolton Road) – Further to Minute 19-21 a and 19-37 b it was **RESOLVED** that the offer from the adjacent land owner to undertake work be accepted on the understanding that the work must be completed by 30th November. If the work is not completed, or not completed to the Council's satisfaction, by this date, the Council will obtain an updated quote from Manor Farm Tree Services for the work to be undertaken by 1st March 2020.

19-50 Planning Matters

- a. Planning applications - *none*
- b. Ratification planning decisions determined outside of the meeting - *none*
- c. Planning decisions made by East Northamptonshire Council - It was noted that planning permission had been granted in the case of 19/00790/FUL and 19/00997/FUL. Planning permission had been refused in the case of 19/00454/FUL.
- d. 19/00169/AMD - Further to Minute 19-34 e, the response from East Northamptonshire Council was noted.
- e. Bedford Borough Local Plan 2030 Consultation – **RESOLVED** that the Parish Council does not have any comment to make.

19-51 Draft Rights of Way Improvement Plan

The Northamptonshire County Council consultation document had been circulated to all councillors. **RESOLVED** That the Council does not have any comment to make.

19-52 Consultation on changes to rights of way in Covington

The consultation documentation from Cambridgeshire County Council was considered together with the representation made by a resident during Public Speaking Time. After discussion it was **RESOLVED** that the Parish Council objects to the proposal as it is the Council's opinion that the issues that the changes are seeking to overcome can be addressed by reinstatement of the original bridleway to its full width. Any solution should have the approval of all landowners concerned.

19-53 Neighbourhood Plan steering group report

A written report from the Chairman of the Steering Group had been circulated to all councillors and forms Appendix A to these Minutes. The Clerk was asked to inform the Steering Group about the Parish Council decision relating to funding made at the July meeting (Minute 19-36 refers).

It was noted that the Steering Group had determined that the plan area should encompass the entire parish and a formal designation request had been submitted by the Clerk to East Northamptonshire Council accordingly.

At 8.45pm Councillor Clarke left the meeting.

19-54 Forthcoming anniversary events

- a. Flower festival to mark VE Day May 2020 – the intention to hold a flower festival on 8th, 9th and 10th May 2020 was noted. The expectation is that a Church Service on Sunday morning followed by refreshments would finish the event. It was proposed to collect local memories and have an exhibition of memorabilia in the Church. It was suggested that the Parish Council may want to do something on the Friday evening.

RESOLVED that the Parish Council is supportive in principle and the matter should be discussed at the November meeting, including any budgetary needs.

- b. 125th anniversary of the Parish Council – as 19.54 a above.

19-55 Village Infrastructure

- a. Parish Path Warden scheme – details of the Northamptonshire County Council scheme were noted. It was suggested that Councillor Clarke should be given first refusal at the role.
- b. Report on meeting with D McLoughlin – the meeting to discuss the plot boundary and tree responsibility had been postponed.

19-56 Community and road safety

- a. Traffic issues – Further to Minute 19-38 it was agreed that the Council should see if guidance could be available from a traffic consultant particularly regarding engineering solutions in the vicinity of the white bridge. It was agreed that the enquiries being made by East Northamptonshire Council planning enforcement (Minute 19-47 above refers) should be included in the Hargrave Herald.

There was a discussion about the motorbikes speeding on the B645 and the associated noise nuisance. It was agreed that data on the most problematic times should be collated for onward transmission to the police.

19-57 Report from village committee & proposed new notice board

It was noted that the Village Hall Committee were deliberating over whether to repair or replace the notice board outside of the village hall. Costs for both options had been provided. After due consideration it was **RESOLVED** that the Council would offer a donation of £100.00 for whichever option the Committee selected. This expenditure is authorised by the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 s 19 (3) (a).

19-58 Proposal to update the Village Hall kitchen and flooring

Further to Minute 19-39, as further information had not been received, the Council did not discuss this item.

19-59 Report from the Wind Farm Trust representative

A report was not available.

19-60 Delegate for the NCALC AGM

RESOLVED That Councillor Gunthorpe be nominated as the Parish Council delegate for the NCALC AGM on 5th October 2019

19-61 Next scheduled meeting

The next scheduled meeting will be on 4th November 2019

Meeting closed at 9.20 pm.

Chairman

Hargrave Village Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group

Report to Parish Council

1. The Hargrave Village Neighbourhood Plan now has a steering group appointed, accountable to the Parish Council. It is evident that the process to construct and consult upon the village plan will need to be managed to match the time available from the committee members and the time that it takes to run an effective process of consultation with all of the villagers.
2. The Steering Group remain in the learning mode – reading other communities’ plans, and better understanding the process that might best suit Hargrave. What matters most is that people are consulted appropriately, and the eventual plan realistically and faithfully reflects their declared needs and preferences, whilst remaining within the intent of the overall regional and national planning frameworks.
3. **The Steering Group** comprises:
 - John Brotherton*
 - Duncan Farrington*
 - Jonathan Gunthorpe
 - Ruth Hall (Secretary)
 - Chris Hopper
 - Martyn Leonard
 - Nicholas Pollard (Chair)
 - Savitri Pollard
 - Maggie Priest
 - Ros Sheppard (Communications)

*(*with occasional deputies recognised for John and Duncan)*

4. **Plan of Work** A draft plan of work has been discussed by the Group for the next year. At present this timescale looks highly challenging. It will be revised and realistically firmed up over the next few months once scope of work becomes clearer. Feedback gained from a village questionnaire, run during the autumn in conjunction with some face to face doorstep interviews and a Villagers’ Meeting will help to define both the direction and the scope of work.

Summary of the plan timescale is that at the earliest the Parish Council (PC) should expect to review, approve and submit the Village Neighbourhood Plan to East Northants Council during the Late Summer/Autumn 2020, for ENC’s subsequent review, challenge and adoption in the 9-12 months following through to mid 2021.

5. It is anticipated that the Plan will contain main headings covering:
 - Settlement Boundary within the Parish/Local Green Space & Environment
 - Character of Village and Landscape

- Sustainable Infrastructure
 - - flooding, sewers, drainage, roads, footpaths, energy, telecoms, transport
 - Our Built Environment: Principles of Design and Architecture
 - Mitigating Traffic and Road Safety Issues
 - Protecting Existing and Supporting New Community and Recreational Facilities
 - Housing development in Settlement Boundary / Nature of Development
 - Supporting Rural Diversification: Agriculture, Commerce and Industry
6. The Steering Group expects to meet on average once each month: the timing of meetings will be arranged to best suit the established programme of work.
7. A realistic budget for expenditure against materials (predominantly printing and public displays) needs to be established by the PC to fund the steering group and its work appropriately. To this end the steering group request a sum of £1000 to be granted and set aside by Hargrave Parish Council for the next 12 months for the materials needed to develop the HNP. Work to deliver a comprehensive survey (paper based as well as on-line) has commenced and is expected to deliver to every adult householder during September/October followed closely by the first Villager consultation session in the Village Hall.