

**Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting of Hargrave Parish Council**  
Held on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> January 2021 on Zoom

Members present:  
Cllr J Gunthorpe in the Chair

Councillors  
J Brotherton M Clarke D Farrington N How C Jones H West  
Clerk- Ms J Hodgson  
ENC Councillor Howell  
6 members of the public

This meeting was held 'remotely' via an internet platform as permitted by The Local Authorities and Police and Crime Panels (Coronavirus) (Flexibility of Local Authority and Police and Crime Panel Meetings) (England and Wales) Regulations 2020.

Meeting started at 7.30 p.m.

**20-133 Apologies for absence**

None.

**20-134 Minutes**

**RESOLVED:** that the Minutes for the meeting held 4th January 2021 be approved and signed by the Chairman

**20-135 Declaration of interests**

There were no declarations made.

**20-136 Public Speaking Time**

The Chairman of the Neighbourhood Plan steering group commended the draft Neighbourhood Plan to the Council as he believed it faithfully reflected the residents survey and September consultation.

Resident MP endorsed the draft Neighbourhood Plan and expressed concerns about the flooding on 23<sup>rd</sup> December and 16<sup>th</sup> January. The emergency crew that attended on 16<sup>th</sup> January appears to have caused a blockage in her house drainage system.

Resident HC requested an update from the January 4<sup>th</sup> meeting regarding the flood response.

Resident RP repeated the content of an email sent to the Parish Council. He also raised issues of flooding in the graveyard and the possible implications of ponds being filled. In addition, the impact of hard landscaping at the Rectory View development and how the drains from the development had been connected to the main storm drains.

Resident DT reiterated comments previously made.

Resident NP commented on the decision-making processes at East Northamptonshire Council planning department.

## 20-137 Draft Neighbourhood Plan

The following documents were offered to the for approval so that the steering group can move to the Regulation 14 consultation

Final to PC Hargrave EIA Screening January 2021  
Final to PC Hargrave HRA Assessment January 2021 V3  
Final to PC Hargrave PPA v1 05.01.21  
Final to PC Hargrave Regulation 14 Draft Plan 14.01.21 V6  
Final to PC Hargrave SEA Screening January 2021 V3  
Final to PC Housing site assessments draft 13.01.21 V2  
Final to PC LGS site assessments draft 13.01.21 V3 (002)  
Interim to pc 210113\_Hargrave FINAL DRAFT Design Codes (part of the evidence base)

Questions were asked about how the settlement boundary had been decided and how the proposed sites for development had been selected. There were also questions about how the important green space had been identified. It was suggested that other sites were important and could be included. It was noted that the Parish Council would be formally consulted on the draft Plan as part of the Regulation 14 consultation and councillors would be able to submit representations as residents. **RESOLVED** That the Parish Council approved the draft Neighbourhood Plan for Regulation 14 consultation.

East Northamptonshire Council Councillor Howell was invited to address the Council. She expressed her personal views on the best way to phrase the wording on Neighbourhood Plan policies. With regard to flooding, flood mitigation and planning she advised that a new planning policy committee would be established by the new unitary authority and that the Parish Council must ensure it responds to all consultations on planning policies so that an effective framework may be devised. Councillor Howell reported that she was waiting to hear back from Northamptonshire County Council Councillor Smithers regarding the flood and drainage issues in Hargrave.

## 20-138 December flood response

Further to Minute 20-119 it was noted that further flooding had occurred on 16<sup>th</sup> January and the Northants Highways team had sent a crew to extract water to a tanker. It was also noted that the crew accessed the wrong system and caused water to back up into the ground floor toilet of Acacia House.

It was noted that Church Street had similarly experienced flooding and that the gulleys were blocked by silt and detritus. The poor condition of the road with differing levels has meant that water cannot escape into the drains or via the grips into the ditches from the road.

It was noted that a number of items of correspondence had been received from residents. It was agreed that any action taken by the Parish Council should not exacerbate the existing problems. It was noted that the Parish Council could only take direct action on land that it owns. It was also noted that natural flood management was desirable whereby the land mitigates excess water rather direct flood water quickly away from the land and to the storm water drains on Church Road. It was **RESOLVED** that the following actions would be taken:

- A tree survey and risk assessment, providing a written report should be undertaken for the trees on the track owned by the Parish Council. J Steele will be asked in the first instance if he can undertake this work.
- Assessment of the Hoggan Ditch will be made with the tree surgeon to determine whether any work can be undertaken without compromising the tree roots and therefore the trees.

- That a sump/catch-pit be created below the entrance to the culvert to minimise detritus entering the storm water drains. Prestige Development is to be invited to undertake this work.
- That if it can be determined that the grated drain on the track is connected to the storm drains (using rods and dye), an overflow drainage channel will be created to take water from the ditch at times of excessive rainfall. It was further **RESOLVED** that an amount of up to £500.00 may be spent on this work without further reference to the Council. This expenditure is authorised by the Public Health Act 1936 s 259 and s260.
- Requests should be submitted again to Northants Highways and Anglian Water for maps of the drainage infrastructure in Hargrave. It was noted that as part of Pathfinder III a civil engineer should provide a plan of the infrastructure but this would not be received in the short term.
- That a request be submitted to Northants Highways to raise the kerb line on Church Road to act as a flood barrier.
- That the extent of flooding at Brook Street is not acceptable.
- That the Parish Council preferred course of action would be to repair collapsed drains etc from Brook Street working back towards Church Road following the gradient of the village.
- That there needs to be an assessment of the water flow throughout Hargrave. This may be achieved through Pathfinder III.
- All residents are to be encouraged to report instances of flooding via the Northamptonshire County Council website so that the information can be taken into account when works are prioritised.

It was agreed that at this time the Parish Council would not write to the landowner and tenant of land east of Church Road to advise them of the issues. It was agreed that the Parish Council would not pursue the option of itself commissioning a camera to inspect the drains as this in itself would not get the problems rectified. Northants Highways recognises that there are problems with potential collapsed drains and the Parish Council is awaiting notification of when this work will take place.

### **20-139 Community resilience working party**

Further to Minute 20.120 it was **RESOLVED** that a working party to form a Community Resilience Group be established and to be made up of parish councillors and residents. It was noted that a resident had stepped forward to be a flood warden.

### **20-140 Next scheduled meeting**

The next scheduled meeting will be on 1st March 2021.

Meeting closed: 9.46 p.m.

**Chairman**