

**Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting of Hargrave Parish Council**  
Held on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> July 2020 on Zoom

Members present:  
Cllr J Gunthorpe in the Chair

Councillors  
J Brotherton M Clarke N How C Jones H West  
Clerk- Ms J Hodgson  
ENC Councillor Howell  
0 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.

**20-38 Apologies for absence**

Apologies were received from Councillor Farrington.

**20-39 Minutes**

**RESOLVED:** that the Minutes for the meeting held 15<sup>th</sup> June 2020 be approved and signed by the Chairman.

**20-40 Declaration of interests**

There were no declarations made.

**20-41 Public Speaking Time**

There were no members of the public present.

**20-42 Nuisance motorbikes**

The report that forms Appendix A was received and the content was discussed. It was agreed that other parishes should be encouraged to report all incidents of nuisance to the police. It was suggested that Tilbrook Parish Council be included in this matter.

It was noted that following the meeting on 26<sup>th</sup> June (see Appendix A) Mr T Pursglove MP had written to other MPs as promised. It was noted that a further meeting with him, Cllr Smithers and Northants Highways officers had been scheduled for 15<sup>th</sup> July.

It was agreed that the clerk should continue to explore options for recording noise/decibels along the B645 including asking East Northamptonshire Council Environmental Health if they had any equipment that could be borrowed.

An email from Cllr Bird of Dean and Shelton Parish Council was read out.

**20-43 Reports from Northants County Councillor & East Northants District Councillor**

NCC Cllr Hughes had not provided a report. ENC Cllr Howell provided a verbal report covering matters relating to planning applications 20/00644/AMD and 20/00645/AMD. She outlined the

action she taken with regard to planning application 20/00139/FUL (Idle Acre) and the Parish Council concerns. She has put to Northants Highways the question how much development is too much development on a substandard road. The response was outstanding.

With regard to 20/00685/CND she advised that there is no legal requirement for Parish Council to be consulted on discharge of conditions and she advised that the applicant could change their mind as long as the new proposal met highway standards.

Cllr Howell gave an update on the progress being made towards unitary status, her chosen charity as ENC Chairman and the 'recognising champions of East Northamptonshire' scheme.

## 20-44 Financial Matters

- a. Cheques for payment

**RESOLVED** that the following payments be authorised.

|        |  |         |
|--------|--|---------|
| 100907 | HMRC – quarterly payment of tax and NI – LGA 1972 s112 | £151.60 |
| 100908 | J Hodgson – 1 x salary & Expenses LGA 1972 s111 & s112 | £212.55 |

- b. Financial report from the Clerk - As at 14<sup>th</sup> June 2020 (the latest bank statement) the Council had an available cash balance of £15553.88 split between the current account and the deposit account.
- c. Internal Audit Report - Further to Minute 20-20 c it was noted that there were no issues to address.

## 20-45 Planning Matters

- a. Planning applications

20/00685/CND Discharge of conditions pursuant to 19/01527/ FUL - Erection of two dwellings (resubmission of 19/00454/FUL) Condition 9 - revision to use tarmac on entry road to development | Land Adjacent Vicarage View Church Road

It was noted that this application was for discharge of conditions, the Parish Council had not been formally consulted. The Council agreed a representation should be made anyway as properties on the other side of the road will suffer from surface water runoff, particularly as a tarmac surface will exacerbate the amount of run off and the existing road drains struggle to cope already. It was **RESOLVED** that the following representation be submitted to East Northamptonshire Council:

The Parish Council has on numerous occasions made representations to the planning authority on the subject of surface water flooding both at this location and others in Hargrave.

The Council would like to enquire whether the proposed drainage infrastructure will discharge into the existing drainage system that has proven frequently in recent years that it cannot cope with the surface water volumes. These surface water volumes will increase as the ability of the ground conditions to soak up rain fall has been severely diminished by the development.

The Council is aware that properties in nearby Elm Close have tarmac drives. However, these properties are not situated on a slope that directly impacts other properties lower down. Elm Close was built at a time when the effects of climate change were not as prevalent and the same level of general consciousness of the need to mitigate against impact of climate change,

specifically the heavy bursts of rainfall that are now experienced, did not exist. The Council is of the opinion that these current considerations are far more pertinent in planning considerations than historic decisions on impermeable hard landscaping.

The Council is therefore very disappointed with the proposal to change the driveway from block paving which would have offered a degree of permeability to tarmac which will not.

b. Planning decisions made by East Northamptonshire Council

It was noted that 20/00644/AMD had been refused. It was noted that 20/00041/FUL (High House Raunds Road), 19/01970/FUL (Hargrave Lodge Farm Shelton Road), and 20/00565/FUL (Top Farm Church Street) had been permitted.

### **20-46 Update on the Neighbourhood Plan**

Because of difficulties encountered during the Covid-19 lockdown, the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Committee has not been meeting. They will resume meeting again on the 13th July (probably by Zoom).

The consequence of this hiatus in their planned programme of work means that they have lost roughly 5 months in preparation of the draft plan. The issue of a draft plan for formal consultation is therefore likely to be no earlier than during Q4 this year.

The difference between early in Q4 or Christmas time will likely be determined by the availability of a supporting expert consultant and their ability to commit. Once they have resumed working on the plan and this timescale becomes clearer, they will confirm a more detail programme through the Parish Council.

### **20-47 VJ Day**

As the planned VE Day celebrations had been cancelled due to the coronavirus pandemic, the options hold some form of celebration either on 15<sup>th</sup> August or 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2020 was considered. Any event would need to be risk assessed and in accordance with government guidance on coronavirus applicable at the time.

### **20-48 Village Infrastructure**

- a. Surface water drainage Church Street – it was noted that a message had been received through the website regarding problems with drainage together with an update from the Northants Highways Area Manager for maintenance.
- b. Boundary of the track by Hoggin Ditch - Further to Minute 20-23 it was noted that the solicitor had advised that the most straightforward and most cost-effective method of achieving certainty for the future would be to form a boundary agreement registered against the individual titles. This would involve collaborating with the developer to produce an accurate scaled boundary plan. It was anticipated that legal costs would be in the region of £500.00.

It was suggested that the Council should be put up its own boundary fence. It is expected that the dwelling boundary fence would be inside of the settlement line so that the homeowner can maintain their boundary fence. Their title deeds should show that their boundary goes to the ditch.

- c. Footpaths - NA8 from the bridge off Brook St needs mowing and NA6 just as it crosses the bridge onto Mr Merrick's land needs mowing. It was agreed that these should be reported to Northamptonshire County Council. However, enquiries should be made in the first instance to determine how highways officers communicate with landowners, so that the landowners could be pre-advised if required.
- d. Grass cutting – concerns were expressed as to the quality of the grass maintenance on Church Road and whether the council was receiving value for money under the arrangements. It was agreed that contact should be made with the contractor to discuss these concerns.

#### **20-49 Community and road safety issues**

It was reported that the hedges in Brook Street and at the Brook St/Church St junction are over growing – bad for visibility at the junction and getting too narrow for cars adjacent to Brookwell. It was agreed that a letter be sent to the responsible householder.

#### **20-50 Village Hall Committee**

There was no report to give. The village hall is no closer to re-opening following the covid 19 lockdown due to the complexity of the government guidelines.

#### **20-51 Wind Farm Trust**

There was no report to give.

#### **20-52 List of correspondence**

The list that forms Appendix B was noted. No further action was required.

#### **20-53 Date of the next scheduled meeting**

The next scheduled meeting will be on 7<sup>th</sup> September 2020.

Meeting closed at 9.15pm

**Chairman**

**Report to Hargrave Parish Council Meeting 6<sup>th</sup> July 2020**

**Subject: Nuisance motorbikes on B645**

**Background**

There is an historic, ongoing and escalating problem with motorbikes being ridden in an anti-social/illegal manner on the B645. This impacts on the safety of other road users, properties and businesses that adjoin the B645 and the wider residential environment, including neighbouring settlements.

The matter was raised by residents during public speaking time at the Council meeting held 15<sup>th</sup> June 2020 and was discussed by the Parish Council at the same meeting. Minute 20-32 refers.

There are also wider road safety concerns regarding the hidden dips and overtaking vehicles.

**Meeting 26<sup>th</sup> June 2020**

ENC Councillor Howell arranged for Mr T Pursglove MP and Mr J Smithers (NCC member for Places, Highways and the Environment) to attend a meeting with representatives of Hargrave Parish Council. Due to COVID 19 restrictions the meeting was held outside and with a limited invitation list.

Also in attendance were:

Cllr J Gunthorpe, Cllr Brotherton, Cllr Farrington and Cllr How.

Ms J Hodgson, parish clerk

Ms Sagers, assistant to Mr Pursglove.

Mr S Mold, the PFCC (Police, Fire & Crime Commissioner) for Northamptonshire, was unable to attend or send a representative of his office.

Cllr Gunthorpe stated that the Parish Council was responding to consistent and heated correspondence from residents as motorbikes that were driven recklessly presented a danger to other road users and themselves and were significantly impacting the health and wellbeing of Hargrave residents and residents of other parishes by the noise created.

Cllr Gunthorpe identified 4 key areas:

1. Motorbikes were part of a wider safety issue of the B645
2. It is a cross border issue with Cambridgeshire and Bedfordshire which can make finding a resolution more difficult
3. Producing an adequate evidence base is difficult. Consideration should be given to the online platforms/forums and magazines that recommend this road in a manner that encourages dangerous driving.
4. Engineering solutions may be a way forward such as rumble strips and extending the 40mph zone.

It was noted that riders had been witnessed positioning themselves in the junction of B645 and Church Road and timing each other with a stop watch.

Cllr Howell read an email from the office of the PFCC outlining a broader scheme aimed at motorbike riders.

It was noted that it is difficult to collate records of all accidents that occur as not all accidents are reported. Basic collision data is available on [www.crashmap.co.uk](http://www.crashmap.co.uk).

It was noted that police camera vans would only be positioned at locations that were approved by the Home Office. Mr Pursglove could assist by talking to ministers if necessary.

Mr Smithers will investigate the possibility of re-instating the 'hatchings' on the hidden dips for the safety of all road users and examine the options for extending the 40 mph zone.

It was noted that extending the 40mph zone may just move the problem further along the road and would only be truly effective if it is enforced.

Mr Smithers was advised that the Parish Council would like to know what **is** possible rather than what isn't possible.

Mr Pursglove will suggest to Mr Mold the creating of signage 'you are in a snap zone' to advise drivers that dash cam footage may be up loaded to the police website and prosecutions may follow.

It was noted that Hargrave newsletter was being used to inform residents how to report criminal/antisocial driving, including 'operation snap'.

It was recommended that when the monthly meetings with the PFCC recommenced, a Hargrave representative should attend to voice these concerns. Often the Chief Constable is in attendance.

It was recommended that colleagues in other parishes be advised to contact their MP and PFCC.

End of meeting report.

---

### **Hand held police cameras**

At the Parish Council on the 15<sup>th</sup> June a resident suggested borrowing hand held police cameras as used by other communities. This would be part of the 'community speedwatch' scheme. The cameras only record the speed, not the vehicle details. Other details have to be manually recorded. It is unlikely that the B645 would pass a police risk assessment for community speedwatch. The resident has been advised via email.

### **Noise complaints**

NCC Highways have advised that they do not have experience with monitoring noise.

ENC Environmental Health emailed 15/06/2020. Response: Unfortunately, there is no enforcement action we can take with respect to noise pollution from motorbikes using a public road. As you rightly point out this is a Police matter. If you are able to gather the vehicle registration details of the offending motorcycles this may help them address the problem.

It was suggested at the Parish Council meeting that the council investigate employing an acoustic company to record the level of the problem. Enquiries have been sent to two companies.

The issue would be what could be done with the data collected.

The Neighbourhood Policing Sergeant has confirmed that motorbikes if found to have breached MOT regulations / insurance details would be dealt with for traffic offences.

### **Reporting of motorbike problems**

The Neighbourhood Policing Sergeant has advised the following and this has been included in the Hargrave newsletter:

“For crimes in progress i.e dangerous driving it should always be 999 especially if there is a registration number that is caught.

Alternatively you can report slower paced incidents via both 101 and the online reporting tool – obviously these don't get treated as an emergency response and therefore the perpetrators will be long gone before police attendance which makes our job difficult.

Please actively encourage members of the community to report anything to Operation Snap via Northants Police Website – i.e Dash cam footage of dangerous driving etc – we have had several successful prosecutions from this. <https://snap.northants.police.uk/snap>”

### **Police monitoring**

Northants Highways have confirmed that the Northants Police have recently been using collecting data on the B645. This would indicate that on some level there has been recognition that there is an issue. I have asked if we can have site of the data. Highways to make enquiries with the police.

### **Neighbouring parishes**

Contact via email has been made with Chelveston PC, Dean and Shelton PC and Covington Parish Meeting.

### **Accident data**

It was suggested that the Parish Council meeting that requests for accident data should be requested. However, it is not apparent if this is centrally recorded anywhere.

### **Comments from Northants Highways**

*Note this pre-dates meeting on the 26<sup>th</sup> June:*

“In terms of engineering measures to deter motor cycles, this is notoriously difficult to do. Apart from the fact that we don't traffic calm unlit rural derestricted roads, the standard method of traffic calming is build-outs/chicanes, or possibly speed cushions. Neither of these are effective against motor cycles, although buildouts may have some effect in heavy traffic. The only measure which is generally effective in slowing down all traffic is full-width road humps, which we can't install on an unlit, derestricted road (but I don't think that is what you had in mind anyway).

It is also worth mentioning that traffic calming/engineering is only considered in relation to injury collisions, not for noise reduction – it can often generate different types of noise in any case depending on the type of traffic using the road.

In the past any serious and persistent collision sites such as tight bends may have been 'straightened out' – you still see laybys formed from the bypassed bits in some places on main roads – but this would tend to encourage faster speeds rather than slow people down. I think most site of that kind will have been addressed now. We monitor the collision data on an ongoing basis (see Red Routes again) and analyse emerging trends to try to address problems as they develop, if there is a common factor among a cluster of collisions.”

<https://www.northamptonshire.gov.uk/councilservices/northamptonshire-highways/road-safety/Pages/red-routes.aspx>

## Possible next steps

1. Understand where the police camera van can be positioned and see if other locations are an option
  2. Look into the red route status – can this be changed?
  3. Group meeting with other parishes (remotely)
  4. Direct correspondence with PFCC, Chief Constable and MP
  5. Use of Hargrave speed device to collect speed data.
- 

## Appendix B

### List of correspondence received

1. Email: Northants Highways weekly list of schemes 15<sup>th</sup> May 2020
2. Email: Northants CALC mini eUpdate 15<sup>th</sup> May 2020 (circulated to councillors)
3. Email: Bedford Borough Local Development Scheme (circulated to councillors)
4. Email: Northants Highways weekly list of schemes 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2020
5. Email: Northants CALC mini eUpdate 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2020 (circulated to councillors)
6. Email: Marie Curie Nursing, request for funding
7. Email: NCC consultations on children services x 3
8. Email: Active Northants - June Special. Classes for Teenager (circulated to councillors)
9. Email: ENCnews – press release re virtual tourism week
10. Email: NACRE survey re COVID19 volunteer groups
11. Email: Details of Raunds Mayor Mardi Gras
12. Email: Details of National Lottery Funding scheme for COVID 19 support
13. Email: ENCnews – press release re ‘Council urges stay safe cooking at home’
14. Email: ENC External Funding manager, information on funding streams
15. Email: Bedford Borough Council: Houses in Multiple Occupation: Supplementary Planning Document consultation
16. Email: ENCnews: funding for local projects (circulated to councillors)
17. Email: Northants Highways weekly list of schemes 5<sup>th</sup> June 2020
18. Email: Northants CALC mini eUpdate 5<sup>th</sup> June 2020 (circulated to councillors)
19. Email: NCC consultation: Have your say on cycling and walking in Northamptonshire (circulated to councillors)
20. Email: Calor funding stream
21. Email: NCALC details of an email scam affecting councils
22. Email: Northants Highways weekly list of schemes 12<sup>th</sup> June 2020
23. Email: Northants CALC mini eUpdate 12<sup>th</sup> June 2020 (circulated to councillors)
24. Email: ENCnews: East Northants Council drives economic recovery across district
25. Email: Chowns Mill improvement works update (circulated to councillors)
26. Email: Northamptonshire ACRE June 2020 E-Bulletin - Parish Council Members (circulated to councillors)
27. Email: Public Sector Geospatial Agreement newsletter
28. Email: Details of NACRE’s Good Neighbours Zoom meeting (circulated to councillors)
29. Email: ICO newsletter
30. Email: Mayor of Raunds – coping with covid podcasts
31. Email: Northants Highways weekly list of schemes 19<sup>th</sup> June 2020
32. Email: Northants CALC mini eUpdate 19<sup>th</sup> June 2020 (circulated to councillors)
33. Email: Northants Highways weekly list of schemes 26<sup>th</sup> June 2020
34. Email: Northants CALC mini eUpdate 26<sup>th</sup> June 2020 (circulated to councillors)
35. Email: N ACRE Parish Councillors Network Event: 16th July 2020 (circulated to councillors)