

**Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting of Hargrave Parish Council**  
Held on Monday 9<sup>th</sup> January 2023 at Hargrave Village Hall

Members present:  
Cllr D Farrington in the Chair

Councillors  
C Jones M Leonard R Sheppard S Taylor  
Clerk- Ms J Hodgson  
NNC Councillors Levell & Wilkes  
5 member of the public

Meeting started at 7.30pm

**22-93 Apologies**

Apologies were received from Councillor Phillips and Councillor West. **RESOLVED** That the reason for absence be approved. Apologies were also received from NNC Councillor Howell.

**22-94 Minutes**

**RESOLVED:** that the Minutes for the meeting held 7<sup>th</sup> November 2022 be approved and signed by the Chairman.

**22-95 Declaration of interests**

Cllr Farrington declared an interest in item 22.100f

**22-96 Public Speaking Time**

A resident spoke about the access to Hargrave wood. A resident spoke about a footpath that is no longer shown as a Public Right of Way on the Definitive Map.

A representative of the Parochial Church Council said that the Church would like to be involved in any plans for the King's Coronation.

A landowner spoke about the fatal accident on the B645 in November 2022 and the action they have taken and would look to take to try and improve road safety at that location.

**22-97 Report from North Northants Councillors**

Councillors did not provide an additional report.

**22-98 Boundary Commission Review of NNC Councillor numbers**

It was noted that details of the review had been circulated to all councillors prior to the meeting. Reasons that Hargrave, Stanwick & Raunds should stay as one area:

- Historically there is a link between these 3 settlements and they share a vicar
- Geographically Hargrave is on the very edge of the county and there isn't a natural alternative area to join.
- Raunds is a service centre for Hargrave offering schooling and medical services

- Moving Hargrave to Higham Ferrers would have a negligible effect on the overall numbers & Hargrave residents do not have a natural affinity to Higham Ferrers

**RESOLVED** That the Boundary Commission should be advised that Ringstead should be brought in to the grouping. Their predicted electorate is 1313. This would total 11356 and be 94% of the 3 ward councillor 'allowance' of 12114. Ringstead does has links with the existing 3 parishes in that they are part of the 4 Spires Benefice and share a vicar. Children of Ringstead would attend schools in Raunds and medical services are provided in Raunds. Ringstead is categorised as a 'large freestanding village' as is Stanwick in the Local Plan part 2, thereby sharing characteristics and therefore have similar needs and issues. Ringstead is described as having 'a close functional relationship with a nearby urban area' [Raunds] in para 4.16 of the Local Plan part 2

## 22-99 NNC Budget consultation

There was no comment to make.

## 22-100 Financial Matters

- a. Payment schedule – **RESOLVED** that the following payments be authorised

Payee	Amount
J Hodgson 2 months salary, travel & diary	£639.86
HMRC – third quarter tax & NI	£209.20
N CALC – VAT on courses already paid for, due to their registration for VAT	£79.80
Clive Jones – jubilee tree purchase	£59.50
Grant to Hargrave Herald as per Nov meeting	£100.00

The General Power of Competence was adopted May 2021

The following payments have been made under the Councils Direct debit arrangements

Date	Payee	Amount
Monthly	Yu Energy – street lighting	various
31.12.22	Unity Trust Bank – service charge collected quarterly	£18.00

- b. Financial report from the Clerk – The Council holds £8750.17 in the current account and £12272.97 in the deposit account for ring fenced purposes.

Expenditure to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2022 against the budget cost heading was reviewed. In overall terms the Council's expenditure was 70% of the annual budget. The only cost heading that was over budget was 'office costs' as the council had invested in a replacement laptop for the Clerk.

It was noted that Cllr Leonard had undertaken an independent review of the accounts file and no issues were raised.

- c. External Audit - It was noted that PKF Littlejohn LLP has been appointed as the external auditor for 2022-23 to 2026-2027 by SAAA Ltd.
- d. Contractual changes to Clerks remuneration & holiday entitlement – it was noted that the national salary negotiations on local government pay have concluded. Pay is a contractual matter. There is no need for the council to formally agree the pay increase as the clerk's contract provides that the clerk be paid at a particular Spinal Column Point (SCP). The

council has a contractual obligation to pay whatever the prevailing rate for that SCP is. The agreement also adds one days holiday where there has been a minimum of 5 years' service.

- e. Grass cutting – further to Minute 22.84 e it was noted that three quotes had been obtained. **RESOLVED** that the Council would appoint Mowerman Ground Maintenance for the grass cutting for the 2023 season on the basis of the quote dated 9<sup>th</sup> December 2022. It was agreed that for the sums involved, it represented best value for the Council to continue with a proven contractor.
- f. Legal costs – this item was moved to be the final item of business.

#### **22-101 Annual review of risk assessments**

**RESOLVED** that the 'Financial & Governance', 'grit bin' and 'speed sign' risk assessment documents are fit for purpose without amendment.

#### **22-102 Planning Matters**

- a. Planning applications - None
- b. Planning decisions made by North Northamptonshire Council - None

#### **22-103 Change to the date of the May meeting**

It was noted that the date of the May meeting needed to be changed due to the extra Bank Holiday for the coronation. The meeting will now be held on 15<sup>th</sup> May 2023.

#### **22-104 Jubilee tree**

Further to Minute 22.83 it was noted that a Rowan tree had been planted. It was noted that watering needed to be arranged. **RESOLVED** that the Council would set up a budget of up to £100.00 for a commemorative plaque. The wording for the plaque may be agreed outside of the meeting.

#### **22-105 Kings Coronation**

It was agreed that a combined village event would be preferable. An initial meeting for all interested parties would be held in the village hall on 23<sup>rd</sup> January. Cllr Sheppard agreed to make the arrangements and issue invitations.

#### **22-106 Village Infrastructure**

- a. Storm water drains throughout the village – It was agreed that on the whole, the storm water drains were performing better following the clearance and other works in 2022 by Northants Highways. However, it was also agreed that the Highways area maintenance manager should be asked for an update on issues with Brook Street and Church Street.
- b. Hedges within the 30mph areas – it was noted that it is the responsibility of land owners to maintain their hedges so they do not obstruct the highway. Councillors would remind homeowners of this when appropriate.

A quote for cutting back vegetation on Raunds Road was received. It was agreed to enquire whether the quote could be held over until after the 2023 nesting season given the delay in receiving it. This would give the Parish Council time to apply for a grant towards

part of the costs from the Wind Farm Trust. It was agreed that the Clerk has authority to apply for grant from the Wind farm Trust.

- c. Road surfaces – it was noted that complaints had been received about potholes from the white bridge and onto Raunds Road. The Council had been expecting potholes in Church Road to have been rectified by December. It was noted that patch repairs on potholes had lifted in the freezing conditions, resulting the road being in a worse state. It was agreed that this should be followed up with Northants Highways with NNC Councillors copied in.
- d. Rights of way issues – it was noted that the path flagged by the resident in public speaking time was not part of the current ‘definitive map’ of public rights of way and as such was not a matter for the Parish Council to pursue. It was agreed that the Clerk should determine the best way for the resident to raise the query with the Definitive Maps Team.

It was also noted that a North Northants Rights of Way Forum had been established and that Parish Councils were represented by a NCALC officer. It was agreed that it should be determined whether the Forum could be used to resolve issues within Hargrave.

- e. Engineering works on Brook Street to reduce flooding – Cllr Farrington reported on a meeting with the Highways area maintenance manager and outlined what steps could be taken to rectify the Brook Street floods at minimal costs.

#### **22-107 Community and road safety**

- a. Current issues – it was noted that there had been a fatal accident in the ‘hidden dips’ on the B645 in November 2022 and this appeared to be an annual occurrence. Actions previously taken by the Parish Council were noted together with why suggested actions had been refused by Northants Highways. It was agreed that the Parish Council would support a member of the public who had indicated that they would take the matter up with our MP as Northants Highways refusal to add further road markings was on the basis of ‘regulations’. It is understood that the regulations are set centrally and therefore not an issue Northants Highways can change.

It was suggested that anonymous data from the Speed Indication Device be used to identify traffic patterns within Hargrave and for the data to be shared with Northants Police and Northants Highways as appropriate to assist the Parish Council in securing action to reduce traffic nuisances.

#### **22-108 Report from the JAG representative**

Cllr Sheppard reported on the topics of the last JAG meeting.

#### **22-109 Village Hall Committee representative report**

It was reported that there was a successful social event in November and that an event was being considered for the spring.

#### **22-110 Wind Farm Trust Report**

There was nothing to report from the activities of the Trust.

#### **22-111 Annual Parish Meeting**

It was agreed that the Annual Parish Meeting would be held on Monday 15<sup>th</sup> May 2023 at 6.30pm prior to the Annual Council Meeting. Local groups and organisations will be invited to give a two minute report.

### **22-112 Annual litter pick**

It was agreed that the annual litter pick should be arranged for 26<sup>th</sup> March 2023. The Clerk is to make enquiries with North Northamptonshire Council to borrow the equipment. The North Northamptonshire Council kit should be dropped off and collected from Farrington Oils.

### **22-113 Local Area Partnership (Integrated Care)**

It was noted that a new partnership organisation was being established. Integrated care systems (ICSs) are partnerships that bring together NHS organisations, local authorities and others to take collective responsibility for planning services, improving health and reducing inequalities across geographical areas. Following the passage of the 2022 Health and Care Act, ICSs were formalised as legal entities with statutory powers and responsibilities.

At the neighbourhood level there will be 7 Local Area Partnerships (LAP) – Corby, Wellingborough Urban, Wellingborough Rural, Kettering Urban, Kettering Rural, East Northants Urban and East Northants Rural.

It was agreed that a parish councillor representative would be agreed for Hargrave in due course.

### **22-114 Correspondence list**

The list of correspondence received that forms Appendix A was received. No further action was identified.

### **22-115 Next scheduled meeting**

The next scheduled meeting will be on 6<sup>th</sup> March 2023.

### **22-116 Meeting Closure**

#### **RESOLVED**

### **22-117 Legal costs**

Councillor Farrington left the meeting at 9.08 pm. Cllr Leonard took over chairmanship of the meeting.

Following a discussion on the implications and possible precedents, it was **RESOLVED** that the Council would not make a contribution to legal costs.

The meeting was reopened to allow members of the public to hear the decision should they wish.

Meeting closed 9.28 pm.

**Chairman**

## Appendix A

### Correspondence list 31<sup>st</sup> October 2022 to 30<sup>th</sup> December 2022

This list is comprised of generic or informational emails sent by other organisations and Councils rather than listing correspondence with members of the public. A separate list of correspondence with members of the public or correspondence on specific matters with other bodies is not maintained.

1. Email: NCALC Friday mini eUpdate 04/11/22 (circulated to Councillors)
2. Email: Latest news from the ICO
3. Email: Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner Newsletter - November 2022 (circulated to Councillors)
4. Email: Reminder that the next meeting with the Commissioner, Chief Constable and Chief Fire Officer is on Monday 7th November
5. Email: Raunds Community Library (circulated to Councillors)
6. Email: NNC Update from the Leader of the Council #37 (circulated to Councillors)
7. Email: The Mayor's Family Carol Service (Raunds)
8. Email: NCALC Friday mini eUpdate - 11/11/22 (circulated to Councillors)
9. Email: Local Identified Policing Priorities (circulated to Councillors)
10. Email: N ACRE Parish Council Networking Event -'Cost of living support' (circulated to Councillors)
11. Email: NACRE Parish Council Members - November E-Bulletin (circulated to Councillors)
12. Email: NCALC Friday mini eUpdate - 18/11/22 (circulated to Councillors)
13. Email: Proposed New Conservation Area in Little Barford, Draft Conservation Area Appraisal and Management Plan consultation
14. Email: Bedford Borough Council Trees SPD and Greyfriars North SPD Consultations
15. Email: Integrated Care System, Integrated Care Northamptonshire (ICN) (circulated to Councillors)
16. Email: Office of Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner today launches Flare Report App
17. Email: Northants CALC eUpdate - Nov/Dec 2022 (circulated to Councillors)
18. Email: Strategic Town & Parish Forum - East Northants & Wellingborough (circulated to Councillors)
19. Email: Update from the Leader of the Council (circulated to Councillors)
20. Email: NNC The Local Area Partnerships (LAPs) (circulated to Councillors)
21. Email: NACRE Rural Thematic - join us and be part of our rural conversations (circulated to Councillors)
22. Email: Northants CALC Training Newsletter - December 2022 (circulated to Councillors)
23. Email: Consultation North Northamptonshire Gypsy and Traveller Site Allocations Policy Development Plan Document (DPD). (circulated to Councillors)
24. Email: NCALC Friday mini eUpdate - 02/12/22 (circulated to Councillors)
25. Email: North Northamptonshire Electoral Review - Community Briefing details (circulated to Councillors)
26. Email: Unity Trust Bank - December newsletter
27. Email: NACRE Development of Local Area Partnerships (LAP's) and APPG Rural Inquiry (circulated to Councillors)
28. Email: NACRE Parish Councillor Network meeting - 28th November 2022 (circulated to Councillors)
29. Email: NNC On-street Electric Vehicle Charging Points: Notification of Batch 5 Sites
30. Email: Raunds TC Burns Night
31. Email: Latest news from the ICO
32. Email: NCALC Friday mini eUpdate - 09/12/22 (circulated to Councillors)
33. Email: NNC Update from the Leader of the Council #37 (circulated to Councillors)
34. Email: Reminder - 6 Weekly Councillor update meeting with the Commissioner, Chief Constable and Chief Fire Officer (circulated to Councillors)

35. Email: Raunds library opening hours
  36. Email: Superfast Northamptonshire Newsletter - December 2022 (circulated to Councillors)
  37. Email: Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner's Council Tax Precept Consultation (circulated to Councillors)
  38. Email: NCALC NEW COURSE - Common Land
  39. Email: Raunds Community Library seasonal news & activities
  40. Email: NNC details of peer review of planning system (circulated to Councillors)
  41. Email: NCALC Friday mini eUpdate - 16/12/22 (circulated to Councillors)
  42. Email: Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner's December Newsletter (circulated to Councillors)
  43. Email: Town & Parish Council Information - New fund for sports clubs in Northamptonshire
  44. Email: Town & Parish Information - Locally Identified Priorities Link & Neighbourhood Alert leaflet
  45. Email: Christmas Greeting from Helen Howell (circulated to Councillors)
  46. Email: N ACRE Parish Council Members - December E-Bulletin (circulated to Councillors)
- End