

MINUTES OF THE PARISH MEETING HELD ON 2nd MARCH 2025 AT 4.00PM AT HUXLEY VILLAGE HALL

In attendance: 24 people

The Chairman, Cllr Sackett, welcomed everyone to the Parish Meeting and explained that one of the Parish Council's priorities was to monitor the condition of the Public Rights of Way, this had highlighted the Barn Owl boxes within the area. Following this the Broxton Barn Owls Group had been invited to present to the Parish Meeting.

Joe Cooper, Chairman of the Broxton Barn Owl Group presented to the group, reporting that Barn Owls are the most widely distributed owl species in the area and have been around for thousands of years, and they have been given the nickname "Ghost Owl" as they fly silently.

Barn Owls are best found around rough grasslands but following these being ploughed up for farm use and old trees being cut down, this has all impacted on the natural habitat for the Barn Owl putting the population at risk.

In 1992-4 it was recorded by the founder of the newly formed Broxton Barn Owl Group that there were only 6 breeding pairs of barn owls in Cheshire, moving forwards to today, they were pleased to report that following works undertaken by groups like the Broxton Barn Owl Group this is reported to have increased in 2022 to 167 breeding pairs. The Barn Owls biggest threats are weather, busy roads and pesticides.

The Broxton Barn Owl Group construct and install A-framed boxes for Barn Owls and monitor these boxes for the breeding of Barn Owls and also the ringing and measuring of Barn Owls, there are currently 500+ boxes in the area and this is due to the support that groups like the Broxton Barn Owl Group receive from residents and landowners to allow boxes to be put up and cover a large area from Ellesmere Port to Malpas and Kinnerton to Nantwich.

Following on from this presentation, Groups from Hargrave and Huxley were invited to report on current work they had undertaken over the last 12 months.

Happy Days

Bridget Sarstedt reported that Hargrave and Huxley Happy Days is an organisation that brings together the two villages to run events alongside raising money for charity, last year they donated £3,400. They have raised money by organising events such as:-

- Beacon bonfire
- Evening of canapé and carols
- Living advent

It was reported that their next event is a Womble Walk on 8th March, organised in conjunction with the Parish Council and everyone was encouraged to attend. It was due to start at 9am with a bacon butty and a drink following by a community litter pick. Following that on 15th March they had organised a Murder Mystery event if anyone wishes to attend, please book tickets.

Huxley Village Hall

Stephen Hyden reported on behalf of Huxley Village Hall that they currently have seven members to look after the hall with no annual funding, all maintenance is funded by themselves. The latest improvement being the sign kindly donated by the WI.

The Hall has been used better over the last two years, by the historical Group, film nights, Parish Council, WI and quiz night.

Outside bookings include quilting group, tap dancing and children's parties, a film crew recently hired the building for a day, and they receive a few independent bookings.

The members are currently looking to raise money to improve the loft insulation.

Stephen Hyden reported that the last film night is in May, the day after VE day and therefore it has been suggested that a BBQ followed by a film may be organised.

Hargrave Church Hall

Edward Thornton-Firkin reported on behalf of the Hargrave Church Hall this building was run as part of the Parochial Church Council and is owned by the Sir Thomas Moulson Trust, the building is utilised by local community groups and is always looking for donations and funding to support it.

Sir Thomas Moulston Trust

Neil Robinson, Chairman of Moulson Trust reported that Thomas Moulson set up trust following the building of the School and Church in Hargrave, the first trustees were relatives of Thomas Moulson and two trusts were set up in 1638. Later these were combined in 1981 and currently have up to 9 trustees.

The Trust has several head of assets, land, investment portfolio, Schoolhouse and buildings. 1/3 share of income goes to the Vicar, 1/3 to Parochial Church Council, 1/3 goes to promoting education of those under 25 that are residents of Foulk Stapleford.

It was reported that repairs to Church Hall continue, the Trustees manage the organising of the building's certificates and annual maintenance needs.

Hargrave and Huxley Bowling Club

Fiona Halton reported on behalf of Hargrave and Huxley Bowling Club, that the bowling club was first started following land being leased from the Moulson Trust, it is located opposite the Church, behind the graveyard, it started in 1984, it was not finished until 1985 and it still has four original members.

This year it will have been established for 40 years. The league plays on a Monday evening and Tuesday afternoon, two teams play on a Tuesday (A and B Teams) and the club practices on a Saturday afternoon. There is a club competition that runs throughout the year and new members are always welcome.

This year they are looking to upgrade the kitchen area and have bought new seats. Their AGM is due to take place on Tuesday 4th March.

Huxley Primary School provided a written report that was also published in Down our Way:-

School is at full capacity with 49 on roll and a waiting list of 27 children.

Although notification of offers for Reception 2025 intake does not take place until 16th April, we have had an exceptional response to Reception applications this year and we are already taking enquiries for next year's cohort visits.

As you know parental partnership is extremely important to schools. However, this is even more pertinent to the offer of flexi schooling at Huxley, whereby the parents/carers are joint educators. We hold regular parent sessions

as per our 'Come Be' programme.

This term we have had many parent partnership visits. All classes have had Come Dine with Me sessions- this is a great opportunity for parents to see the wonderful meals our cook, Christine, prepares on site. We have also had a Come Learn with me session for Acorns which was Science based. In addition to this we have had our Come Worship with us this term, delivered by Rev. Laura 'Come Be' sessions are held every half term.

We have had lots of outdoor fun with our Orienteering Launch Day (we had an orienteering course fitted in Autumn term) and the children have enjoyed exploring the endless courses we now have around site.

We have gained a Gold standard in our Health and Safety audit and 5 star food hygiene rating.

We welcomed our new governors for a Spring term Learning Walk. It was lovely to welcome them into school and for them to spend time in classes, talking to the children and sharing in their learning. We also discussed all elements of school development, school curriculum and future planning/strategy.

At the end of this term we had our Huxley's Got Talent competition. It is a wonderful opportunity to showcase the unique talents of our children from Capoeira to singers, pianists to boulderers- we had them all! A huge thank you to our judges- Mel Ratledge (volunteer at school), Julie Chilton (our retired Oaks class teacher) and Lisa Fielding (Trust appointed Governor) who fully embraced their roles and even donned glitter wigs for the occasion! Our first-place winner was a wonderful pupil who is self-taught on the piano by watching online video's and memorising the notes- it was exceptional to watch and also highlighted the exceptional talent of the pupils at Huxley CE Primary school.

Meeting was closed at 5.10pm