

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 6th SEPTEMBER 2026 AT 5.00PM AT HARGRAVE VILLAGE HALL

In Attendance: Cllr F Halton

Cllr M Pilkington

Cllr R Jones

Cllr S Ratledge

Cllr L Sackett

Cllr S Martin

Cllr C Nicholls (Chairman)

Cllr C Warburton

Clerk: Mrs T Ryall-Harvey

Members of the Public: 0

APOLOGIES: Apologies were received from Cllr R Bird and Cllr M Jones due to previous commitments.

DECLARATION OF DISCLOSABLE INTERESTS – Nothing declared

PUBLIC SESSION – no public in attendance.

MINUTES

RESOLVED 26/025 that the Chairman signs, as a true and correct record, the minutes of the meeting held on 5th July 2026 proposed by Cllr R Jones and seconded by Cllr C Warburton and unanimously agreed.

ACTIONS FROM MINUTES (*not otherwise on the agenda*)

Still outstanding: -

- Quote obtained for the painting of the telephone box – Cllr Pilkington had received a quote to repaint it, Parish Councillors considered it to be expensive and debated how often it is used.
ACTION: Ask a question in Down our Way if residents felt the phone box was being used and was an asset to Hargrave.
ACTION: Cllr Pilkington to ask for a written quote from contractor and enquire if the quote includes striping down and treating the rust before painting.
ACTION: Also, Cllr Pilkington undertook to speak to the WI who use the telephone box as a library.
- Maintenance work on Millennium Gardens to be organised – **ACTION:** Cllr Pilkington to obtain quotes. Cllr Nicholas to speak to the Vicar to see who maintains the Churchyard.
ACTION: It was agreed to go ahead with weed killing on the Huxley footpath and arrange for it to be brushed.
Thank you to Mr and Mrs O De Braekeleer for stimming the long grass from around the village gates.

Completed since the last meeting:-

- Get update from Tattenhall PC on the towpath.
- Find out if there is a SharePoint for Parish Councillors available on the website.
- A2 Parish Footpath maps had been printed, laminated and put up in the bus shelter, at Huxley Village Hall and they were a set available to be displayed in Hargrave Village Hall if the committee allowed.
- End of grant forms completed by Happy Days and money returned from Hargrave PCC.

BUSINESS AND CORRESPONDENCE

Public Right of Ways – Cllr Pilkington reported three new kissing gates, and a wooden bridge and gate have now been installed on T-junction FP3 and FP2 beside Southley Brook, creating a good footpath link between Hargrave and Huxley.

Cllr Nicholls reported that it would be the 400 year anniversary of Moulson Trust next year and the Trustees are looking to organise a commemorative walk from Hargrave to Tarvin taking the footpath Sir Thomas Moulson took, it had been scheduled for September this year but concern was raised about a number of stiles and bridges that required repair and had been reported to CWaC, the walk will now take place next spring. The Clerk undertook to check with the PROW if these could be scheduled for repair prior to the commemorative walk. Also, a question was raised if the footpath could be named the Moulson Way Footpath.

ACTION: Cllr Nicholls to send over a route for Clerk to forward to PROW Officer.

Cllr Nicholls will try to speak to Mr Studley of Green Farm about giving permission to access his land so a stile can be replaced with kissing gate on FP2

Highways -Cllr Sackett reported that CWaC had confirmed that they were planning to resurface Church Lane, Huxley during October school half term, with the works commencing on 26 October 2026. The Parish Council welcomed this. They were hoping that United Utilities would have completed their repair work prior to the school ½ term and Cllr Mike Jones endorsed this.

Speeding in Huxley – Cllr Ratledge confirmed that the SID machine had been relocated to Huxley Lane opposite The Inn at Huxley. He had downloaded the information and shared with the Parish Council, 60% of drivers were driving around the 20/25m/h outside Huxley primary School, Cllr Ratledge also noted that approximately 14,000 vehicles a month were noted to have travelled on the road during the roadworks whilst that United Utilities had undertaken in comparison to the same time last year with no roadworks at 17,000 per month. Similarly on Huxley Lane 20,000 per month whereas same time last year it was 26,000 vehicles per month – therefore there has been a reduction in traffic during the roadworks,

ACTION: Share speeding information with PCSO and put on website.

ACTION: Speak to Andy Jones to see if the SID could be approved by the BT pole on Hoofield Lane within the 40mph limit.

ACTION: Clerk to chase highways regarding cutting back the hedge on Long Lane.

The Clerk confirmed that she had requested the possibility of a weight limit on roads around Huxley be implemented to reduce the number of HGV's driving through the village. Cheshire West and Chester had reported that restricting HGV's might not be the correct course of action to tackle the concerns. However, for an environmental 7.5 tonne weight limit to be suitable, CWaC would require evidence that more than 13% of vehicles utilising the route are HGVs. This would prove that the route is being used a cut through. It's worth noting that the restriction would not remove HGV's utilising the route for access purposes.

ACTION: Can we get a quote for vehicle count on Huxley Lane from highways?

United Utilities – Cllr Sackett reported upon the most recent update from United Utilities last Friday, they have confirmed that they are coming back to undertake further repairs, but they still have no date for this work, and traffic management and litter-picking was still evident. There needs to be a grid and valve outside Brackenfield also. The officer at UU reported to Cllr Sackett that she thought that the traffic management and litter had been removed and undertook to send someone out to complete.

As previously communicated, there are two remaining sections of the scheme. The current position is as follows:

1. Old Hall Lane & Cows Lane - These works have been rescheduled as the required permits and approvals were not in place within the original timeframe. Subject to the necessary approvals being received, a road closure is now anticipated from 16 September for approximately three weeks.

2. Whitchurch Road - These works have also been rescheduled due to other works taking place nearby, with Whitchurch Road currently being used as a diversion route. Cheshire West and Chester Council requested that our works commence from 2 September, subject to the necessary permits being approved.

There is also a small section of work remaining at the junction of Red Lane/Huxley Lane. United Utilities were currently awaiting road closure approval from Cheshire West and Chester Council before this issue can be addressed.

Asset Maintenance - covered under action from last meeting.

Maintenance –

Weed Control along Huxley Lane – covered under action from last meeting.

Millennium Gardens - covered under action from last meeting.

Local Plan Scoping Consultation – information was circulated relating to the proposed launch of the scoping consultation being prepared by Cheshire West and Chester in relation to their Local Plan. The consultation would run from 7th – 28th September and it was agreed that the Neighbourhood Plan Working Group should review this consultation, draft a response and circulate it around the Parish Council for agreement prior to being submitted.

The Parish Council sought clarification about indicative housing figures for Hargrave and Huxley and the Clerk confirmed that Cheshire West and Chester Council have confirmed - they are currently only able to provide indicative housing figures for those settlements that are identified as Key Service Centres or Local Service Centres within the Local Plan.

ACTION: Neighbourhood Working Group to get together and put a plan together.

Peak Cluster – Cllr Sackett confirmed that she had spoken with a resident, who confirmed that they had a one-to-one meeting with Peak Cluster. The resident raised concerns about their house being located too close to the pipeline and the pipe should be rerouted. The resident believes they will receive an update in November.

Cllr M Jones submitted a written report regarding Peak Cluster and confirmed that all parties (except Reform) supported the all-party motion to council **objecting** to the pipeline proposal. However, if Government impose it, a set of requirements have been asked for to protect residents and the environment. Aphra Brandreth MP has also held public meetings and raised the matter in the HoC

Other Correspondence – nothing raised.

PLANNING

The Planning Register dated 26/08/2026 was accepted and changes to the planning register from last meeting were noted.

It was noted that the following consultation had been received into the Parish Council since the last meeting: -

- 26/01752/FUL – Heath House, Hatton Hall Lane, Hatton, Chester CH3 9AP – Single Storey extension and dormer windows to replace rooflights – the Parish Council had submitted **no objections** to this planning consultation.

It was noted that the following consultation had received a determination from Cheshire West and Chester Council since the last meeting:-

- 25/03423/LDC – Lower Farm, Huxley Lane, Huxley, Chester CH3 9BG – Lawful development certificate to establish the use of land as garden land in connection with associated residential properties - **approved**.
- 26/01347/FUL – Kisdon House, Hatton Hall Lane, Hatton, Chester CH3 9AP – Removal of existing conservatory, erection of rear extension and extension to existing front porch, addition of solar panels, alterations to elevations including re-rendering property and alterations and replacement of windows – **approved**.

FINANCIAL ITEMS

Cashbook and Out-turn Forecast YTD

RESOLVED 26/026 Year to date cashbook and out-turn report dated 26/08/2026 was approved as a true and correct record.

Bank Reconciliation against Cashbook YTD – **RESOLVED 26/027** – that Cllr C Warburton signed the Bank Reconciliation and Bank Statements.

Payments for approval: -

RESOLVED 26/028 to accept list below of income received and payments made or due to be made since the last meeting for approval.

Income received since the last meeting for approval

Date	Payable to	Gross Amount	Comment
09/07/2026	Bank Interest	£12.29	Monthly Bank Interest
10/08/2026	Bank Interest	£11.15	Monthly Bank Interest
10/07/2026	Hargrave and Huxley Happy Days	£66.00	Refund of Grant Monies not spent
07/07/2026	Hargrave PCC St Peters Church	£420.00	Return of Grant Monies

Payments made since the last meeting for approval

Date	Payable to	Net Amount	VAT	Gross Amount	Comment
17/08/2026	www.A1 Posters.co.uk	£120.00	£24.00	£144.00	A2 Posters of Footpaths
18/08/2026	Service Charge	£4.25	£0.00	£4.25	Bank Charges
24/08/2026	Defib World	£61.99	£11.20	£73.19	Defib Pads for Hargrave
27/07/2026	Mrs T Ryall-Harvey	£358.04	£0.00	£358.04	Salary Tax Month 5

Payments not yet made for approval

Payments	Net Amount	VAT	Gross Amount	Comment
Mrs T Ryall-Harvey	£414.72	£0.00	£414.72	Salary Tax Month 6
HMRC PAYE	£15.76	£0.00	£15.76	PAYE Month 6
Mrs T Ryall-Harvey	£157.10	£6.42	£163.52	Expenses

PARISH COUNCIL MATTERS

CIL Working Group – nothing further to update.

Neighbourhood Plan Working Group – nothing further to update

Action Plan 2026-27 – the Parish Council’s Action Plan for 2026-27 was circulated and discussed. Items for inclusions in the Action Plan for 2027-28.

ACTION: Clerk to update Action Plan for 2027-28 and circulate it around the Parish Council.

Local Council Pay Rise for 2026-27-26

It was reported that NALC has advised that the LGA has notified that they have come to an agreement on the new pay scales for 2026-27 to be implemented from 1 April 2026. Employers are encouraged to implement this pay award as swiftly as possible. It was therefore **RESOLVED 26/029** to the agreed new pay scales for 2026-27 and this be backdated to 1st April 2026.

Mileage Rates following the government’s recent mileage rate update it was **RESOLVED 26/030** to increase the mileage rate of staff by 10p per mile and should be backdated to April 2026.

Correspondence Address - following the recent information from NALC it was unanimously **RESOLVED 26/031** for the clerk to explore setting up of a PO Box Address for the Clerk if the costs can be shared between all Parish Council’s she works with.

Purchase of Daffodil Bulbs and Bluebells for Autumn

English Bluebells Bulbs – 250 bulbs £98.00 + Delivery

Daffodils – 2 x 20Kg £38.40 + VAT

It was therefore proposed by Cllr Sackett to purchase 2x sack of daffodils and 1 x 250 bluebell bulbs at a cost of £174.80 + VAT for this Autumn, seconded by Cllr Ratledge and unanimously **RESOLVED 26/032**.

Womble Walk – it was agreed that the next Womble Walk/Community Litter Picking Event and bulb planting should take place on 10th October.

ACTION: Clerk to Purchase 12 x litter-picking hoops.

DOWN OUR WAY – items for inclusion in the next issues of Down Our Way was sought.

- Next parish council meeting.
- Grant Application
- Residents question – where you want us to spend our money – Telephone Box
- 3 x new gates & bridges
- Litter-picking and bulb planting.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will take place on Sunday 1st November 2026 at Huxley Village Hall at 5.00pm.

The meeting closed at 18:36

Signed:.....

Dated:.....