

HARGRAVE AND HUXLEY PARISH COUNCIL

Annual Report April 2024 – March 2025

Contact detailsC/O Clerk to the Parish Council ... Trudy Ryall-Harvey

Parish Councillors as at March 2024

Roy Bird
Fiona Halton
Richard Jones
Stephen Martin
Carolyn Nichols
Mary Pilkington
Stephen Ratledge
Mike Roscoe
Lorraine Sackett (Chair)

Structure, Governance and Management

As per Parish Council (PC) Standing Orders

Governance

1. The Parish Council (PC) employs a Clerk who is also the Responsible Finance Officer.
2. All Parish Councillors identify in advance any pecuniary interests, outside body's involvement and family or personal interests they or their partners might have and sign a declaration of interest form when elected to the Council. In addition, each Parish Councillor is expected to abide by the Cheshire West and Chester's Code of Conduct and declare any other potential conflicts of interest with their PC duties at the start of each PC meeting.

Objectives

As per Standing Orders but in summary to represent and act to address the interests of the community and its local residents

Main Points of Note in 2024/25

1. The PC has nine Parish Councillor seats these have been filled for the whole of the year.
2. The parish of Hargrave and Huxley has approximately 200 households and 410 electors.
3. The Parish Council was consulted on 6 planning applications;
 - Four were given a Neutral ‘No objection’ response (i.e. no material impact as per the NP or general planning considerations)
 - Two were Objected too (i.e. adverse impact as per the NP),
 - Five Issues within the area were reported to Planning Enforcement
4. The PC continues to utilise its website to provide access to PC papers and distribute information of potential public interest.
5. The Parish Council purchased a Speed Indicator Device and utilises it most recently on Church Lane outside the Primary School.
6. The Parish Council purchased spring bulbs to plant around the Parish and donated some to the School for the children to plant.
7. The Parish Council received money from the Ward Councillor to purchase a replacement bench on Church Lane.
8. The Parish Council continue to work with the Public Rights of Way Officer from Cheshire West and Chester Council to improve the public rights of way through Foulk Stapleford, Hargrave and Huxley ensuring any damaged stiles or blocked footpaths are reported.
9. The Parish Council has met with the PCSO to highlight concerns they have about the speed of vehicles travelling along the rural roads, and have also raised concerns to the local MP, Ward Councillor and Police and Crime Commissioner.
10. The Parish Council have met with Cheshire West and Chester Highways Department about their ongoing concerns about the condition of the rural roads, blocked gullies, flooding, weeds along roadside and overgrown hedges and these are raised at regular quarterly meetings that the Parish Council have with the Highways Department.
11. The Parish Council has undertaken a resident survey to better understand the priorities the residents feel that Parish Council should be leading on for the next four years.
12. The Parish Council applied for and was awarded its bronze award from the National Association of Local Councils, achieving this award necessitates the Council to demonstrate that it possesses the necessary documentation and information to operate lawfully and in accordance with established practices. Furthermore, the council has policies in place for training Councillors and Officers, laying the groundwork for future improvement and development initiatives.

Financial Performance

The Parish Council’s Budget for 2024-25 was set at £9,499 with a Precept for the year of £6,057 which was 1% on previous years.

For 2024-25, the PC operating costs and projects have come in over budget due to the purchase of the Speed Indicator Device, however funds from the Community Infrastructure Levy money contributed towards this purchase.

The Precept for 2025-26 has been set at £6,360 which is a 4.7% increase on the previous year and a £1.07 increase on a Band D house for the year.

Council Attendance 2024-25

Hargrave and Huxley Parish Council held 6 Parish Council meetings between May 2024 and April 2025.

On average 7 Parish Councillors attended each council meeting.

CW&C Councillor Mike Jones attended none of the Council meetings having sent his apologies for the meetings due to other commitments.

The PCSO attended no Parish Council meetings, however she provided regular newsletters to the Parish Council with an update of issues arising in the area and attended an onsite meeting

Over the year Public Participation at the Parish Council meetings has ranged between 1 and 3 members of the public depending on the subject matter on the agenda. The Parish Council always welcomes members of the public to attend the Parish Council meeting and there is a maximum of 20 minutes set aside on the agenda for Public Participation at each meeting.

The Chairman wishes to pass on her thanks to all of the Parish Councillors who give their time and energy free of charge to assist in Parish Council matters.

This report is signed and dated following a meeting of the Parish Council where the report was approved by all present.

Signed on behalf of the Parish Council

Lorraine Sackett (Chairman)