

HARGRAVE AND HUXLEY PARISH COUNCIL

Annual Report April 2025 – March 2026

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

Parish Councillors as at March 2025

Roy Bird
Fiona Halton
Richard Jones
Stephen Martin
Carolyn Nicholls
Mary Pilkington
Stephen Ratledge
Catherine Warburton
Loraine 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 2025-26

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 8 planning applications;
 - Five 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),
 - One application was Supported
 - One issue within the area was 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 and in 2026 has transferred over to a new domain name HargraveHuxleyParishCouncil.gov.uk which is WCAG 2.2 accessible and GDPR compliant.
5. The Parish Council continues to use it's Speed Indicator Device on Church Lane outside the Primary School and Huxley Lane and sharing the data with Cheshire West and Chester Council and the Police Force.
6. The Parish Council purchased spring bulbs such as daffodils which were planted in Huxley and Hargrave.
7. 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, they have created a circulate loop in the Parish with kissing gates on Huxley FP6, FP5, FP19, FP4 and FP11.
8. This years Parish Meeting was held in March, at the meeting there was a presentation from the Canal River Trust followed by reports received from Happy Days, Moulson Trust, the Bowling Club Huxley Village Hall, St Peter's Church Hall on their activities for the year.
9. 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.

Financial Performance

The Parish Council's Budget for 2025-26 was set at £11,088 with a Precept for the year of £6,360 which was 4.7% on previous years.

For 2025-26, the PC operating costs and projects have come in over budget due to the purchase of the a noticeboard for Hargrave, however funds from the Community Infrastructure Levy money contributed towards this purchase.

The Precept for 2026-27 has been set at £6,500. This equates to a band D charge of £23.70, a decrease of £0.19 on last year's £23.89.

Council Attendance 2025-26

Hargrave and Huxley Parish Council held 6 Parish Council meetings between May 2025 and April 2026.

On average 8 Parish Councillors attended each council meeting.

CW&C Councillor Mike Jones did not attend any of the Parish Council meeting due to the date of the meeting conflicting with his day off.

The PCSO attended no Parish Council meetings.

Over the year Public Participation at the Parish Council meetings has ranged between 0 and 18 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)