

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON 4th JANUARY 2026 AT 5.00PM AT HARGRAVE VILLAGE HALL

In Attendance: Cllr R Bird

Cllr R Jones

Cllr C Nicholls

Cllr M Pilkington

Cllr S Ratledge

Cllr L Sackett (Chair)

Cllr S Martin

Cllr C Warburton

Clerk: Mrs T Ryall-Harvey

Members of the Public: 3

It was reported that Jeremy Marks had passed away in December, his funeral is on Friday 9th January 2026 it was reported that he had been a Parish Councillor for Huxley for many years, the Parish Council asked for their condolences to be minuted.

APOLOGIES: Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr F Halton due to other commitments and Cllr Mike Jones (Ward Councillor) due to family commitments.

DECLARATION OF DISCLOSABLE INTERESTS – Cllr Martin declared a Pecuniary Interest in Planning Consultation 25/03426/S73 – Lower Farm due to being the owner of the properties and undertook to leave the meeting should this application be discussed.

Cllr Sackett declared a non-pecuniary interest in Planning Consultation 25/03426/S73 – Lower Farm due to neighbouring the property and undertook not to vote on any discussion.

MINUTES

RESOLVED 25/042 that the Chairman signs, as a true and correct record, the minutes of the meeting held on 2ND November 2025 proposed by Cllr Nicholls and seconded by Cllr Pilkington subject to the following changes:-

Page 190 – first paragraph – the word not to be added to the sentence – however, the currently owner is not looking after the land/hedges as well.

Page 191 – Speeding in Huxley – change the word at to under so the sentence would read:- 50% of people were driving under 30mph

ACTIONS (*not otherwise on the agenda*)

Running Race – it was reported that CWaC had approved the closing of the road on 19th July 2026 for the Running Race.

It was reported that Hoofield Lane had recently been closed and gullies had been cleared.

ACTION: Clerk was asked to follow this up with Highways to see if the works had been completed.

Asset Maintenance – It was reported that since the last meeting Cllr Martin had circulated an Asset Maintenance report and highlighted the following actions that needed consideration:-

- Huxley Village Sign - Comments: The hand-painted infills in the panels are weathering and fading. Small amounts of paint are flaking off the post.
- Wooden Carving in Churchyard (Huxley) - Comments: The wood is weathered but remains solid. No finish has been applied, likely due to the type of wood used, which remains unidentified. Possibly apply a clear penetrative

- Wooden Bus Shelters (Hargrave) - Comments: The shelter is in solid condition; however, there is a small amount of wood rot at the base of the front posts. After the recent application of fence treatment, the finish has flaked off in a few places. Apply wood rot treatment to front posts and touch in fence treatment.
- Phone Box (Hargrave) - Condition: Poor - Comments: The paint is peeling off extensively, and rust is present on several parts. Ivy is growing up the rear of the box. As it stands, the phone box will continue to deteriorate if not addressed. Remedial – remove the ivy, strip the paint back to bare metal in places, apply rust treatment, and then repaint properly. This process will require both time and funds.
- Wooden Carving (Hargrave) - Comments: The wood is weathered but remains solid. It has previously had fence treatment applied, which is now coming off. Possibly apply a clear, penetrating wood preserve treatment to enhance durability and appearance.
- Beacon (Hargrave)- Comments: Sand off rust and paint with high temperature paint

ACTION: Cllr Pilkington to seek quote to paint the Phone Box.

ACTION: Bring to next meeting for further discussion.

ACTION: Put Womble Walk (Community Litter Picking) on the Agenda for the next meeting and discuss if a volunteer day could be run in conjunction with the Womble Walk.

3 residents joined the meeting.

PUBLIC SESSION

Three residents attended the meeting to discuss their comments on the planning application 25/02683/FUL Brick Kiln Farm, Red Lane, Huxley CH3 9BZ. The response submitted by residents had been circulated around the Parish Councillors prior to the meeting, however Parish Councillors had not all had the time to read the 77 page document. The residents sought assistance/advice from the Parish Council on how they could go about liaising with the Environment Agency. The residents also encouraged the Parish Councillors, once they had reviewed the document to consider if the Parish Council wishes to amend their submission to Cheshire West and Chester Planning Department as after discussing with the case officer at the planning dept., an extension for submission of comments is extended to 31st January.

BUSINESS AND CORRESPONDENCE

Public Right of Ways – It was reported that the PROW officer had received confirmation that the grant application to replace all stiles for kissing gates on a circulate route she had identified in Huxley and applied for funding to Peaks and Northern Footpaths had been successful. The 11 gates had been ordered and received by the Parish Council, PJ Hellmers had been commissioned by the Parish Council to install them in February.

Cllr Pilkington confirmed that no further work had been undertaken on stiles in Greenlooms, and the Clerk was asked to chase with PROW Officer. Also it was noted the FP3 still requires work to broken stiles.

ACTION: Clerk to request a meeting with PROW to walk FP3 between Huxley and Hargrave.

ACTION: Clerk to Send Messrs Newport and Briscoe contacts to PJ Hellmers.

Highways – It was reported that Cllr Sackett had reported a number of potholes to CWaC since the last meeting. These had been assessed and those requiring works had been added to the list for Colas to undertake.

It was reported that there had been a road traffic accident outside the Inn at Huxley on 23rd December –

ACTION: Clerk to contact the PCSO to find out the cause of the accident.

Speeding in Huxley – Cllr Ratledge distributed the up to date report, about 50% travelling under the 30 miles per

hour with 93% not travelling at 20mph.

ACTION: Parish Councillor's to report to Residents Voice to ask for the PCSO to undertake speed monitoring in the area.

ACTION: Clerk to check with Highways when they will be undertaking further monitoring of the area between 20mph and 40mph.

ACTION: Clerk to forward the up-to-date data to Highways.

ACTION: Cllr Sackett to move the SID to opposite the Inn at Huxley.

United Utilities – It was reported that following the last meeting, the Clerk had written to Clotton Hoofield Parish Council and Tattenhall Parish Council to seek their support in writing to the MP regarding this issue, Tattenhall Parish Council have confirmed that they do not seem to be experiencing the same issues as Hargrave and Huxley Parish Council as their issues seem to be around sewerage and drains however wondered if a joint meeting could be organised to identify common issues and then request a joint meeting with the MP.

The Clerk had also written to the MP and the following response had been received:-

Thank you for your email. I completely understand the frustration this situation is causing for residents in Hargrave and Huxley. I will contact United Utilities directly to raise these concerns and seek clarity on their plans and timescales for improvements. I will keep you updated on any response I receive.

It was reported that residents of Huxley Lane had received a letter from United Utilities and work was commencing for around six weeks from 5th January by United Utilities to make improvements to the pipes in the area.

Cllr Sackett reported that Happy Days had received compensation from United Utilities of £2,000 They felt that this money would benefit the whole of the community by donating to the Parish Council– it was agreed that this money would be accepted and earmarked for Community Grants. Parish Councillors thanked David Brayne for assisting in obtaining this money.

ACTION: Launch the community group grants scheme in the next Down our Way.

Millennium Gardens, Hargrave – Cllr Sackett reported that she and Cllr Pilkington met with the local resident Steve O'Brien from Hargrave who undertakes gardening jobs and had agreed to undertake maintenance work in the millennium gardens twice a year as per the job description supplied as well as trim around the telephone box in Hargrave and clear off the moss on the pavement. It was unanimously **RESOLVED 25/043** that Mr O'Brien be asked to undertake this work as per his agreed rate twice a year.

It had also been suggested that Mr O'Brien be asked to quote for the siding out of the pavement along Huxley Lane and weed killer 2 or 3 times a year. Strimming of the village gates in Huxley.

The Parish Council had received a quote of £1,600 to dig out the grass that is overgrown the pavement and put waste under the hedge.

It was proposed by Cllr Bird and seconded by Cllr Martin and unanimously **RESOLVED 25/044** that a small trial area be approved for Mr O'Brien to undertake

ACTION: Clerk to report the overgrown hedge outside the Old Post Office in Hargrave.

Peak Cluster – Cllr Sackett reported on a pipeline route be proposed by Peak Cluster to capture CO2 emissions from cement and lime production at plants in Derbyshire and Staffordshire. The captured CO2 will then be transported via a secure underground pipeline to a permanent storage site deep beneath the East Irish Sea, under rock formations (known as caprock), that act as a natural seal and trap the captured CO2. The stores have held natural gas for millions of years.

ACTION: Obtain more information from the Peak Cluster updates so that these can be shared with residents.

ACTION: Ask Peak Cluster to come and speak at the Parish Meeting in March.

Other Correspondence – nothing further raised.

PLANNING

The Planning Register dated 15/12/2025 was accepted and changes to the planning register from last meeting were noted.

It was noted that the following application had been determined by the Local Authority since the last meeting:-

- 24/03726/FUL - Hargrave Hall Church Lane Hargrave Chester CH3 7RH - Erection of a storage building and construction of ménage – **approved**.

It was noted that the following consultation received since the last meeting:-

Cllr Martin left the 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. The Parish Council considered this application and agreed **no objection** be submitted.

Cllr Martin returned to the meeting.

- 24/03261/FUL - Land At Guy Lane Foulk Stapleford Chester Cheshire - Change of use of land for dog walking/training, hardstanding for parking with turning area and new access.

ACTION: Parish Councillors to review this application and circulate any comments they may have as soon as possible (latest 9th January) as the closing date for responses was 1st January 2026.

FINANCIAL ITEMS

Cashbook and Out-turn Forecast YTD

RESOLVED 25/045 Year to date cashbook and out-turn report dated 15/12/2025 was approved as a true and correct record.

Bank Reconciliation against Cashbook YTD – **RESOLVED 25/046** – that Cllr R Jones signed the Bank Reconciliation and Bank Statements.

1 resident left the meeting.

To seek approval of the budget for 2026-27.

It was **RESOLVED 25/047** that the budget for 2026-27 would be set at £13,605 as set-out below, proposed by Cllr Martin seconded by Cllr Nicholls and unanimously agreed.

Budget Element	Budget 2026-27		
EXPENDITURE			
<u>People</u>			
Clerk & HMRC	4,417		
<u>Professional service</u>			
Insurance	475		
Internal Audit	60		
Payroll Services	230		
<u>General Services</u>			
Admin/Website	186		
Bank Charges	51		
Room Hire	164		
<u>Admin & Expenses</u>			
Expenses	330		
Chairman's Allowance	50		
Training	190		
CHALC Membership	166		
SLCC Membership	50		
Other Membership	8		
Data Protection fee	47		
Elections			
<u>Projects</u>			
Defibrillator	60		
Community Clean-up	45		
Street Furniture Maintenance	150		
Maintenance of Millenium Garden - Hargrave	120		
British Legion Wreath	100		
Community Grants	500		
Ad Hoc Beneficial items (\$137)	100		
		<u>CIL Expenses</u>	
		Maintenance of Kerblin and Footpath Huxley	2,000
		Other projects	500
		Bulb Planting	250
		Public Right of Way Upgrades	2,950
		<u>Inflation %</u>	226
		<u>Contingency % of above</u>	135
		TOTAL CASH OUT	13,605
		<u>RECEIPTS</u>	
		Precept	6,500
		Bank Interest	190
		VAT recovery	635
		Earmarked money	500
		Money taken from Reserves	5,700
		Other	80
		TOTAL INCOME	13,605

To agree the Precept level to be set for 2026-27 - it was proposed by Cllr Jones seconded by Cllr Nicholls and the Parish Council unanimously **RESOLVED 25/048** to request a Band D precept Charge for **2026-27** of **£23.70** which and a precept request of £6,500.

ACTION: It was also agreed that for budget planning for 2027-28 a working group be arranged for December 2026 to review the detailed budget in preparation for agreeing the precept at the January 2027 meeting.

Churchyard Grant Application it was **RESOLVED 25/049** to submit a Churchyard Grant Application on behalf of St Peter's Church, Hargrave for the amount £2,100 to cover the cost of grounds maintenance at the closed churchyard.

Payments for approval:-

RESOLVED 25/050 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
10/11/2025	Bank Interest	£12.48	Monthly Bank Interest
09/12/2025	Bank Interest	£11.32	Monthly Bank Interest

Payments made since the last meeting for approval

Date	Payable to	Net Amount	VAT	Gross Amount	Comment
11/11/2025	Royal British Legion	£76.67	£3.33	£80.00	Poppy Wreaths for Remembrance Sunday
20/11/2025	Service Charge	£4.25	£0.00	£4.25	Bank Charges
03/12/2025	Mrs T Ryall-Harvey	£355.91	£0.00	£355.91	Salary Tax month 9
29/12/2025	HMRC PAYE	£19.20	£0.00	£19.20	PAYE Payment for Q3
20/12/2025	Service Charge	£4.25	£0.00	£4.25	Bank Charges

Payments not yet made for approval

Payable to	Net Amount	VAT	Gross Amount	Comment
Mrs T Ryall-Harvey	£343.31	£0.00	£343.31	Salary Tax Month 10
Mrs T Ryall-Harvey	£67.50	£0.00	£67.50	Expenses
TEEC	£156.00	£31.20	£187.20	Hosting of website for hargravehuxleyparishcouncil.gov.uk
O'Brien Garden Services	£50.00	£0.00	£50.00	Tidying of Millennium Garden, and strim around Phone Box and clean footpath in Hargrave of Moss.

PARISH COUNCIL MATTERS

Update on Parish Council gov.uk website. – The Clerk reported that HargraveHuxleyParishCouncil.gov.uk had been registered as the new domain name and the Clerk was working on transferring all information over to the new site.

The Clerk asked for any photographs could be forwarded for the use on the website.

ACTION: All Parish Councillors were reminded to provide their portfolio information to including on the website as agreed at a previous meeting.

ACTION: Cllr Nicholls undertook to seek approval for the use of photographs and information held by the historic group and provide this to the clerk together with information and pictures from the Neighbourhood Plan.

Training needs for the Parish Council for 2026 - the training schedule from CHALC was circulated and the Parish Councillors were asked to consider if there was anything they wishes to attend in 2026.

Clerk's Training Needs - The Clerk confirmed that she had not yet identified training for 2026 and undertook to bring a schedule to a future meeting.

Parish Meeting.

The Clerk reported that the Parish Council had a statutory requirement to hold a Parish Meeting and the annual Parish Meeting needs to take place between 1st March and 1st June every year.

The Parish Meeting is the opportunity for residents and local community groups to get together and report on things that have happened in the village in the last 12 months and raise the profile of the organisation between each organisation.

It was suggested that the Peak Cluster be invited to come and speak and the meeting should take place on 1st March 2026 at 4.00pm prior to the Parish Council Meeting in Huxley Village Hall.

ACTION: Clerk to ask the Peak Cluster Company to see if they would like to come to speak

Working Group Meetings

CIL Working Group – nothing further to update since the last meeting.

Neighbourhood Plan Working Group - nothing further to update since the last meeting.

ACTION: Clerk to find out if CIL money will support the creation of Design Code.

1 resident left the meeting.

Cllr Bird left the meeting.

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

- Grant Application – further details to be provided.
Applications in for end of April
Date of next meeting- Parish meeting Sunday 1st March 4pm
Litter picking date to be arranged

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be the Parish Council Meeting and will take place on Sunday 1st March 2026 at Huxley Village Hall immediately after the Parish Meeting.

The meeting closed at 19:09

Signed:.....

Dated:.....