

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 5th JULY 2026 AT 7.00PM AT HUXLEY VILLAGE HALL

In Attendance: Cllr R Bird

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: 5

Cllr Nicholls opened the meeting and welcomed everyone.

APOLOGIES: Apologies were received from Cllr M Jones (Ward Councillor) due to previous commitment.

DECLARATION OF DISCLOSABLE INTERESTS – Nothing declared

PUBLIC SESSION –

A resident provided an update regarding their objection to the Brick Kiln Farm planning application for the erection of a free-range egg production unit and associated infrastructure. The group of residents had understood from Cllr Jones, Ward Councillor that CWaC were minded to approve the application without Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) screening and therefore they sought legal representation which they then shared with CWaC suggesting that the decision that CWaC had made on not requiring EIA screening was not justified.

The group of residents asked the Parish Council to review this guidance and sought their support in requesting CWaC perform the EIA screening or justify why they consider it not to be necessary.

ACTION: The Parish undertook to review the report and submit a response to Cheshire West and Chester Planning if they thought appropriate.

A resident asked for the Parish Council to support their opposition to the proposed Peak Cluster pipeline that is currently planned to cross their land. The proposed route is going through their paddock near to their wildlife pond, it will run between 30 to 50 meters to their house, and the recommended 'safe distance' they had received was 100 meters from residents. This is shown on the proposed pipeline route as the only pinch point. The residents had concerns about the damage to the natural environment, disruption to the village and potential reduction of house prices due to this pipeline.

The Parish Council confirmed that they will look for opportunity to submit representation when the next consultation process opened.

3 residents left the meeting.

MINUTES

RESOLVED 26/016 that the Chairman signs, as a true and correct record, the minutes of the meeting held on 10th May 2026 proposed by Cllr R Jones and seconded by Cllr Bird and unanimously agreed.

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

Still outstanding:-

- Quote obtained for the painting of the telephone box.
- Maintenance work on Millennium Gardens organised – **ACTION:** Cllr Pilkington to visit Mr O'Brien to instruct him in the work that needs to be undertaken.

Completed since the last meeting:-

- Purchase of Bench for Hargrave Millennium Gardens.
- Submit Certificate of Exemption to PKF LittleJohn
- Post Audit Paperwork and Summary Report on website
- Publish Public Rights on Website for the period 3rd June to 14th July 2026.
- Review and circulate amended Planning Standing Orders for approval at July meeting.
- Publish Annual Report on Website.
- Schedule next meeting of CIL Working Group.

BUSINESS AND CORRESPONDENCE

Public Right of Ways – Cllr Pilkington reported upon a recent meeting with the PROW. She confirmed that 2 stiles on FP3 will be replaced by end of July with kissing gates by CWaC.

The broken stile at Brereton Park Farm was discussed at the meeting and it was suggested that a two in one gate could be installed – this would need reviewing as the gateway is a double gate.

Cllr Pilkington also confirmed that the stiles and bridge by Greenlooms Farm had now been replaced.

Cllr Pilkington reported that the restricted byway needs to be cleared and the PROW Officer was trying to contact the landowners either side of the restricted byway to ask if they could trim the hedges.

Cllr Pilkington reported that the bridge on circular route was due to be replaced. CWaC was also looking to install more way markers along the Eddisbury Way to clarify the route for walkers.

It was also suggested that the PROW Officer should prioritise replacement of stiles for Kissing Gates – on the footpath from Golden Nook Farm (Hatton FP15) towards Waverton and Footpath 8 and Footpath 14.

ACTION: Get an update from Tattenhall PC with regards to the towpath.

ACTION: Is there a SharePoint for Parish Councillors to access documents that we can set up on the website.

Highways -Cllr Sackett reported that she felt CWaC were not prioritising repairing potholes on Church Lane due to the ongoing working being undertaken by United Utilities. That CWaC have marked several potholes for filling but we were still awaiting this work to be carried out.

It was reported that there had now been two accidents on the corner of Red Lane within the last 12 months and the Parish Council asked if there was anything CWaC could do to improve this strip of road.

ACTION: Clerk to raise the Parish Council's concerns regarding the accidents on Red Lane with Cheshire West and Chester Highways.

Speeding in Huxley - nothing to report currently due to the road works on the Church Road.

ACTION: Move the SID to Huxley Lane over July and August.

Cllr Sackett reported that since the work being undertaken by United Utilities there have been a reduction in the number of lorries driving through the village, she raised this with Ward Councillor Mike Jones recently and he suggested asking CWaC about the potential of installed a weight restriction on the road to encourage the lorries to use a different route.

ACTION: It was suggested to speak to Highways to see if a weight reduction could be implemented in Huxley to encourage them to use a different route.

United Utilities – Cllr Sackett reported upon a recent meeting with Beeston Parish Council with regards to funding that they have received from United Utilities. It was agreed that Hargrave and Huxley Parish Council should liaise with Huxley Primary School and pull together a scheme of improvements in the area that they put forward to United Utilities for consideration. Items that were brought up at the meeting for consideration for inclusion, but not limited to, were:-

- Installation of kissing gates
- Installation of Belinda Bollards outside of Huxley Primary School - £2,991.28
- Public noticeboards for Huxley and Foulk Stapleford

ACTION: Arrange a meeting to review possible projects that we could apply to United Utilities for funding for.

Cllr Sackett also reported on a recent meeting with United Utilities, when they confirmed that the scheme has experienced delays due to difficulties locating a number of existing underground services required to transfer customers onto the new water main.

The current permit expired on 19 June; however, the traffic management and excavations currently remain in place while further investigations are undertaken. The team has been encountering difficulties locating several service connections that need to be identified before individual properties can be safely connected to the new main. In some locations, the underground pipework serving properties is proving difficult to locate, despite ongoing investigations.

United Utilities understood that residents will be frustrated by the continued presence of traffic management and excavations, particularly when there is not always visible activity at a specific location. However, the project remains active, with investigation work being undertaken across the scheme to identify underground services and property connections that are essential to the safe completion of the project.

Asset Maintenance

ACTION: Cllr Pilkington to chase the painter with regards quoting for the Telephone Box.

Maintenance –

Weed Control along Huxley Lane – Confirmation was sought if the Parish Council wished to undertake weed killing this year along Huxley Lane footpath to ensure the footpath is more useable – it was agreed that this would be considered once Mr O’Brien had been contacted to see if he was still willing to undertake the weed control treatment and siding out.

Millennium Gardens – covered earlier in the meeting.

Other Correspondence – nothing raised.

PLANNING

The Planning Register dated 22/06/2026 was accepted and changes to the planning register from last meeting were noted.

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

- 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 alteration and replacement of windows. The Parish Council had considered this application in line with their Planning Standing Orders and submitted *no objections*.

FINANCIAL ITEMS

Cashbook and Out-turn Forecast YTD

RESOLVED 26/017 Year to date cashbook and out-turn report dated 22/06/2026 was approved as a true and correct record.

Bank Reconciliation against Cashbook YTD – **RESOLVED 26/018** – that Cllr Pilkington signed the Bank Reconciliation and Bank Statements.

Payments for approval:-

RESOLVED 26/019 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
11/05/2026	Bank Interest	£12.29	Monthly Bank Interest
09/06/2026	Bank Interest	£11.15	Monthly Bank Interest
12/05/2026	Cheshire West and Chester Council	£451.00	Ward Members Grant for Bench for Hargrave

Payments made since the last meeting for approval

Date	Payable to	Net Amount	VAT	Gross Amount	Comment
13/05/2026	Hargrave PCC	£30.00	£0.00	£30.00	Room Hire
20/05/2026	Service Charge	£4.25	£0.00	£4.25	Bank Charges
19/06/2026	Service Charge	£4.25	£0.00	£4.25	Bank Charges
26/05/2026	MarMax Recycling	£415.00	£90.20	£505.20	Bench for Hargrave
25/05/2026	Mrs T Ryall-Harvey	£358.04	£0.00	£429.84	Salary Tax Month 3

Payments not yet made for approval

Payments	Net Amount	VAT	Gross Amount	Comment
Mrs T Ryall-Harvey	£358.04	£0.00	£358.04	Salary Tax Month 4
Mrs T Ryall-Harvey	£46.30	£0.00	£46.30	Expenses

PARISH COUNCIL MATTERS

Planning Standing Orders - Following the circulation of the revised Planning Standing Orders it was unanimously **RESOLVED 26/020** to adopted them.

Financial Regulations – The Clerk submitted for the Parish Council’s consideration the most up-to-date Financial Regulations following reviewing them and realising that the current version were dated 2024 and there is a newer 2025 version. Cllr R Jones highlighted to the meeting the changes in the Financial Regulations, in particular the Procurement Act 2023 and the need to obtain three quotes for any work over the value of £3,000 (excluding VAT). Following this, it was unanimously **RESOLVED 26/021** to adopt the revised version with immediate effect.

Debit Card for Clerk – it was unanimously **RESOLVED 26/022** that the Clerk should be issued with a Debit Card on the Parish Council’s behalf as per Financial Regulation 9.

CIL Working Group – The notes of the recent CIL Working Group were circulated and it was unanimously **RESOLVED 26/023** to adopt the recommendations set out before from the meeting:-

Recommendation : Parish Council consider seeking funding from United Utilities for specific projects.

Recommendation: That the Parish Council support the funding of the installation of kissing gates on Huxley FP8 and FP14 at a total approximate cost of £2,078.37

ACTION: It was agreed to redirect this funding to the three wooden stiles which should be replaced with kissing gates to provide a circular route for access for all on FP2 by Withy Cottage, Huxley.

Recommendation: that the Parish agree to print all three maps on A2 for putting in bus shelter in Hargrave and a set of three at each village halls, at a cost of £151.20 in total for the three sets.

English Bluebells Bulbs – 250 bulbs £68.00 + VAT

Daffodils – 20Kg £38.00 + VAT

Wild Garlic – 250 bulbs £68.00 + VAT

Recommendation: that the Parish Council agree what they would like to plant for 2026-27 and agree the purchase for delivery in September 2026 and continue to look to plant bulbs again in 2027-28.

ACTION it was agreed that the purchase of bluebell bulbs, wildflower seed and daffodils bulbs should be considered in September up to the value of £150.

Installation of 2 x Belinda Bollards it was agreed that this project should be submitted to United Utilities for potential funding and if it was rejected it should be reviewed again by the Parish Council.

Neighbourhood Plan Working Group – it was reported that an update on the Local Plan had been received. Cllr R Jones reported that CWaC may be encouraging Parish Council's to look to update their neighbourhood plans.

Cllr R Jones reported that the amended Tattenhall Neighbourhood Plan had been circulated for Parish Councillors to review.

Cllr R Jones felt that it would benefit the Parish Council to update their neighbourhood plan.

ACTION: Arrange working meeting of the Neighbourhood Plan Group.

Purchase of Poppy Wreath

The Clerk sought confirmation that the Parish Council wished to purchase a Poppy Wreath for Remembrance Sunday in November at a cost of £23.00. It was unanimously **RESOLVED 26/024** that the Parish Council would purchase a Poppy Wreath this year.

Parish Council Grants

Since the last meeting the Parish Council Grants had been paid out to:-

Friends of Huxley Primary School

Hargrave PCC

Hargrave and Huxley Happy Days.

Following this it was noted that Hargrave and Huxley Happy Days had organised their First Aid Training on 13th June 2026 and the successful delivery of this training by Help First Aid Training Ltd was recorded in the July edition of Down our Way. Cllr Martin believed that the cost of the event had come in under budget and therefore the Clerk undertook to liaise with Happy Days organisers to see if a refund was due.

ACTION: Clerk to contact Happy Days Organisers to ask them to complete an end of grant form.

It was reported that Hargrave PCC had raised concerns that the money they had received, may not be workable due to Hargrave PCC not being able to commit to pay the following year and therefore had asked the Parish Council if an alternative project could be provided for the Parish Council to consider if they would support in replacement of their initial application. The Parish Council considered this request as it was for maintenance but agreed that as the money was not being spent on the original intended purpose it should be returned to the Parish Council.

ACTION: Clerk to liaise with Hargrave PCC.

Parish Council Noticeboard – It was reported that the Clerk had concerns that not all information was being published on the noticeboard. It was therefore agreed that anything that was legally required to be published then the Clerk should ensure that this information is put on the noticeboard. Councillors would continue to publish the agenda on the noticeboards. The Clerk confirmed she now had a key for the Hargrave noticeboard. Cllr Warburton confirmed that currently Cllr Warburton, Cllr Pilkington, the Clerk and Edward Thornton-Firkin are all in possession of keys.

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

- Gardening advert.
- Next Parish Council meeting.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will take place on Sunday 6th September 2026 at Hargrave Village Hall at 5.00pm.

The meeting closed at 18:48

Signed:.....

Dated:.....