

Hargrave Parish Council

April 2026



Welcome to the newsletter from Hargrave Parish Council. Our aim is to share information from the Parish Council meetings regarding issues that have been agreed or are still under discussion. Everyone is always very welcome to attend the parish meetings, we have a public forum at the start of every meeting where you are able to comment on items on the agenda, or raise a matter regarding Hargrave in general. Mike Chester (District Councillor) and Bobby Bennett (County Councillor) also regularly attend the meetings and would welcome the opportunity to speak about any local concerns you may have. All previous meeting minutes can be found on the Hargrave website: www.hargravesuffolk-pc.gov.uk .

Hargrave Annual Parish Meeting

The Annual Parish Meeting will be held at the village hall on Tuesday May 12th at 7.30pm. It is an opportunity for parishioners to hear and discuss the annual reports presented by the local groups within the village.

Please note that this is not a parish council meeting. However, the next parish council meeting is to be held directly after the APM at 8pm. If you wish to share any comments or concerns with the Parish Council please remain for the public forum at the start of the council meeting.

Traffic Speeds

Traffic speeds continue to be monitored by the speed indication device (SID machine) which we share with Ousden. Whilst it displays the speed to drivers approaching, it records speeds in both directions, giving insight into how drivers behave after passing the SID machine.

A comprehensive report will be presented and discussed at the Parish Council meeting on May 12th, and, as usual, it will also be forwarded to the relevant authorities.

Village Play Area

Following the recent installation of a new swing seat on the junior swing set, it became apparent that the remaining swing was significantly worn. Thanks to grant funding from our local councillors we have ordered an additional seat to match the new one.

We are eager to hear suggestions (particularly from children) for any further improvements we can make to the play area.

Hargrave Heritage Website

Thanks to the huge effort from Paul Rogers, the new Hargrave Heritage website is live. Please do take the time to explore it: www.hargraveheritage.org.uk

Village Biodiversity

We are currently assessing how parish-owned land could be used for nature conservation. Later this year, we hope to share our proposals for tree planting and other habitat improvements for community feedback. We welcome any suggestions or ideas you may have.

Village Projects

Firstly, thank you so much to the volunteers who helped to collect 30 bags of rubbish from the verges and ditches of the roads approaching Hargrave. We hope to make this an annual spring event.

We are now looking for volunteers to help clean the road signs in and around the village. A bucket, a rag and some soapy hot water should do the trick. If you are able to help, please contact the clerk:

clerk@hargravesuffolk-pc.gov.uk

Recycling Bins

By now everyone should have received a green-lidded wheelie bin, an outdoor food waste bin and a smaller indoor kitchen caddy in preparation for the Better Recycling launch in June. If you are concerned you have been missed off the delivery schedule, please contact customer services (waste dept): 01284 757320 or email: customer.services@westsuffolk.gov.uk

More information on how the bins should be used and when they will be collected will be sent out before the new service commences.

Forest City

A proposal to construct a city on 45,000 acres of land between Newmarket and Haverhill has been submitted to Government for examination. The proposed outer ring road passes through Lidgate and Wickhambrook. To view the proposal in more detail: www.forestcity.uk/report

Devolution and Local Government Review in Suffolk

On 25th March 2026, the Government confirmed it would proceed with a three unitary model for Suffolk.

The three unitary councils will replace the current six councils and cover: Western Suffolk; Central and Eastern Suffolk; and Ipswich and Southern Suffolk. The new councils will come into operation in April 2028.

Your Parish Councillors

David Taylor (Chair)
Simon de Laat (VC)
Toby Bancroft
Sharon Mattheus

Nicky Calder (Clerk)
Sally Cansdale
Antonia King
David Williams

Dates of Future Meetings

May 12th 2026 (AGM & APM)
July 07th 2026
September 08th 2026
November 10th 2026

All meetings will take place in the village hall at 7.30pm unless otherwise stated on the agenda.