

STATEMENT TO THE CHARITY COMMISSION FROM HARGRAVE PARISH COUNCIL IN RESPECT OF  
HARGRAVE VILLAGE HALL CHARITABLE TRUST – CHARITY NUMBER 247718

This statement is being given in connection with the application by the current prospective managing trustees of the Hargrave Village Hall Charitable Trust (Simon de Laat, Roger Sudbury, Jill Upton and David Taylor) for the Charity Commission to ratify and confirm their appointment (Ref PM/C-131141). Hargrave Parish Council (the PC) confirms the following, to the best of the knowledge of the current members of the PC:

1. The PC was appointed as Custodian Trustee of the Charitable Trust by the Deed of Appointment dated 2<sup>nd</sup> February 1973. See the extract below

NOW THIS DEED WITNESSETH as follows:-  
1. THE Retiring Trustees in exercise of the power conferred on them by the Trustees Act 1925 and of every other power enabling them hereby appoint the Council to be the Custodian Trustee of the said Conveyance in the place of the Retiring Trustees  
2. THE Council by the execution on its behalf of these presents testifies its acceptance of the appointment

2. Although the PC was only appointed to act as Custodian Trustee, it seems there was a misunderstanding of the PC's role and that all those involved, acting in good faith, understood that the PC was being appointed to act as sole trustee.
3. The current Parish Councillors, whilst having no firsthand knowledge of the events of 1973, are aware, having researched the available documents, that the then Councillors sought advice from the equivalent of the Suffolk Association of Local Councils. The advice given was to establish a managing committee to manage the Village Hall, reporting to the PC and staffed by volunteers approved by the PC. This existed until April 2024 (i.e. until the Village Hall meeting voted to appoint the current prospective managing trustees).
4. The PC acknowledges that the confusion over the role of the PC and the interpretation of the 1973 Deed of Appointment has adversely affected the administration of the Charitable Trust.
5. The PC is content to continue to undertake a custodian role. It is also content for the managing trustee responsibilities to be performed by the prospective managing trustees but remains open to the Charity Commission's advice and direction and will cooperate if required.
6. The PC has no objection to the application to appoint the managing trustees named above.

Signed



Date

15.01.25

Colin Painter

Chair, on behalf of Hargrave Parish Council