

# Hargrave Parish Council

Summer 2026



Welcome to the latest 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.

If you would like to stay fully up to date with Parish Council business, please remember that everyone is warmly invited to attend our parish meetings. Each meeting begins with a public forum, giving you the opportunity to comment on agenda items or raise any matters relating to Hargrave in general. Mike Chester (District Councillor) and Rebecca Hopfensperger (County Councillor) also regularly attend the meetings and would welcome the opportunity to speak about any local concerns you may have.

Agendas are displayed on the noticeboard three clear days before a meeting and are available online.

Minutes from previous meetings can be found on the Hargrave website: [www.hargravesuffolk-pc.gov.uk](http://www.hargravesuffolk-pc.gov.uk).

Future meeting dates can be found at the end of this newsletter.

## **Election of a New Chair**

Antonia King was elected as the new chair to the council at the May AGM, following Dave Taylor's decision to step down from the role. We are enormously grateful that Dave will continue as a councillor and offer his insight and support to the parish.

## **HGV's and Lorries**

This remains one of the most frequent concerns raised with the Parish Council, and we want to reassure residents that we are doing everything possible to address the issue. We have recently been in contact with Depden to establish what measures they have explored and to consider if we can join forces to strength our efforts.

In the meantime we want to record the movement of lorries through the village and establish the offending contractors, the number plates and time of day they are coming through. If we can prove a pattern or that there is an unnecessary lorry traffic travelling through Hargrave we will have a more rounded argument to take directly to the offending contractors, Highways and Suffolk Police.

However, for us to collate this sort of data we are looking to form a volunteer lorry watch group. Volunteers would help record vehicle movements for 1-2 hours per day over a few weeks. The more people who come forward, the less onerous the task becomes. Please contact the clerk if you are able to donate some time to this important project.

## **Speeding and Dangerous Driving**

Whilst most drivers passing through the village are travelling within the speed limit, recent data shows that almost 10% are still exceeding 35mph. More worryingly, in June one vehicle was recorded at 95mph on the Bury Road speed indicator. All statistics are routinely shared with Suffolk Police, and the Speed Enforcement team are regularly seen in the village.

A recent report of dangerous driving was passed on to the council. When these incidents occur, the most effective action is to report them directly using the relevant tools. Road issues such as potholes, fallen trees or flooding should be logged via the - [www.suffolk.gov.uk/roads-and-transport/highway-maintenance/report-a-highways-issue](http://www.suffolk.gov.uk/roads-and-transport/highway-maintenance/report-a-highways-issue), while cases of speeding or dangerous driving should be submitted through the - [www.suffolk.police.uk/advice/advice-and-information/rs/road-safety/making-a-road-traffic-incident-report/](http://www.suffolk.police.uk/advice/advice-and-information/rs/road-safety/making-a-road-traffic-incident-report/). They are a fast and accurate way to ensure that the details and location are relayed. It also means that the person reporting the issue receives a log number and any subsequent response from either Highways or the Police.

### **Repurposed Highways Grant**

We have a small grant available to us that we need to make use of. While many potential projects remain cost prohibitive, we are in early conversations with Highways about introducing additional road markings to help improve safety—either highlighting pedestrian presence or reinforcing speed limits. Neighbouring villages that have taken similar steps report encouraging results, so we are hopeful that it will be a positive outcome for the village.

### **Footpaths**

Our thanks, as always, go to Richard Jozefowski for his tireless campaigning to Suffolk County Council on the condition of our footpaths. Thanks to his persistence, the heavily overgrown stretch between Barrow Hill and Hargrave Church has now been cut back and is once again fully walkable.

### **Village Play Area**

Following the latest play area inspection, the basketball hoop has had to be removed for safety reasons, and we are in the process of replacing it. We would still love to hear from children in the village about any new equipment or features they would like to see added to the play area.

### **Knowles Green New Wood**

During Covid the village safely came together to plant more than 400 trees at the bottom of Knowles Green. Six years on and they are growing well - many are over 3m tall. Some maintenance is now required, particularly weeding at the base of the trees. We are contacting the families who helped with the original planting, but if you would like to spend a sunny afternoon helping care for the Knowles Green woodland please let us know. [clerk@hargravesuffolk.pc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@hargravesuffolk.pc.gov.uk)

### **Sign Cleaning**

With the verges recently cut and the sun shining, we are still looking for volunteers to help clean the village signs. With over 70 to wash, we will need a team of at least 12 to make the task possible. If you are able to help please contact: [clerk@hargravesuffolk-pc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@hargravesuffolk-pc.gov.uk)

### **Your Parish Councillors**

Antonia King (Chair)  
Simon de Laat (VC)  
Toby Bancroft  
Dave Taylor

Nicky Calder (Clerk)  
Sally Cansdale  
Sharon Mattheus  
David Williams

### **Dates of Future Meetings**

September 08th 2026  
November 10th 2026

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