

What does Hargrave Parish Council do?

Welcome to Hargrave from the Parish Council

On the back page you will find a list of the current Parish Councillors; their term of office began in May 2007. They will serve for four years when there will be the opportunity for them and other eligible residents of the village, to put their names forward for the new election. They give their time to make sure that your views and concerns on all issues affecting the village, its environment and general well-being, are made known to the appropriate authority and that suitable action is taken whenever possible.

Another name which may prove of use to you is that of the Clerk to the Council. Ros Sheppard is a resident of the village and acts as part-time Clerk to the Council for which she receives a nominal salary. Amongst her many duties are keeping records of all PC meetings and financial matters, liaison with other councils and appropriate correspondence.

Any resident of the village is entitled to see the confirmed Minutes and audited Accounts of the Parish Council. These can be viewed at the home of the Clerk at a previously arranged time.

The public is also welcome to attend the six meetings of the Parish Council which take place each year in the Village Hall. They can listen to the Council's discussions and the Chairman will invite any members of the public present to air their views during an "Open Forum" session.

The agenda is published on the notice board outside the Village Hall during the week before the meeting, and the date of the next meeting is published in the "Grapevine", the bi-monthly magazine distributed to each house in the village by the combined churches of Stanwick and Hargrave. Also in that magazine you will find a report on subjects discussed at the previous meeting.

The Council is responsible for setting the Precept, the amount of money required from the Council Tax for it to carry out its responsibilities. The Council owns the streetlights and pays for the electricity they use and for their maintenance. It makes a donation each year to help with the expenses of publishing the "Grapevine".

The Council has, in the past, sponsored village Youth Forum meetings and it is hoped that these, or something similar can be organised again in the future.

The Council is a trustee of the Village Hall (Charity No. 1039841). It recommends the appointment of a Footpath Warden and advises landowners and the Rights of Way Department of Northamptonshire County Council of any problems requiring their attention.

Parish Council liaises with the Police over matters of road safety and crime prevention. The Parish Council works in close conjunction with the May Gurney/Northamptonshire County Council partnership for the maintenance of village roads, pavements and grass verges.

Its opinion is sought when a Planning Application is submitted to the East Northamptonshire Council and the villagers most likely to be affected by each application are asked for their views. Special planning meetings are called if an application is received in between our regular meetings. As usual, the date of such a meeting will be advertised on the notice board and members of the public are welcome to attend. In addition it is consulted over applications under Tree Preservation Orders (TPO). Hargrave benefits greatly from many mature trees most of which are covered by TPOs. Owners of such trees need to apply to East Northamptonshire Council for permission to carry out any tree surgery and, if you are not sure which trees are involved, the Clerk has maps she can provide.

The Council's opinion is sought by ENC and NCC when they are producing plans for the future. It also brings important matters to the attention of the local Member of Parliament.