

ORSTON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES

Orston Parish Council meeting
Wednesday 31st January 2024 at 6pm in the Village Hall



Present		Actions
Cllrs	Gerry McMahon (Chair), Harry Batchford (HB), Astrid Moules (AM), Angela Probert (AP), Robin Iliffe (RI)	
Also in Attendance	Wendy Wakefield (WW)-Clerk, County Councillor Francis Purdue-Horan (FPH)	
Public	9 Members of the public (MOP) in attendance (2 arrived at 6.45pm) including John Hart (JHa) –Bulletin, Jules Humpheson (JHu) –Village Hall & Church	
1.	Apologies for Absence: Cllr. Jo Napper (JN), Cllr. Paul Brandon (PB), Borough Councillor Chris Grocock (CG)	
2.	Declarations of Interest: None	
3.	Approval of Minutes of the Meeting held on 29 th November 2023 - Approved	
4.	Correspondence/Complaints <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Hunt – see notes from GM	
5.	Planning: <ul style="list-style-type: none">❖ Applications (previously circulated): 24/00061/FUL – Barlow – no objections❖ Decisions (previously circulated): 23/01861 – Krogulec (The Chapel) granted; 23/00198/CONARE – Wakefield – tree removal granted.❖ Late Applications/Decisions received: None❖ Other: None	
6.	Finance: <ul style="list-style-type: none">a) Clerk’s report/Financial Statement – Financial Statements for November & December were approved. WW shared the new format for financial reports which had been generated by Easy PC software which WW had been trialling. Councillors agreed to purchase ‘Easy PC’ at a cost of £5/6 per month as the added benefit enabled financial records to be cloud based for security as per financial guidelines.b) Expense Requests/Payments – The following payments were approved: Admin £482.30c) Income other than interest – Noned) Budget/Precept – Councillors ratified the decision made by the finance committee to request a small increase the precept from £11,000 to £11,800. WW to forward request to RBC.e) Community Grant Requests – Councillors agreed £250 MGT, £100 Produce Show, £100 Garden Club. It was agreed that next year an additional statement be added to the proforma asking about balance of monies held by each applicant due to possible use of OPC reserves.	WW WW
7.	Road Safety Campaign: <p>AP/FPH advised all present that there had been a slight delay and that feedback/results would be shared at February’s meeting.</p>	AP/FPH
8.	Open Session for Members of the Public: <p>Steve Grace (SG)- Shared that £750 had been raised and would be used to support sustainable planting in the village. He suggested that OPC might coordinate this. As the funds were not allocated to OPC, it was agreed that maybe the ‘Gardening club’</p>	

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or 'sustainability group' take on this role. AM reminded SG that permission for any planting on grass verges etc should be sought from VIA.

A request for contact details for CG was made in relation to housing in the village. WW to share details.

WW

9. **Orston Community Groups** updates/reports etc..

Village Hall – The VHC Chair shared that since COVID they had incurred losses and so had no money for updating the building. They hoped to make a bid to the Community Ownership fund but needed help doing this. WW & AM had both approached RCAN about this fund and AM agreed to help and arrange a meeting.

AM

Church - JHu informed councillors that the Church was in need of major repairs which will deplete all reserves. He will update villagers through the bulletin.

10. **County/Borough Councillor Reports:**

CG – email shared by WW.

- I've now ceased efforts to arrange road safety education for the Belvoir Hotel residents as I've been informed it will cease to operate as an asylum centre from the end of April. I think I emailed about this before but just to confirm - **Noted**
- I still have some funding left in my Community Support Scheme. I have been approached by Robert Gullis of the Orston Produce Show and have said I will fund him with some of the underspend so Orston will have had a good share of my funding pot - **Noted**
- Thoroton and Hawksworth Parish Meetings have formed an Action Group to oppose the appeal for the large solar farm development between the two villages. They have emailed out information to neighbouring parishes and would like to invite them to send a representative to the Action Group. The next meeting is on 6th February at 7pm although I'm not sure where. For further details please contact Neil Smith hawksworth.parish@btinternet.com – **Noted previously shared by WW 11/01/24**
- I am considering pursuing a neighbourhood plan for the Cranmer Ward area, which I think will make more sense than doing to village by village due to the time and commitment involved. I've received the following guidance from a fellow Labour councillor in a rural ward in Bassetlaw <https://www.bassetlaw.gov.uk/media/6585/sturton-ward-np-review-final.pdf> The general context and supporting documents can be found here: <https://www.bassetlaw.gov.uk/planning-and-building/planning-services/neighbourhood-plans/all-neighbourhood-plans/sturton-ward-neighbourhood-plan/>. I'm not sure what a meeting format will take but I'm thinking of requesting nominees from each Parish Council / Meeting to form a development group. I know Orston PC are interested in Neighbourhood Plans. Is there any councillor(s) you'd like to assign to liaise with me on this? –**Noted** – **AM keen to be involved – WW to feedback to CG**

AM

WW

FPH – Shared the news about council tax increases as seen in the media.

11. **Parish Councillor Reports (items not already on the agenda)**

HB – Has spoken to Will Gunn re sandbags. WG has agreed to source these and invoice OPC

GM – See attached info sheet. GM had received several complaints about a perceived dangerous dog which had been encountered by several villagers both off and on the lead. GM to contact the dog warden with notification of concerns to ask his advice about how OPC should proceed. At this stage, until the advice is received, GM is not revealing the address concerned to dog warden.

GM

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12.

Matters for Consideration:

- a) Emergency Plan (AM) – AM had found the information sent by WW very useful and advised that whilst good, our current plan needed more detail. AM to lead a working party to address this with JN & HB
- b) Buildings alongside Poppy Cottage and issues arising. (GM) – Reports regarding problems are ongoing especially regarding flooding and sewerage. JHu is keeping GM & FPH informed. There has also been a lot of soil ‘dumped on the grass verges in spite of promises being made to fully reinstate these to their former state. AP suggested that a letter is sent by GM on behalf of OPC to RBC/Environmental Health and any other relevant departments stating our concerns. GM agreed to do this. WW to send a planning link re the new buildings to GM.
- c) Bridleway & Gate Station Road (HB) – HB shared that he had visited the property on Station Road and felt that there was no problem with the glass surface on the bridle path or the gate. It was agreed by all present that this issue was no longer the remit of OPC and was being dealt with by RBC. GM reminded councillors about protocols and bringing information to meetings for discussion prior to taking action on behalf of the council.
- d) Community Ownership Fund (AM) – See item 9

**AM/JN
HB**

**GM
WW**

13.

Items for Next Meeting Wednesday 28th February 2024 **7pm** Village Hall

14.

Closure of the Meeting 7.35pm

Signed Date

Signed Date