



MINUTES

Orston Parish Council meeting Wednesday 28th January 2026 at 7pm in the Village Hall

Present		Actions
CLlr	Gerry McMahon (GM), Harry Batchford (HB), Paul Brandon (PB), Angela Probert (AP), Astrid Moules (AM), Linda Shirt (LS)	
Also in Attendance	Wendy Wakefield (WW) Clerk, BCllr Chris Grocock (CG)	
Public	0 Members of the public (MOP) in attendance	
1.	Apologies for Absence: Cllr Jo Napper (JN), CCllr Stephen Pearson (SP)	
2.	Declarations of Interest: None	
3.	Approval of Minutes of the Meeting held on 26 th November 2025 - Approved	
4.	Correspondence/Complaints	
	❖ Several complaints made re pavement parking on Lombard Street by the residents of Eastways. A letter will be drafted for GM to send	WW GM
5.	Open Session for Members of the Public:	
	❖ None	
6.	Planning:	
	❖ Applications (previously circulated): 26/00016/CADENT Gas – Change of use of land for car parking, Elton – No objections noted	
	❖ Decisions (previously circulated): 25/01171/OUT – Outline planning, Dovecote Farm for 4 dwellings, permission granted – Noted by councillors	
	❖ Late Applications Received: N/A	
	❖ Other Information (Previously circulated): 25/00471/OUT – Ferrier – notification of appeal – Noted by councillors	
7.	Finance:	
	a) Clerk’s report – November & December as expected. Funds currently healthy and as per forecast. £137.45 had been spent for the Newcomers evening. Ulyetts completed the last mow prior to Spring.	
	b) Expense Requests/Payments – Payments totalling £644.89 were discussed & approved for January 2025 . Councillors agreed to the purchase of a new laptop and printer.	
	c) Income other than interest – None	
8.	Orston Community Groups updates/reports etc.. N/A	
9.	County/Borough Councillor Reports: CG – Shared the news that the Orston British Legion membership has increased by 50% making it viable. GM expressed a vote of thanks to both councillors for their continued support	
10.	Parish Councillor Reports (items not already on the agenda) GM thanked HB for his work with the flood wardens. LS - asked about the train station and a footpath by the side of it, part of which disappeared years ago. She voiced a worry about the station not being used which was a shame. LS – mentioned the Newcomers evening which had been well received by the new residents attending, although numbers were rather low. PB wondered if the event might best be held at the Village Hall, as previously suggested, possibly after a meeting or alongside the Annual Parish Meeting due to the cost and low numbers. All present agreed to discuss this with JN	

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at the next meeting as he had done a sterling job in organising and leading this area and asked that it be added to the agenda.

WW

11. Matters for Consideration:

a) **Neighbourhood Plan (CG/AP)** – CG informed councillors that there have been funding cuts and grants are no longer available to local communities. CG thinks the overall costs will be approx. £40k - £55K. WW noted the timing, just after precept requests for the next financial year. The first steps though should be relatively cost-free ie to re-establish intentions, volunteers etc and establish a cost base and how decide how any costs will be split. AP added that it was important to discuss the process this evening. She had been in contact with Patrick Slater who would, following the consultation, produce a report for RBC suggesting whether or not this will go ahead. AP thinks this could be a simple process and even just for Orston if necessary. CG agreed that some parts could be done more quickly than others eg protecting and enhancing local assets, but that a bigger group should have more say. AM shared that the most important thing is that whatever is done needs to have ‘some weight’ and really mean something to residents who are, through council tax, paying into it – ‘What are we doing and why? And will the Government take any account of it’. Our voices need to be meaningful, and we need assurances of this. AP suggested that Orston residents are consulted once more and perhaps other local councils are possibly approached. It was agreed that WW would resubmit the consultation information on WhatsApp, but councils would be consulted at the next meeting. AP asked if the local government reorganisation process could affect this, but CG said no. AM suggested that it would be wise to find out as much as possible to avoid difficult conversations. AP asked if CG would be willing to donate his community grant to this if it goes ahead? He said that it was possible in principle.

WW

b) **Road/Traffic issues update (GM)** – We have had police visits with speed cameras. They have promised regular attendance.
c) **The Triangle update (GM)** – GM has visited the resident and expressed concerns regarding parking on the triangle. He asked the resident to ask visitors to park elsewhere due to planting etc.. PB suggested small bollards around the edge. He will contact the customer service team at NCC to take this further.

PB

d) **Environment Agency Matters (GM)** – GM spoke to relevant parties and finally got agreement that the environment agency are responsible for the Smite and fallen trees which are blocking the flow. They had begun to clear the banks but ‘Voles’ had stopped this. However, this work will hopefully be reinstated soon. HB had also spoken to them about the trunk blocking Smite Bridge in the water acting like a dam. It has been flagged as a major concern.

e) **Bulletin (WW)** – John Hart has resigned due to illness. We would like to thank him for all his hard work in this excellent production. WW will readvertise on WhatsApp. AM will have a go using AI to see how long it would take. She will feedback at the next meeting.

WW
AM

f) **Village Maintenance (PB)** – The Lengthsman scheme invoice needs to be done by the end of March. We will continue with this scheme next year. The Bench will be erected in the better weather. A resident has asked if Ulyetts will mow near their house. PB will ask Ulyetts if they can quote the resident direct.

PB

12. Next Meeting Wednesday 25th February 2026 7pm - Village Hall

13. Closure of the Meeting 8.20pm

Signed Date

Signed Date