



MINUTES

Orston Parish Council meeting Wednesday 25th March 2026 at 7pm in the Village Hall

Present		Actions
Cllrs	Gerry McMahon (GM), Harry Batchford (HB), Paul Brandon (PB), Angela Probert (AP), Astrid Moules (AM), Linda Shirt (LS), Jo Napper (JN)	
Also in Attendance	Wendy Wakefield (WW) Clerk, BCllr Chris Grocock (CG),	
Public	12 Members of the public (MOP) in attendance	
1.	Apologies for Absence: CCllr Stephen Pearson (SP), Via/NCC, School Transport, Sharpes buses, Orston School, Police	
2.	Declarations of Interest: None	
3.	Approval of Minutes of the Meeting held on 25 th February 2026 - Approved	
4.	Correspondence/Complaints Shared with all present by AM A number of comments and emails had been received from residents regarding the proposed road markings on Launder/Church Street. The proper consultation had not taken place and therefore a new consultation would begin in April. Laura Trussler from VIA was unable to attend the meeting but had shared the following rationale & proposals: 'On 2nd August 2023, I received a complaint from the Road Safety Team at Nottinghamshire Police. They advised that the local beat team had been supporting the Headteacher of the Primary School, the Parish Council, the pub landlord, the wider community, and parents/carers regarding concerns about school safety. This led to a meeting on 6th September 2023 outside the school, attended by two Police Officers (including PS Brett Price, copied into this email), the Headteacher, and the County Councillor at the time, Francis Purdue-Horan. Various traffic management options were discussed, including potential one-way systems, but it quickly became clear that the primary issue was obstructive parking at school times. Vehicles were struggling to manoeuvre in the tight turning head outside the school due to parked cars at drop-off and pick-up times (location: https://maps.app.goo.gl/ZFqiPNa9ARcZL5V27). Combined with the presence of pedestrians and other vulnerable road users, this presented a significant road safety concern. Further investigation revealed that the existing single yellow line and bus stop clearway outside the school (location: https://maps.app.goo.gl/6Hu47Jh3y1REn27Z8) did not have a Traffic Regulation Order, meaning they were unenforceable and therefore being used for parking. The scope of the scheme is as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Prevent parking on the Launder Street / Church Street junction, which causes congestion and turning difficulties.• Prevent parking opposite the bus stop clearway during school opening/closing times to allow vehicles to manoeuvre safely when the school bus is present.• Improve access/egress on the junction by preventing obstructive parking.• Make the bus stop clearway enforceable to ensure it is kept clear for school buses only. The proposals are as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Installation of double yellow lines at the Launder Street / Church Street junction.• Installation of a single yellow line opposite the school entrance (restricting parking Monday–Friday, 8:00–9:30am and 3:00–4:30pm).• Introduction of a TRO to cover the existing single yellow line and bus stop clearway outside the school.	

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- As Orston is within a Conservation Area, all lining will be installed in primrose yellow to meet conservation requirements.'

In addition, school transport had commented: You enquired about why a double decker is used for the Orston school bus. It's because the same bus and driver is used for a Toothill school bus journey too and the Council achieves a saving by making the bus work twice rather than commissioning a second smaller vehicle. That said, the bus stop is being blocked by vehicles and introducing a bus stop clearway will make it accessible for pick up and drop off by any bus, whether it be large or small.

The school writes frequently to parents about safe parking, consideration to residents and other parents, but above all they are concerned about safety. Unfortunately, the parents they would like to get this message to often don't read or comply with their communication. To be clear, the Headteacher's area of responsibility and control is only the school side of the gates. Comments have also been made about teachers' parking and that it should be in the playground - this area is used daily for play and other activities and cannot be used as a staff car park.

5. **Open Session for Members of the Public:**

- ❖ Many questions ensued regarding the situation. GM asked residents to ensure that they all commented on the consultation when it's live. CG suggested that a public meeting is held which should be arranged by SP. WW to contact SP and request this. Residents to be informed through WhatsApp.

WW

6. **Planning:**

- ❖ **Applications (previously circulated):** None
- ❖ **Decisions (previously circulated):** None
- ❖ **Late Applications Received:** N/A
- ❖ **Other Information (Previously circulated):** A number of applications/decisions had not been received by OPC. WW to contact planning to check emails etc. WW will also check the planning site in future.

WW

7. **Finance:**

- a) **Clerk's report** – February as expected. An invoice for £960, relating to the lengthsman scheme, has been submitted to VIA which will be documented when received. End of year work is underway, so expect updated policies etc.. before the next meeting. Appointment of David Dixon as independent auditor agreed by all councillors. Visit to be booked for the end of May.
- b) **Expense Requests/Payments** – Payments totalling £841.40 including the 'hedge laying' at the spa, were discussed & approved **for March 2025.**
- c) **Income other than interest** – N/A.

WW

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

LK expressed thanks to Rich & Jan for an excellent sale at the Church.

The badminton group is going from strength to strength.

Heritage Lottery Bid for the Church has been sadly rejected. Thanks go to all those who put in a lot of work on this.

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

SP - For sharing with members, the highways capital programme for 26-27 now includes the following; C3 Longhedge Lane / Spa Lane / Lordship Lane / Station Road, Orston / Elton -

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Structural patching for future surface dressing from bend at Longhedge Lane (Lodge Farm) to A52

CG – Local Government Reorganisation consultation finishes tomorrow if anyone would like to comment.

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

HB – Tree in the Smite is going to be cleared by the end of April.

GM – Mentioned bad driving in the village he asked that people are mindful of this and report any concerns.

11. Matters for Consideration:

a) **Neighbourhood Plan ‘Ways Forward’ (CG/AP)** – CG gave an overview of what a Neighbourhood plan is and its value. It has now been confirmed that RBC have resolved to designate Cranmer as a Neighbourhood Area. This means the steering group will now be able to move forward with putting together a Neighbourhood Plan if agreed. WW following liaison with AP will put relevant reports on WhatsApp. AP has contacted other PCs and agencies to get advice. What is the next step? There is currently no project plan or costings so we will need to devise a strategy for this. We need to decide our role as a Parish Council. How do we engage and communicate with the residents of Orston to formulate the plan? AP agreed to lead on this. CG to send WW an up-to-date email list for clerks and Chairs.

**WW
AP**

WW

**WW
CG**

b) **Village Maintenance (PB/WW)** – Anne Hounslow has requested some plant supports for the Church Green flower beds which will help to keep the area tidier & easier to manage. The cost will be approximately £60 and would be part of the village maintenance activities. All present agreed. WW to contact Anne. Grass cutting will begin on Monday. OPC will have to find new storage solutions for tools and machinery. Some complaints have been received about horses using the footpaths.

WW

c) **Bleed Kit (WW)** – Nick Hammond has asked if the Parish Council would agree to fund a ‘Bleed Kit’ which would be housed in the defibrillator cabinet. The cost is £95 and the kit would be registered with the East Midlands Ambulance Service. All present agreed, WW to contact Nick.

WW

12. Next Meeting Wednesday 29th April 2026 7pm - Village Hall

13. Closure of the Meeting: 8.25pm

Signed Date

Signed Date