



MINUTES

Orston Parish Council meeting Wednesday 29th April 2026 at 7pm in the Village Hall

| Present | Actions |
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| 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 | |
| 7 Members of the public (MOP) in attendance | |
| 1. Apologies for Absence: Jo Napper (JN) | |
| 2. Declarations of Interest: None | |
| 3. Approval of Minutes of the Meeting held on 25 th March 2026 - Approved | |
| 4. Correspondence/Complaints - None | |
| 5. Open Session for Members of the Public: None | |
| 6. Planning: | |
| Applications (previously circulated): 26/00534/FUL Mr & Mrs Scutts Chapel St., Side extension – All present supported this application. | |
| Decisions (previously circulated): 26/00271/FUL Chapel Garth, Rear Extension, Permission Granted. 25/01808/FUL Muffins Gap, Permission Refused. Noted by all present. | |
| Late Applications Received: None | |
| Other Information (previously circulated): Footpath Consultation | |
| 7. Finance: | |
| a) Clerk's report: WW explained the end of year processes and the Annual Governance Return to councillors. Councillors agreed that all processes had been followed correctly and thanked WW for her work during the year. The budget remains healthy. Councillors had previously been made aware of 'Assertion 10 Compliance' and 'gov.co.uk domains' which although ours was currently compliant as it was linked to OPC only and not generic, in order to continue being compliant and futureproof, it was agreed that WW would begin the changeover. | WW |
| b) VAT Claim: A successful claim for £991.80 was submitted on 20/04/26 monies were received on 23/04/26 | |
| c) Approval of AGAR certificate of exemption – Approved by all councillors | |
| d) Approval of AGAR Annual Governance Statement - Approved by all councillors | |
| e) Approval of AGAR Accounting Statements - Approved by all councillors | |
| f) Approval of Policies and Governance documents previously Circulated: Annual Risk Analysis, Business Continuity Plan, Code of Conduct, Data Protection, Equal Ops, Financial Regulations, Health & Safety, Safeguarding and Standing Orders were all approved by councillors. | |
| g) Agreement of terms of Engagement of Internal Auditor David Dixon (letter) – WW shared the letter of engagement with councillors who all agreed the terms therein. | |
| h) Expense Requests/Payments: for April 2026 – Requests totalling £1091.14 which included plants for the village, Annual Insurance Cover (best value processes followed), salary and NALC membership, were agreed | |
| i) Income other than interest: £960 has been received from VIA regarding the lengthsman scheme. £14015 precept received 23/04/26. | |

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- j) **Phonebox** – Pauline Ryan & Lynn Churcher have offered to plant the phonebox again. They had requested a grant of £80 towards costs. All councillors approved this application.

- 8. **Orston Community Groups** updates/reports etc. WW
Village Hall (NH) – NH Shared his latest Village Hall report with all present. WW to send NH the new grant application forms.
Church (JH) – Report previously shared with councillors who expressed their sadness that the Heritage Lottery Bid had been rejected. NH shared further information.
- 9. **County/Borough Councillor Reports:**
SP- A useful open meeting regarding traffic management on Church/Launer Street had taken place before the OPC meeting including representatives from Via and school transport. Residents had been able to ask questions about the scheme. Hopefully this will lead to new proposals being more acceptable. SP shared that major road resurfacing at the bottom of Lombard Street has been sanctioned & work would begin on repairing other potholes. He also said that he had a small pot for communities to bid for.
CG- CG has secured monies for his community grant fund, so bids for this are open. CG updated councillors on the current situation regarding local government reorganisation.
- 10. **Parish Councillor Reports (items not already on the agenda)**
HB – There are 2 badger sets on Spa Lane which could cause a problem for traffic if the area floods as this part of the road could collapse. HB shared the what 3 words locations with SP who agreed to look into this. HB also shared that the Hill Road footpath is very overgrown. Could the grafters help with this? PB agreed to look into this. PB
- 11. **Matters for Consideration:**
 - a) **Neighbourhood Plan (AP)** – Other PCs have been contacted to find out their views on moving forward. Aslockton have invited AP to their next meeting. CG added that it can be volunteers who take the plan forward, not just councillors. WW added that there had been some unofficial comments regarding prospective costs CG said that he would look into a funding model. AP said that we have to decide what is important to us as a community and then send out to referendum. RBC have been very helpful and have offered to share ideas from other areas. WW to chase replies to the previous email as only Aslockton had officially made comment. AP
 - b) **Village Maintenance (PB)**- The Bench on the triangle will be fixed and the Spa area cleared. Also some remedial work will done on the notice board and memorial bench.
 - c) **Bulletin** – WW had spoken to Henry who had offered to take this on. Unfortunately this had proven much more difficult than expected and he had struggled to get contributions. He had therefore stepped down. Councillors wished to express their thanks to Henry for giving it a try. Going forward, it was agreed that the bulletin was put on hold for now. WW
- 12. **Next Meeting** Wednesday 27th May 2026 - 6.30pm - APM (Annual Parish Meeting) OPC Meeting 7pm GM and LS will be away and send apologies.
- 13. **Closure of the Meeting: 8.10pm**

Signed Date

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