



MINUTES

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

Present		Actions
Cllrs	Paul Brandon (PB), Angela Probert (AP), Harry Batchford (HB), Astrid Moules (AM)- Acting CHAIR,) Jo Napper (JN), Linda Shirt (LS).	
Also in Attendance	Wendy Wakefield (WW) Clerk	
Public	Members of the public (MOP) in attendance: Bob Clarke (BC) Donna Burn (DB)	
1.	Apologies for Absence: Gerry McMahon (GM), Cllr Stephen Pearson, BClr Chris Grocock (CG)	
2.	Declarations of Interest: None.	
3.	Approval of Minutes of the Meeting held on 24 th June 2026. - Approved	
4.	Correspondence/Complaints – None	
5.	Open Session for Members of the Public: N/A	
6.	Planning: ❖ Applications (previously circulated): ❖ Decisions (previously circulated): REFERENCE NO: 26/00802/FUL - Mr M Hardy & Ms C Spencer. Alterations and extension to existing dwelling, including raising height of existing ridge and eaves and new brick skin cladding to front elevation, and installation of solar panels - Vale Cottage Lombard Street Orston Nottinghamshire NG13 9NG Decision: Permission Refused - Noted - REFERENCE NO: 26/00831/FUL- Mrs Angela Probert. Proposed ground floor rear extension. New oak front porch- Church End. Loughbon, Orston Nottinghamshire NG13 9NJ Decision: Permission Granted - Noted ❖ Late Applications/Decisions Received: ❖ Other Information (previously circulated): N/A	
7.	Finance: a) Clerk's Report The Clerk reported that the Parish Council's financial position remains healthy. Financial statements and bank reconciliation reports for the period 1 April to 30 June 2026 had been circulated prior to the meeting and were accepted by those present. The new IT Policy, previously circulated, was approved and adopted. b) Payments for July 2026 Payments totalling £1,229.85, including grass cutting, salary, HMRC, Grafters' expenses and sundry items, were reviewed and approved. c) Income (excluding bank interest) None.	
8.	Orston Community Groups updates/reports etc: AP advised that Leaflets for the Produce Show have been distributed and planning for the event is progressing well.	
9.	County/Borough Councillor Reports: None	

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10. **10. Parish Councillor Reports (Items not already on the Agenda)**
- JN reported that newcomers currently receive a welcome pack containing village information. The existing Parish footpaths leaflet requires updating. Options discussed included updating the current leaflet, producing a new version or incorporating links within the newcomers' welcome letter. Councillors suggested expanding this into a wider community information leaflet. JN will research examples used by other communities and will contact the shooting ground and the Durham Ox regarding potential sponsorship. An update will be provided at the September meeting. JN
- LS enquired about activities available for children within the village.
11. **Matters for Consideration:**
- a) Neighbourhood Plan Update (AP)** -AP advised that the Parish now has greater clarity regarding Orston's position following the Local Government Review. AP will continue to work with LS on progressing the Neighbourhood Plan over the Summer. AP/LS
- b) Village Maintenance (PB)** - PB reported that the Grafters have completed work within the churchyard and have welcomed several new members. Over the coming months they will focus on the Village Hall car park and the noticeboard adjacent to the church. PB
- Following discussion regarding the Ulyetts grass cutting schedule, councillors agreed to omit one scheduled cut due to the current conditions and instead undertake an additional cut towards the end of the season. PB to inform Ulyetts. PB
- The tarpaulin used to cover the Pageant staging has deteriorated beyond use. PB proposed purchasing a replacement of mid-range quality, which was agreed. PB
- PB also advised that Ann Hounslow had suggested introducing drought-tolerant planting in front of the church together with the opportunity for families to sponsor commemorative roses in memory of loved ones. Councillors welcomed the proposal and PB will investigate this further. HB advised councillors to be aware of possible problems with roses and thorns. PB
- The Parish Council's lawnmower has recently been serviced and remains in good working order. Although it is no longer used by the Parish Council, it is regularly used by the Grafters to maintain the churchyard and Millennium Green. PB proposed requesting either a contribution towards maintenance costs from the church or loaning the mower to the church, with responsibility for future maintenance transferring to them. PB will progress this matter. PB
- c) Hill Road Overhanging Vegetation (GM)**
- GM submitted the following written update.
- GM met with Darren and Tom from Via on 24 July. They confirmed that work to remove overhanging vegetation, restore the pavement width and cut back tree branches would commence that morning while the road closure was in place.
- The Via representatives commented on the extent of the overgrowth and advised that they intended to clear the pavement to its full width to improve accessibility, particularly for those with mobility issues. GM also raised concerns regarding the significant weed growth within the road gutters. Via advised that weed spraying is normally undertaken annually but were unable to confirm whether this year's programme had been completed. GM thanked the team for their time and looked forward to the completed works.
- d) Telecommunications Mast – Station Road (GM)**
- GM submitted the following written update.
- GM visited the electricity works adjacent to High View on Station Road and spoke with the site electrician, Tom. The transmission mast base has now been installed below ground level and much of the associated infrastructure has been completed. The mast is expected to be erected around **13 August**, subject to programme, and will stand between **18 and 20 metres** in height. Commissioning is anticipated by **23 September 2026**.

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GM thanked Tom for taking the time to explain the project.

e) New Local Plan (AP/CG)

CG provided a written update advising that the Local Plan remains at a very early stage and there is currently little information available. Whilst acknowledging that residents may have concerns regarding the possible reintroduction of proposals for a Garden Village, CG considered this to be unlikely. AP added that local villages should be fully involved in any future consultation.

f) Parish Bulletin (WW/PB)

Following the Council's previous decision to trial an online Parish Bulletin, with printed copies available from the village shop and the Durham Ox, WW reported that she had spoken with Helen Pritchett and John Hart. Helen suggested making additional printed copies available at the village coffee morning and agreed to arrange printing. It was agreed that future arrangements would be discussed following her return from holiday.

John expressed concerns that an online-only version may not attract sufficient readership to justify the work involved in producing the bulletin, although he confirmed his willingness to support Helen on her return. WW explained that the primary issue was distribution rather than cost. BC expressed concerns regarding the proposed reduction in printed copies as he also felt that online only would preclude some villagers and would like to see a paper copy reintroduced. He agreed to help with distribution if required and other councillors agreed to help with collections from the printers. Following discussion, councillors voted to reinstate a fully printed Parish Bulletin. WW to contact John, Helen and the printer.

WW

12. Next Meeting Wednesday 30th September 2026 - 7pm (NO AUGUST MEETING)

13. Closure of the Meeting: 19.58pm

Signed Date

Signed Date