ORSTON PARISH COUNCIL



MINUTES

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

Present		**Actions**
Cllrs	Gerry McMahon (GM), Paul Brandon (PB), Angela Probert (AP), Harry Batchford (HB), Astrid Moules (AM), Linda Shirt (LS).	
Also in Attendance	Wendy Wakefield (WW) Clerk, BCllr Chris Grocock (CG), CCllr Stephen Pearson	
Public	Members of the public (MOP) in attendance: 3 Jules Humpheson (JH), Bob Clark (BC), Tony Benton (TB)	
1.	**Apologies for Absence:** Jo Napper (JN)	
2.	**Declarations of Interest:** None.	
3.	**Approval of Minutes of the Meeting** held on 30th September 2026. - **Approved**	
4.	**Correspondence/Complaints** – None	
5.	**Open Session for Members of the Public:** BC attended the quarterly police meeting this week. They expect to make an arrest re car thefts soon. The minutes of this meeting can be found on the village website. Questions were asked about having CCTV in the village or more lighting etc.. A suggestion was made to speak to the community about what we can all do to make our village and property safer. BC suggested that it was primarily the responsibility of homeowners to check that their own properties are secure. TB Shared his disappointment that the school had not had a gala/Summer Fayre or village run this year and wanted to know if these would be happening next year. It was explained that the fun run is nothing to do with the school. In addition it is likely that the Summer Fayre is organised by the school association not the school but that WW/AM as school governors will ask the question.	**WW/AM**
6.	**Planning:** ❖ **Applications (previously circulated):** Reference Number: 26/01650/FUL Applicant: Ms + Mr Carys + Morgan Spencer + Hardy Development: Demolition of conservatory, lean-to and outbuilding sheds. Tree removal, proposed rear extension, installation of solar panels and an ASHP, alterations to fenestration Location: Vale Cottage Lombard Street Orston Nottinghamshire NG13 9NG **No objections** ❖ **Decisions (previously circulated):** N/A ❖ **Late Applications/Decisions Received:** N/A ❖ **Other Information (previously circulated):** N/A	
7.	**Finance:** **a) Clerk's Report** The Clerk reported that the Parish Council's financial position remains healthy. A detailed financial report was shared with all councillors. **b) Payments for October 2026** Payments totalling **£1232.48** including grass cutting, salary, HMRC & Poppy/wreath donation to the Royal British Legion, were reviewed and approved. **c) Income (excluding bank interest)** None **d) RBL Grant Application:** OPC have received a grant application from the Royal British Legion (Orston Branch) for £200 to contribute to a music event. The overall cost was estimated to be £1000 and a grant of £800 had also been applied for from an RBL fund. GM had thought that all the local parishes had been asked to contribute and therefore	

contacted CG for clarification. It was agreed to wait until further details from other parishes were available. CG will update at the next meeting. **CG**

8. **Orston Community Groups** updates/reports etc:
JH – The Village hall continues to have problems, the dishwasher has also now broken amongst other things etc… Craft fair and NYE parties are coming up. The committee are currently trying to get copies of the deeds. JH said they might need to apply for a further grant from the parish council but was reminded that in agreement with Nick Hammond, the annual rental fee had superseded this.
JH – Church structural deterioration is ongoing. Grant funding will be applied for in due course.

9. **County/Borough Councillor Reports:**
SP – GM thanked SP for his ongoing work in support of OPC. It was noted that the Government is due to make an announcement on Local Government Reorganisation tomorrow. The consultation regarding parking around the school has yet to be reconsidered, and SP will pursue this matter. The Local Communities Fund has recently been launched by NCC, and WW will explore potential opportunities. AP and HB highlighted ongoing issues with potholes on Longmoor Lane; although some repairs have been carried out, additional work is needed. SP will look into this. HB also suggested that diversion and road closure signage could be improved. **SP** **WW** **SP**
CG – RBC elections will take place as planned in May. CG reported ongoing work with Metropolitan Homes to address accessibility arrangements; however, support from Metropolitan has been limited. The Thoroton Solar Farm meeting is scheduled for 4 November at Hawksworth Church. Although there should be no direct impact on Orston, traffic movements through the village will need to be monitored, as lorries should not be passing through.

10. **Parish Councillor Reports (Items not already on the Agenda)**
JN: JN had sent details of the proposed Welcome meeting to be held on 9th December at the Durham Ox at 7.30pm. He has contacted a range of village reps and contacted John Hart re the bulletin. This will be low key with nibbles only.
LS: Potholes - High Street residents have complained about these, there have been some repairs but these have not been successful. SP will look into this. LK will send SP a photo and what 3 words locations for these. **SP** **LS**

11. **Matters for Consideration:**
a) Neighbourhood Plan Update (AP) – AP asked councillors to consider whether the project remained a priority, highlighting the substantial amount of work involved. CG shared the need for active participation from all members and noted that successful delivery would depend on strong executive commitment and leadership. AP advised that she may not have the capacity to steer the project. It was agreed that a further meeting would be beneficial to establish a structure and develop a plan for moving forward. CG will work with AP to arrange this meeting. **CG/AP**
b) Village Maintenance (PB) – The grass-cutting season has now concluded. The churchyard maintenance trial by Ulyetts has been very successful, and all present agreed that it should continue. AP raised concerns about the stability of several headstones, some of which are reportedly very loose. JH explained that assessing and addressing this issue would be a substantial undertaking both physically and financially. AP agreed to share information received from a concerned resident regarding safety concerns. **AP**

The village poppies will be displayed throughout the village this weekend. It was also confirmed that a Christmas tree will be purchased for the village. **PB**

c) Emergency Plan Update (WW) – WW circulated the previous version of the plan to all councillors for review and updates. WW also proposed assembling a village emergency kit, including a wind-up torch, radio, first aid kit, sanitiser wipes etc.. and a copy of the plan. It was suggested that the kit be stored at the Village Hall, where it would be most accessible. The estimated cost is between £90 and £130. All those present supported the proposal, and WW agreed to source the kit. **WW** WW also asked whether councillors, and other attendees, were content for their personal telephone numbers to be included in the plan, and all agreed. **WW** In addition, WW agreed to contact other relevant individuals named in the plan to confirm their willingness to remain included and to update the document accordingly.

d) Bottesford to Bingham Bus (WW) – WW had been made aware of a new free bus service (LC19) provided by Melton Borough Council/Leicestershire County Council from Bottesford to Bingham via Whatton between 10am and 2pm. This initial trial has just started. WW asked SP if it was possible for NCC to buy into this and include Orston? **SP** SP agreed to look into this.

e) Smite Lane Footpath update (GM) - GM had contacted SP following a number of concerns from residents regarding the lack of a footpath to the Millenium Green side of Smite lane and the dangers this poses. SP had in turn contacted Laura Trussler at VIA who had submitted the following response:

'Considering requests for new footways in rural areas, we recognise that many roads have historically been constructed without dedicated pedestrian facilities due to their geographical setting, lower levels of pedestrian activity, and the expectation that pedestrians would be in the carriageway.

When assessing requests for new footways, NCC must prioritise schemes according to strategic need and available funding. This means that priority is generally given to locations where there is clear and consistent pedestrian demand, where the route serves key destinations or connections, and where a measurable benefit can be demonstrated.

Unfortunately, the cost of constructing new footways can be significant and often limits our ability to progress such requests. While it is sometimes assumed that a simple path could be provided, any new footway must be constructed to current highway standards. This typically involves excavation of the existing verge, potential diversion of statutory undertakers' apparatus, installation of appropriate drainage infrastructure, and full construction to modern specifications. As a result, the overall cost of delivering a new footway scheme can often run into hundreds of thousands of pounds.

Given these considerations, I am afraid that we would not be able to progress a footway scheme at this location at the present time. However, should funding opportunities or priorities change in the future, we can ensure the location is considered for any relevant future programme of works.'

12. **Next Meeting** Wednesday 25th November 2026 - 7pm

13. **Closure of the Meeting: 20.41pm**

Signed …….. Date

Signed …….. Date