



MINUTES

Orston Parish Council meeting Wednesday 30th September 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)	
Also in Attendance	Wendy Wakefield (WW) Clerk, BCllr Chris Grocock (CG)	
Public	Members of the public (MOP) in attendance: 3	
1.	Apologies for Absence: Jo Napper (JN), Linda Shirt (LS), CCllr Stephen Pearson.	
2.	Declarations of Interest: None.	
3.	Approval of Minutes of the Meeting held on 29 th July 2026. - Approved	
4.	Correspondence/Complaints – CG wrote on 15 th Sept in his capacity as Chair of the Orston & District RBL branch to make several requests on behalf of the latter as we approach the Remembrance period: - Request that any poppies, wreaths and other resources needed for Remembrance via the district secretary, Nicola Payne. The donations you make will therefore support the local branch and we are requesting a donation of £50 (the wreaths cost around half of that). WW has already spoken to Nicola. GM will represent OPC. - Specifically with regards to the Poppy Appeal: The official launch of the Poppy Appeal will be on 22 October 2026. If we participate again, could this please be coordinated through Nicola. - RBL are looking at organising a fundraising event in the new year through a performance by local group the Stormy Weather Boys. They are seeking the support of a parish council as a sponsor for the event, which we would then host at an appropriate venue - the TCC, Jubilee Hall, Orston Village Hall or perhaps one of the churches. To be discussed at all local PC meetings.	
5.	Open Session for Members of the Public: CG – Is looking for sponsorship for an RBL event. WW to send CG a grant form.	WW
6.	Planning: ❖ Applications (previously circulated): REFERENCE NO : 26/01003/FUL APPLICANT : Mr Tristan Lynch DEVELOPMENT LOCATION : New rear first floor extension over the existing family area. The Old Cottage The Green Orston Nottinghamshire NG13 9NZ PERMIS- SION GRANTED 26/00114/CONARE prune Maple Trees- Laneside, Lombard St. No preservation order. 26/00108/CONARE PRUNE cherry tree- The Eves, Loughbon. No preservation order. ❖ 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 pay rise for local government employees has been agreed nationally and as per contract, will be applied to the clerk's salary from October 2026 (backdated to April 2026). This is slightly later than normal due to the upheaval of the clerk's house move. A closed meeting held online heard that two payments had been duplicated by the bank, one had been paid back immediately	WW

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(salary) and the second HMRC payment will be credited next month. All councillors acknowledged this. WW has complained to the bank.

b) Payments for August & September 2026

Payments totalling **£2044.07** including grass cutting, salary, HMRC, Grafters' expenses and sundry items, were reviewed and approved.

c) Income (excluding bank interest) £1,000 was requested by AM from the Church and later returned after the Heritage Lottery bid was unsuccessful. The funds had been donated specifically for the bid and earmarked for Arts-related activity. They can be reapplied for as part of any future submission.

8. Orston Community Groups updates/reports etc:

Village Hall (VH) – Successful 'Legends of Rock' event recently raised around £1000. The VH has some structural issues which are being looked at.

Church – Book/jigsaws/fabrics sale raised nearly £1000. Support from all concerned is much appreciated.

Produce Show – Very well attended and successful. Thanks to CG for hosting.

Police Meeting re safety and security – WW to thank villagers on WhatsApp, GM to contact Bob Clark to feedback on the meeting and ask about the possibility of a group including villagers being set up as suggested by AP.

**WW
GM**

9. County/Borough Councillor Reports:

CG – Local Govt reorganisation has been paused. Cranmer Ward will continue for at least the next 2.5 years.

CG – Planning reform. Due to the push forward in housing numbers by the government, CG will have less say over small-scale development as there will be less input from planning committee overall. It is important in the future that parish councils are vociferous in their views.

CG – Borough Council along with others has agreed that the dualling of the A46 be reinstated.

SP – GM reported that SP had followed up on issues previously reported.

10. Parish Councillor Reports (Items not already on the Agenda)

GM mentioned that the new road surface at the bottom of Lombard Street was not as initially thought and that SP had been informed. JH has also written to SP regarding this.

AM – Mentioned the overflowing dog bin on Lombard Street PB to follow up.

PB

Matters for Consideration:

11. a) Neighbourhood Plan Update (AP) – AP & LS will get onto this. A workshop for the parishes will be organised to decide next steps CG asked if AP would email the other parishes.

b) Village Maintenance (PB) – The Grafters have been active across the churchyard, village hall and spa. Ulyetts cancelled two scheduled mows, but these will be carried forward. A tarpaulin has been purchased to protect the Pageant equipment.

Despite advertising for younger volunteers to join the Grafters, there was unfortunately no response; a couple of people offered some occasional help. As a result, Paul has costed the annual mowing of the churchyard at £2,060, which could in future be charged to the Precept. PB to contact Ulyetts to do a trial run.

PB

c) Uncoordinated Roadworks (GM) – GM had previously contacted SP regarding concerns raised on WhatsApp about two separate teams of workmen — VIA and others — carrying out roadworks simultaneously on village roads without apparent coordination. As a result, different roads were closed at the same time, with little or no communication to residents. This reportedly left some people unable to drive into or out of the village.

d) Mast Station Road (GM) – This is now complete and isn't as intrusive as first thought.

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e) New Local Plan with extra homes (AP/CG) – This may not happen as it was linked to the local government plan.

f) Welcome Meeting Update (JN) - The annual Welcome Evening had been discussed a few months ago, with a suggestion to revisit the idea in September. The previous event was successful and held at the Durham Ox, with representatives from various village groups.

Options to be considered:

(a) Repeating the event but without providing food, or offering only simple nibbles, due to the amount of leftover food last time and the cost relative to the number of attendees. In addition, because public funds cannot be used to purchase alcohol, attendees would buy their own drinks. JN suggested that Councillors could personally fund drinks if they wished.

(b) Inviting newcomers to an informal gathering before or after an OPC meeting.

The preferred timing discussed was early December to create a pre-Christmas atmosphere. Councillors felt that holding the event in the pub, with a few light nibbles rather than a buffet and attendees purchasing their own drinks, would be the most appropriate approach.

JN

g) Footpaths update (JN) - JN and AM met to discuss possible formats for replacing the current paths leaflet. JN is still using copies of the old version. He apologised that his recent extended trip to Canada meant little progress had been made, and he may not have anything ready before the November meeting. The project remains on the radar, and JN will contact PB about it. AP asked whether any progress had been made on the footpath near the Millennium Green. Other councillors believed none had been made. GM will contact SP.

JN

GM

12. **Next Meeting** Wednesday 28th October 2026 - 7pm

13. **Closure of the Meeting: 8.40pm**

Signed Date

Signed Date