

Minutes of a Parish Council Meeting
held in the Village Hall, Glebe Avenue, Orton Waterville on
Wednesday, 21 November 2007.

Present:- Mrs G Thornley (in the Chair) Mr M Chambers (till 9.20) Mrs D Harkness Mr T Howlett
Mr C Long Mr G Masters Mr M Rowett Mr M Smith
Mr M Stone

Members of the Public – two Press – none Ward Councillors – Cllr Mrs S Allen

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE were received from Mrs J Farnham, Mr J Gillings and Cllr A Kempzell.
2. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS – Items 7a – Mr C Long (user of the concessionary bus pass)
Items 7a – Mr M Chambers (user of the concessionary bus pass)
Items 7c – Mr M Smith (owner of adjacent property)
Item 9 – Mr G Masters (allotment holder)
Item 9 – Mr M Rowett (allotment holder)
3. LOCAL POLICING MATTERS – There were no police present. The Clerk reported that the Church Drive notice board had been vandalised. First of all it had fallen down because the wooden legs had rotted at ground level. The Clerk had ordered concrete spurs from J Bradley who came and re-positioned the notice board. No sooner had this been done than the re-inforced glass was smashed. The Clerk contacted Mr Kirk who agreed to repair it by replacing it with thicker re-inforced glass. The incident was reported to the police and a crime number issued. It was agreed to put CCTV camera on the next agenda.

It was agreed to write to the police about the large number of incidents reported in Chisenhale and to ask what action had been taken?

4. DRAFT CONSERVATION REPORT – Following the earlier presentation by Mr Jim Daley, it was agreed that on the whole the draft report was quite good. There were a few minor inaccuracies which will be corrected and the Parish Council had no further comments to add. However, individual parish councillors are still able to send in their personal comments to the City Council while the consultation period is in progress.

It was noted that number 25 Cherry Orton Road had erected a wooden fence above the existing stone wall raising the height to above 2m. Not only was this changing the character and appearance of a street in the Conservation Area but it was possibly also breaching planning law. It was agreed to inform the City Council.

5. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 17 OCTOBER 2007 – Mr Howlett proposed and Mr Chambers seconded that the minutes be signed as a true and correct record. This was carried.
6. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES
 - (a) Vacancies (Minute 5b)
Mr Gary Masters and Mr Michael Rowett were welcomed to their first meeting. One further vacancy remains for the area of Orton Goldhay. It was agreed that this vacancy should be advertised on the website.
 - (b) New Code of Conduct (Minute 5a)
There is still one outstanding new Declaration of Interests form. The Clerk will again remind Cllr Kempzell.
 - (c) Website (Minute 5c)
A reply was received to the effect that there would be no charge for using this website including updating the content. Mr Stone proposed and Mr Chambers seconded that the following should be added to the information previously approved for the website:

“Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FoA)

OWPC recognises the importance of transparency as demanded by the Freedom of Information Act 2000. OWPC has the stated intent to comply as a minimum with the core requirements of the FoA as they apply to parish councils. To this end we have published minutes for a minimum of the last 24 months on this website along with our code of conduct and information about us. Should any further information be demanded or requests made to view documentation under the FoA provisions please contact the clerk of OWPC (by appointment only). An administration charge of £5.00 will be levied for each document copied and supplied by OWPC.” This was carried.

It was also agreed that the title page should be in green lettering. Thanks was expressed to Mr Smith for his work in setting up and obtaining the use of this website.

(d) Trees and Ponds (Minute 5d)

A copy of a letter to the City Council from our Pond/Tree Warden regarding the maintenance and care of trees around the pond was received. Its contents were noted.

(e) Application for Funding under section 137 LGA (Minute 6c)

It was agreed that some checks should be made into the authenticity of this application. The applicant claims that the Manager of the Orton Community Contact Centre is willing to provide her venue for free. Mrs Harkness agreed to check this and to find out whether CRB checks have been verified. Provided that these checks confirm that the application is authentic, Mr Chambers proposed and Mrs Harkness seconded that £250 should be granted to cover the insurance and registration of free Taekwondo Training for children. This was carried.

(f) Wages (Minute 11c Sept)

A reply was received to the effect that Bulley Davey time sheets show that the cost of this wages service is approximately £200 per annum plus VAT. Mrs Harkness proposed and Mr Chambers seconded that this quotation be accepted. This was carried.

(g) Napier Way Shrubs (Minute 12a Sept)

A reply was received from the City Council and circulated. Mr Stone was still not happy with the reply and agreed to take the matter up with the City Council with support from the ward councillor, Mrs Sue Allen.

7. CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED

(a) Local Bus Service – A petition signed by 47 residents was received regarding the inadequacy of the bus service since the times were changed. The senior citizens, who are unable to use their concessionary bus passes until after 9.30am, are particularly affected. Cllr Mrs Sue Allan offered to hand this petition in to the City Council in her capacity as ward councillor. This was agreed. Mr Howlett proposed and Mr Masters seconded that we write to the Transport Department supporting this petition in principle but, as a practical solution, requesting that the X14 bus, departing Oundle at 9.03 and Lynch Wood at 9.23, be diverted through the village to pick up these senior citizens. This was carried.

(b) Development Plan Document – Correspondence was received regarding the DPD which is replacing the Peterborough Local Plan. The deadline for general comments had passed but submissions of potential sites for development were required by 14th December. This was noted.

(c) Dangerous Parking – A letter regarding parking in the lay-by outside the old barns at Manor Farm was received and circulated. It was noted that people are parking dangerously because there is no defined kerb to prevent them from encroaching onto the foot path. Whilst it was desirable to retain the lay-by, it was felt that a defined kerb between the lay-by and the foot path would not be out of keeping with the surrounding area since the both the grass verge on one side and the foot path on the other were kerbed. Mr Howlett proposed and Mr Stone seconded that the City Council should be requested to put in a kerbed footpath. This was carried.

(d) Focus Article – An article entitled “Pesky Rodents” which had recently appeared in a political pamphlet had upset many of the Parish Councillors by unjustly criticizing the Parish Council in its handling of this matter. Much of the article was incorrect and misleading. Since the Parish Council is non-political and has no other means of publishing a correction, the Vice Chairman had written a personal letter to the editor of Orton Oracle which will appear in the next issue. A copy of this letter was read out and supported by the Parish Council.

(e) Clerk’s Salary Review – Notification was received that a national pay settlement for Clerks and Council Workers had been agreed from 1st April 2007. The recommended pay for the Clerk on her present level was £11.13. Mrs Harkness proposed and Mr Chambers seconded that this recommendation be implemented and backdated to 1st April. This was carried.

8. BURIAL GROUND

Confirmation was received that the planning application had been filed with the City Council and will be determined within 8 weeks from receipt. This application is now out for consultation.

9. ALLOTMENTS

(a) Wyman Way

It was noted that the meadow had now been cut. The Clerk had notified all the tenants of the planning application.

(b) Cherry Orton Road

The water has now been turned off. One tenant gave notice to cease his tenancy and it was immediately taken up by a waiting tenant.

(c) Gostwick

It was confirmed that plot No.23 had now been cleared by the new tenant. Beebys Landscaping still had not cleared the car park area. It was agreed to write to Beebys to say that the Parish Council no longer requires Allotment 23 to be cleared but that it does require the roadway between allotments 12 and 13A to be cleared as well as the car park.

10. PLANNING MATTERS

(a) New applications since last month

07/01558/FUL	Extension at 35 Chandlers, Orton Brimbles	No observations
07/01598/FUL	Extension at 4 Wyman Way, Orton Waterville	No objection
07/01593/FUL	Extension at 26 Lady Lodge Drive, Orton Waterville	No objection
07/01660/CTR	Tree work at 22 Cherry Orton Road, Orton Waterville	No objection
07/01566/FUL	Development at Paxton Road, Orton Centre	No objection
07/00895/FUL	Extension at 10 Littlemeer, Orton Waterville	No objection

(b) Decisions on previous applications

07/00654/ADV	Sign at 2 Westminster House, Culley Court, Orton Southgate	Refused*
07/01304/FUL	Extension at 20 Whitewater, Orton Wistow	Refused**
07/01423/FUL	Boundary wall at 29 Wyndham Park, Orton Wistow	Refused***
07/00984/ADV	Facsia and signs at 2/3 Bushfield Court, Orton Centre	Approved
07/01002/FUL	Extension at 46 Ferryview, Orton Wistow	Approved
07/01202/FUL	Extension at Broadoak, Southgate Park, Orton Southgate	Approved
07/01415/FUL	Tree work at 554 Oundle Road, Orton Waterville	Approved
07/01374/FUL	Extension at 55A Cherry Orton Road, Orton Waterville	Approved
07/01380/FUL	Extension at 11 Five Arches, Orton Wistow	Approved
07/01135/FUL	Car parking at Norwich & Peterborough B/S, Lynch Wood	Approved
07/01496/CTR	Tree work at 35 Cherry Orton Road, Orton Waterville	Allowed

* This was refused on two grounds (1) that the illuminated sign would be out of character with the types of signage prevailing in the Business Park and be detrimental to the visual amenities of the locality (2) the sign would be a distraction to passing motorists and would be detrimental to the safety of traffic within Bakewell Road.

** This was refused on the grounds that the extension is visually inappropriate, overbearing and intrusive on the frontage and would not respect the visual character of the dwelling or its surrounding streetscene.

*** This was refused on the grounds that the enclosure of this cartilage would reduce the open aspect and attractiveness of this part of the residential estate and be detrimental to the visual amenity of the area. In addition the enclosure would result in a loss of safety for pedestrians using the adjacent footpath.

11. FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

(a) The following payments were authorised

BT (phone charges)	£111.67
Moore Stephens (audit fee)	£334.88
British Legion (poppy wreath)	£18.00
J Bradley (concrete spurs for notice board)	£115.15
Beebys Landscaping (meadow cut)	£609.83
Anglian Water (water charges)	£453.99
HM Revenue & Customs (Tax and NIC)	£85.71
Clerk's Salary (for November)	£389.50
Clerk's expenses (for November)	£30.42

(b) Income received to date

J Hopper – shed rent	£140.00
M Lodge – shed rent	£100.00
Allotment rent	£12.00
Bank Interest on Saver Plus Account	£210.14
Bank Interest on Treasurer’s Account	£0.80

12. MAINTENANCE MATTERS

The following matters were raised for the attention of the Council:

- (a) It was reported that a tree root had broken the surface of the foot path outside 33A Cherry Orton Road causing the path to become uneven. This is a danger to pedestrians. It was agreed to ask the City Council to prune out the root and to repair the path.
- (b) It was noted that the foot path between New Road and Bushfield has become covered with falling leaves from the adjacent trees. These leaves which have become wet are dangerously slippery. It was agreed to ask the City Council to sweep them up without delay.
- (c) It was noted that the bus shelter on Oundle Road at the bottom of Lady Lodge Drive is in the Orton Longueville Parish. It was agreed to ask the Orton Longueville Parish Council if they would arrange to have the ivy, which is damaging the shelter and impeding the passengers waiting for the bus, removed.
- (d) The bus shelter on Oundle Road at the bottom of Cherry Orton Road actually belongs to Orton Waterville Parish Council. It was noted that, since the new no smoking regulations came in, it is a requirement by law that a ‘No Smoking’ sign be put in every enclosed bus shelter. Mr Masters agreed to deal with this matter.

13. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Mrs Thornley gave an update on the walk-about in Orton Goldhay. Mr Long explained how it had come about that the City Council had put a bollard at the entrance to the footpath running between the proposed cemetery and allotments. Mr Stone gave a report on the Orton Counselling Service for Young People meeting. The Chairman reported on the Orton Youth and Community Trust meeting she went to when Diana was on holiday.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.28 pm.