

ORTON WATERVILLE AND ITS PARISH COUNCIL 1929-1974

by Cyril Long

Preface

This is not a definitive History of the Orton Waterville Parish Council. It is based largely on the old handwritten minute books that assume a lot of prior knowledge which this writer lacks. There appear to be no early account books or correspondence in the Parish Council's possession. Some other sources have been used, but their complete accuracy cannot be guaranteed. There has been an attempt to make any analysis or summary made objective, but it is doubtful whether this has been achieved. It is hoped that someone will improve and correct this account with further research.

Important: These minutes contain statements made at Parish Council meetings about the actions or inaction of individuals, public bodies, organisations and businesses, which may be inaccurate, exaggerated or simply incorrect. This should be borne in mind when reading what follows.

INTRODUCTION

a) Administrative background.

On June 21st 1929 when the first meeting of the Parish Council took place, the Parish of Orton Waterville was, as at the time of the Domesday Survey nearly nine hundred years earlier, situated in the county of Huntingdonshire. At that time much of Woodston and of Old Fletton were also part of Huntingdonshire. New Road Woodston marked part of the county boundary with the Soke of Peterborough County Council, the Soke being officially part of Northamptonshire. This remained the county boundary until 1965 when the Huntingdon and Peterborough County Council was created. Subsequently from 1974 to 1998 Orton Waterville became part of the Peterborough District in an extended Cambridgeshire County and since 1998 it has been an urban parish in the newly created Peterborough Unitary Authority.

An association with Peterborough was not something new. Orton Waterville was part of the Peterborough Poor Law Union created by the 1834 Act, so that the local workhouse for the Parish was in Peterborough. The boundaries of the Rural Sanitary District, created several years later, were based on this Poor Law Union. On the other hand, ecclesiastically, Orton Waterville, as today, is part of the Diocese of Ely, not of Peterborough and from 1862, when the Highways Authorities were created; it became part of the Authority based on Norman Cross. When Rural District Councils were created in 1894, Orton Waterville, along with villages such as Orton Longueville, Yaxley, Alwalton, Elton and Stilton, was until 1974 part of the Norman Cross Rural District Council, which came to have its offices in Priestgate Peterborough.

b) Parish Boundaries.

In 1929 Orton Waterville was an extensive parish stretching from the river Nene to the Great North Road almost opposite the road to Haddon. This point could be reached from the Village by following the New Road bridleway. Peterborough was

designated a New Town in 1967 and by consequent boundary changes in 1974 Orton Waterville was to gain most of the area where Orton Southgate, Orton Northgate, the East of England Showground, the Peterborough Business Park and part of Orton Wistow are now situated, from the Parish of Alwalton which is outside the Peterborough designated area, but Orton Waterville lost the area south of the Fletton Parkway. The eastern parish boundary with Orton Longueville followed the line of the roadway to Lady Lodge Farm which meant that all the bungalows that were later built in Charles Cope Road were not in Orton Waterville at the time. It was not until the 1980s that the eastern boundary to the Parish was moved to the rear of the gardens in Lady Lodge Drive, long after the development of the area. Much of what is Ferry Meadows Country Park that is east of Ham Lane, including Overton Waterville Railway Station, as it was known, was- and still is- in Orton Longueville.

c) People

Almost all of the population lived in houses in or close to the main village street or Town Street (as it had been known) or in numerous outlying farms and cottages. There were cottages and a Chapel in Dolby's Lane (Chapel Lane) which was a path rather than a road. The only entrance to the Parish Church was from Church Lane, there being a field between the church and the Rectory. In the previous century- probably within the lifetime of all the members of the first Parish Council- most of the inhabitants of Orton Waterville were engaged in agriculture (and their spouses came from the Parish or adjacent parishes), but by 1929 more people would have worked in Peterborough, which was growing, thanks initially to the railways and then the brick and engineering industries. Much of the land and numerous houses belonged to Pembroke College Cambridge, and so the farmers were mostly tenants, including Manor Farm with its late 16th century house. This contrasted with Orton Longueville with its aristocratic family at Orton Hall. The population of Orton Waterville in 1901 had been 276, was 315 in 1931 with 80 occupied houses; by 1951 it had risen only to 334 and to 371 with 116 occupied houses by 1961. In 1971 the population was 819, largely as a result of the development of the Lady Lodge Estate, and is currently in excess of 10,000.

PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS

The Early Meetings

The minutes for the meetings up to March 25th 1955 are handwritten in a high quality minute book produced specifically for Parish Council Minutes. At the first meeting held on June 21st 1929 there were seven members present. It is assumed that they had been chosen at an Annual Parish Meeting, which Parishes without a Parish Council normally had. Those present were: Messrs. Holdich, Tatman, J.W.Barker, Keber, Frisby, Bettles and A.Sutton, (who was elected to the Chair for the evening). The addresses or occupations of councillors are seldom alluded to in the minutes and quite often there are names without initials. Consequently, in a parish where some families are related it is not always possible to distinguish between individuals.

At this meeting it was decided to ask the Rev.P.D.Johnson to act as an independent chairman of the Parish Council and Mr F.W.J.Mason to act as clerk. *(It is quite likely that the Rector would have presided at previous Parish Meetings held since the Parish Council Act 1894 came into force and at Vestry Meetings before that. The Parish Council has no records of these)* The councillors were not yet fully aware what the provisions of the Parish Council Act were, but a general discussion took place on what the general requirements of the parish were, centring on the drains, which were

inadequate and foul (an often repeated topic), and the history of the Old Road. (This might have been the track leading to the Great North Road, but there is no clue in the minutes).

The early meetings were held in the Village Schoolroom. After the Village School was closed c.1961, it was sold and became a private house. It later had a second storey added and its appearance substantially changed. It is now rather misleadingly called "The Priory".

The second meeting was held a month later with the Rev Johnson as Chairman and Mr Mason as Clerk. It was agreed to open a bank account at the Midland Bank, Peterborough and that the Rev Johnson, Councillor Thomas White Holdich and Mr Mason as the signatories.

Belding's Cottage

The only other business at the second meeting was the cottage rented by S. Belding. The Council wished to ascertain what rent for this cottage had been collected by a Mr.R.R.Coggan and decided that Councillors Holdich and Keber should inspect the cottage and report. This cottage is the subject of concern for the next five years. The tenant was in arrears with the rent and it was decided that in future this would be collected by the Clerk. The cottage was in need of repair. The Council decided to get an estimate for repairs, but not to carry them out until arrears of rent were paid. The Council had to pay rates on this cottage, first 14 shillings (70p) for six months in September and 18s in December 1929, the only business of that December meeting. In 1931 there was a report of overcrowding at the cottage and a letter was written to the tenant asking him to abate this nuisance. It later became clear that there was land with this cottage and that it was called "Toll Bar Cottage", being described as on the (Great) North Road, (presumably where the continuation of New Road reaches it). A minute in the 1950s shows that some of this land was involved when the A1 became a dual carriageway. It is not clear how this property came to be in the possession of the Parish Council. It may date from the time that roads were maintained by the Parish through their surveyors of the highway but their functions had been taken over by Highway Authorities who in turn were superseded by District or County Councils. In 1932 the Council asked Pembroke College Cambridge, who may have owned adjacent land, to purchase the cottage. In 1934 it was offered to Pembroke for £50; at the end of the year the conveyance was signed and the next year the proceeds were invested in 2.5% consols.

Water Supply

There was no mains water supply in the Parish. At the September 1929 meeting it was decided to approach the Norman Cross R.D.C with a view to get a water supply from Peterborough laid on. In July 1934 the District Council was informed that there was a shortage of drinking water in the village. In November it was reported that the village pump and wells were virtually dry and the District Council was asked to provide water in the case of necessity. Eventually in September 1935 the Norman Cross R.D.C informed the Parish Council that it had adopted plans for the provision of a water supply for the Parish, an announcement which the Parish Council unsurprisingly unanimously approved of.

The Village Street

From the third meeting of the Council in September 1929 onwards complaints were made about the state of the village street, requesting removal of the granite sets on the hill and resurfacing, rounding off the east corner of the approach to Oundle Road and requesting regular cleaning of the surface water drains. By January 1930 no action had been taken by the Hunts County Council. Complaints about the state of the road and the lack of action have at intervals featured in the minutes ever since.

1930 Meetings

There were meetings at about 6 week intervals throughout the year but only one or two items of business took place per meeting.

(a) The only applicant to apply for grazing rights for the year 1930 was given the right at a cost of £2 to graze on the Old Road, provided care was taken to prevent the cattle straying. The next year a tender for £1 was accepted!

(b) Mr Baldwin, who lived at Manor Farm, presented an account for £4 15 shillings and nine pence for the use of his workers for repairs to the Old Road.

© Ernest Charles Chambers –groom and William Claude Frisby- motor driver were selected as Parish Constables for the year (a charity known as the Constables Fund still exists as part of Orton Waterville United Charities)

(d) Concern was expressed to the District Council that the paths behind the Church were becoming a dumping ground for refuse.

(e) It was decided that individual Councillors would collect contributions towards the purchase of a bier for parish use at funerals. A total of £5 was collected and the Parish Council decided to pay the rest from its funds, the total cost being £22.

(f) Finance. It is not clear from the minutes how the Council got any funds. No income, except rent from the cottage, was reported and there is no mention of a Parish Rate being agreed. However accounts for 1930-31 were approved and an auditor's certificate subsequently obtained.

The newly elected Council of March 1931

This Council was elected at a Parish Meeting. Eight nomination papers were received for seven places. All existing Councillors were elected with the exception of Mr Sutton who did not stand. Mr Holdich and Mr Boulton, a newcomer, topped the poll with 12 votes and Mr A Barber just missed out with 5 votes. Within a year Mr Boulton had left the district and resigned and was replaced by Mr Arthur Barber. From a later minute the cost of the election appeared to be 12/6d for the Returning Officer and possibly 10/3d for stationery, which seems relatively costly. Rev. Johnson was confirmed as Chairman and Mr Holdich as Vice-chairman. Rev. Johnson died early in 1933 and eventually Mr Holdich was confirmed as Chairman. It was decided to hold quarterly meetings.

The Parish Council told the District Council that there was no demand for housing for agricultural labourers and decided any alteration of the Parish boundaries would be unnecessary.

This Council continued to be concerned about the entrance to the village, pressing for a danger sign on the main road and repeating a request for removal of some of the grass verge. Concern continued about the dumping of rubbish and about the state of

the drains, a meeting with the Chairman of the Rural District Council to look at the drains and inspection chamber being arranged. Another complaint to the RDC about the state of the cesspit was to be made in April 1938.

A new problem was to secure the removal of the "shelter" at the end of the village. Eventually, seven shillings and sixpence was paid to Mr Holdich to get it down.

Parish Charities In Nov.1932, at the instigation of the Charity Commission, a Scheme for the administration of the Parish Charities – (Town Lands, Constable Land and Church Land) was approved. Mr J.W.Barker and Mr Keber were appointed Charity Trustees. The Parish Council has continued to appoint Trustees.

School Manager Mr Tatman was appointed to the Board of Managers of the village school. (After the Village school closed, the Parish Council continued to appoint managers or governors to local primary schools, but the right of the Parish Council to appoint has been lost.)

The newly elected Council of 1934

The election was at the Parish Meeting where there were eight nominations for seven places. William Claude Frisby was not re-elected. Maurice Moses Walker with six votes, a new Councillor, polled the least votes of those elected, Arthur Keber, with twelve, the most. John Hayman Mitchell was also newly elected and became Chairman. He was succeeded the next year by Mr Tatman.

The holding of monthly meetings of the Council was decided, but there were soon much longer intervals with little business being recorded!

Silver Jubilee of George V 1935 Messrs Bettles, Keber and Holdich were given full powers to inaugurate and carry out any scheme in connection with the Jubilee Week celebrations. Five Pounds were later given by the Council towards the children's celebrations.

Accounts showed that the Clerk's salary continued to be three guineas and the Council paid Land Tax and Schedule A Tax (presumably on allotment land) and also Fire Insurance.

Stench from the inspection chamber at the end of the village continued. The County Council was asked to repair footpaths and to replace a gate and erect a fence on a footpath at the rear of the church and in the main street.

Air Raids A letter was received from the RDC in Nov. 1936 asking the Parish Council to assist in making preparations in case of air raids. This was three years before war broke out.

New Council Elected March 15th 1937

At a Parish Meeting with Mr F Mason in the Chair there were only five nominations: George Bettles, W.C.Frisby, T,W.Holdich, A.Keber and Joseph Tatman. At the next meeting on March 23rd only the Chairman, Mr Holdich and the Clerk were present. The only other meetings that year were in April and July. The next was in January 1938 with just two councillors and the Clerk.

It was agreed in 1937 to pay an annual fee of two shillings and sixpence for the use of lights for Council Meetings in the schoolroom, to request a telephone box in the village and to pay £5 for the Coronation Festivities on May 12th

In July 1938 the Council was concerned about a notice that appeared in Ham Lane forbidding a right of way to the public and it wanted a reduction of the annual charge

for clearing out a cesspit, because there had been a drain diversion. (As so often is the case, it is not possible to tell whether this was ever successful; - probably not because parish council requests have been so frequently ignored over the years and there was nothing positive to record.)

The next meeting was not until Jan.1939 when Clerk reported about an interview with the RDC Surveyor. There was concern also about the state of Chapel Lane and adjacent footpaths, one of which is a direct route across the fields towards Oundle Road in the direction of Peterborough. Later the Council was to ask Hunts.County Council for a footpath along Oundle Road itself.

There was a complaint in March from Mr D King about allotments. These were inspected and it was resolved to get rubbish cleared, but this had still not been done by July 31st.

The next meeting was not until March 21st 1940 when there was discussion and complaint to Hunts C.C. about recent flooding in the Village Street and a request for immediate steps.

The next Parish Council meetings recorded were in April 1940, April 1941 and March 1942. These were recorded as the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council in which the Chairman was elected and the accounts presented. There was no other business recorded. There is no record of any other Parish Council meeting until July 21st 1942. when the Council is asked by the District Council to find a Salvage Officer to superintend the collection of salvage. A number of people were suggested unsuccessfully, but eventually Mrs Brawn of the Women's Voluntary Service undertook the task. By March 1943 the salvage dump is described as a nuisance as it was not being emptied by the District Council (There is no indication where the dump was or what was collected in Orton Waterville, but it was not unusual for iron, rubber, textiles, paper and bones to be collected).

In 1943 Mr L.J.Barker, Mrs Elizabeth Ratcliffe of Belmont and Mr G. McKeown of Holmfield were elected to fill vacancies, which, it seems, had existed since the new Council came into being in March 1937. Mr Mason resigned as Clerk and was eventually replaced by Miss Kathleen Roberts.

By 1943 the tide in the European War had turned and thoughts turned to improvements that could be made in the Parish after the war, the names of the new councillors frequently occurring in the minutes. Communications from the National Council of Social Service stimulated thought. There was a suggestion that there should be a General Purposes Committee to which representatives from other bodies e.g. the Women's Institute and the WVS should be invited, but there is no further record of this. There were suggestions for a tree planting scheme after the war, a Village Hall and recreation ground, together with a desire for action about rubbish, drainage and sewerage. The clerk wrote to the RDC stating that if council houses were built priority should be given to those who had to vacate their houses or huts consequent on the issue of a demolition order. There was concern about someone living in a caravan at the rear of a house, a sign of future concern about planning permission.

Complaints were made about the nuisance caused by cows in the Village Street and the County Council was asked whether there were bye-laws dealing with this (As there were farmyards in the Village Street, cows moving along the Village Street at milking time had been commonplace for years and was in fact to continue until the 1960s. The complaints perhaps reflected the increasingly urban nature of Orton

Waterville residents. In later years there were to be complaints about smells from pigsties)

In 1944 it was decided to have a *Parish Council notice board* at a cost of 35shillings. Two shillings and sixpence was paid to Mr Howe for it to be hung on his house. The Education Authority was approached with a view of holding evening *classes in the village school*.

When *Victory in Europe* came in May 1945 the Parish Council felt that celebrations in the village should wait until the war with Japan was over. At the September meeting it was decided to call a public meeting about celebrating final victory in the Second World War but the minutes contain no references to these celebrations.

REFUSE COLLECTION

In 1944 an offer from Norman Cross RDC for the collection of refuse in the village had been made to the Chairman. This offer had been made via Mr Baldwin, who appears to have been the local RDC Councillor. At first the council appears to have been misled about the terms of the offer and eventually the offer was turned down, leaving the matter open to further negotiation. The RDC was asked to make any further communications in writing directly to the Council. The RDC offered to collect only bottles and tins and not ashes and this was considered unsatisfactory. It was agreed to try to get support for the collection of ashes from Orton Longueville Parish Council. The District Council said it would collect ashes in both villages if a suitable dump could be found and Orton Waterville had a dump. (This was situated at the eastern end of the current play area). Orton Waterville wanted £5 a year from Orton Longueville for using its dump.

In August 1946 the Orton Waterville dump was offered to the RDC. A complaint was received from Mr King (Lady Lodge Farm) about the danger of his roadway being undermined. (gravel had earlier been extracted up to the roadway and this was the obvious access for vehicles to the dump). It seems that some repair was carried out and the tip was used, though in 1950 the RDC was asked that the tip be used for village refuse only, but it is not clear that this happened.

In October 1959 the RDC was informed of recent fires at the tip and the nuisance of rats. In April 1960 a notice appeared in the Evening Telegraph from the solicitors of Mrs Maud King (the owner of Lady Lodge Farm) stating that the licence to use this roadway had expired and that there was no right of way. Use of the tip for RDC rubbish soon ceased. Orton Waterville PC was anxious to point out to the solicitors that the dump was its property and that the hedge at the side of the roadway should be the boundary of the respective properties.

Sewerage

In June 1946 a public meeting was called to discuss proposals for the collection of rubbish and a sewerage scheme, but it was resolved that “in view of the possible increase in rates for a temporary scheme it would be better to await the final proposals.”

In August 1946 it was reported that a Ministry Grant for a main sewerage scheme had been obtained. Presumably this was carried out.

Concern continued about road drainage and flooding. There was concern about the condition of the pathway where Mr Baldwin's pond overflowed and the County Council was asked to drain it. There was still a problem eighteen months later, so it was decided to write to Pembroke College, presumably the landlord.

Footpaths There was a complaint that the footpath to Alwalton had been obstructed by ploughing. Obstruction or diversion of footpaths was to be a topic frequently raised in the 1960s and 1970s. Dons Walk was to be the name given to a footpath, named in memory of the Councillor Don Lancaster, who was fervent in his concern about the preservation of footpaths.

Allotments There are occasional references to allotments, usually concerned with the dumping of rubbish, but it is not clear where they were situated. A later minute in June 1954 dealing with possible housing, refers to "present allotments in Mill Lane." In another reference they seem to be where the existing Wyman Way allotments are. Unfortunately, the term allotment does not necessarily mean a "garden allotment", but can sometimes mean a small area of land which is rented out for growing crops. They are not necessarily controlled by the Parish Council, but certainly in a minute of August 1932 the Parish Council makes a decision about who should take over an allotment. Later the Parish Council is concerned about the sub-letting of Parish land. The Parish Council also paid Land Tax, (presumably on the allotments), but it is apparent from minutes that some allotments were under the control of Pembroke College or Mr Baldwin at Manor Farm, its tenant.

Tree planting There was talk of a tree planting scheme after the war in July 1943 and again in Feb 1944 when 30 trees, possibly lime, were suggested, but it seems it was expected that the County Council would do this. There were already some trees in the village which the Parish Council had had pruned. At the Jan 1946 meeting the proposed tree planting scheme was discussed and the Clerk was asked to enquire about the cost of Acacia trees. Several names were submitted from residents willing to give trees. There was discussion at the next meeting but no decision. At the end of the year it was proposed that the tree planting scheme should be carried out, that the number of trees should reflect the number of village servicemen killed in the war, that a quotation should be obtained, that two trees should be paid for by the Parish Council and the trees planted in a place approved by the County Surveyor. It was next proposed that the trees should be copper beech and that the cost of staples and cages when planting them be obtained. In the June 1947 meeting beech trees were promised for the scheme, the Parish Council promising four and Parishioners five. At the October 1947 meeting it was decided that in view of the National Emergency the tree planting scheme should be postponed indefinitely. There is no reference to the scheme being revived.

In the 1970s, the Parish of Orton Waterville designated as part of the Peterborough New Town Development, there started a great deal of tree and shrub planting in the new housing by the Development Corporation in addition to the creation of a tree belt between the new development and the existing houses in the village and Lady Lodge

Estate. Thanks to donations of money or trees from local residents, trees donated by the RDC and a plentiful supply of trees from the Development Corporation tree nurseries, the Parish Council was now able to plant numerous trees in the village area.

Housing In May 1944 the Planning Committee of Mr Frisby the Chairman, Mr McKeown, Mr Barker and Mrs Ratcliffe was set up to view possible sites for future building and improvement in the village and a plan was prepared and submitted to the Rural District Council. It is clear from the minutes that some people in Orton Waterville were living in houses or huts (bungalows) (situated off Cherry Orton Road quite close to the Rectory) which were in danger of being condemned as unfit for human habitation, the Parish Council wanting priority given to these people if council houses were built in the village. In April 1946 it was noticed that no houses had been allocated for the Parish and the Council sent a letter calling attention to the great need for houses. By August four houses had been allocated to Orton Waterville (this was a time when new building was strictly controlled, virtually all new houses being Council houses). The Parish Council wanted to have some say in the allocation of houses, a points system being favoured, and preference being given to local people. In August 1948 they disapproved of the fact that one of the four houses was given to a Rural District Council worker, who already had a house. In Jan 1951 four names for tenants of new houses were selected by the Parish Council from a long list.

New Council elected March 11th 1946

There were 32 persons present at the Annual Parish Meeting. There were nine nominations. Mr A Keber and Mr L.J.W.Barker topped the open voting with 23 votes. Mr H.H. Clayton, Mr W.J.Hornsby and Mr R. Keber were new Councillors, who replaced Mr McKeown, (leaving the village), Mr Tatman and Mrs Ratcliffe. Mr Hardwick and Rev. Holdsworth wanted a poll but they got no support. At the first meeting the Council appointed a Ratepayers Representative.

Possible Local Government reorganisation

Later in the year a public meeting was called at the request of the Norman Cross RDC to consider possible changes in County boundaries and amalgamation of counties (the options around this time included the creation of a large Fenland County based on Cambridge). The meeting decided that they were in favour of joining up with Peterborough as they were the nearest city and that Peterborough should be the centre of administration. Also that year the council was asked by the National Council of Social Service to consider the possible amalgamation of Parish Councils. There does not seem to be much enthusiasm for this, as discussion was deferred to a later meeting and there is no record of any decision.

Bus service

Requests for improved bus services continued over the years. The bus was a Kettering-Oundle-Peterborough service and ran along the Oundle Road.

Frequency of meetings

There were only three Parish Council meetings in 1947 and on October 17th only three members turned up! It was decided that the quorum should be three members present.

(there had probably always been a number specified by Act of Parliament, which this council may have been unaware of)

The meeting on Jan.26th 1948 was the first fully attended meeting since that of April 1946 which was the one immediately after the election.

Other business transacted by this council -----

included: a suggestion for reconditioning the War Memorial, repairing the church gate, the cleanliness of the Village Street, especially from the post office (probably presently called Old Mullions) and down the hill, the Trusteeship of the Village Hall and the Cricket and Football Clubs. There existed no playing field as such, in the village for organised games. Orton Park Cricket Club had played for many years in the grounds of Orton Hall, but the penniless last Marquis of Huntly, who lived there, had died in 1937, the property had been requisitioned during the War and now the estate was going to be sold. The Council decided to write to Orton Longueville Parish Council with a view of joint action to try to save the cricket pitch and the possibility of a football pitch in Orton Hall Park. Apart from a reference in Aug 1949 to a letter to Norman Cross RDC and to Orton Longueville on this subject, the minutes make no further reference to this, although in June 1950 the Parish Council told NCRDC that what remains of Orton Park should be used for recreation.

(The Hall and its Park were bought by the Hunts County Council for educational purposes. The Hall (which is now a hotel) became a residential school for girls with special educational needs and primary, grammar and secondary modern schools were eventually built in the grounds. Orton Park Cricket Club had been revived by 1961 and played first on the pitch at the recently opened Grammar School and then on the grounds of the Secondary Modern School, whose Headmaster Archie Peters was a well known local cricketer. A history of the origins and early years of Orton Park Cricket Club has been compiled by the late Fred Killingworth, which, along with his reminiscences and pictures of Orton Waterville, can be viewed on the Parish Council website under the heading Orton Waterville Parish History.)

The Desire for a RECREATION GROUND and a VILLAGE HALL

The first reference in the minutes was in Oct.1933 when the owners of Eldon Close were to be approached with a view to securing its formal hiring as a recreation ground for the Parish. (presumably this was near Eldon Lodge, the house now built near the present Cherry Orton Road Allotments to the rear of the west side of the Village Street). In 1934 and in 1935 more farmers were approached without success.

On July 19th 1944 a subcommittee of Mr Frisby, Mr Barker and Mrs Ratcliffe together with the Clerk completed a questionnaire from The National Council of Social Service. Their replies were that the Village wanted a Village Hall and that both the Women's Institute and the British Legion supported this. The Parish Council had viewed a possible site. A preliminary scheme to raise funds existed but no funds had yet been raised. They said that the village had no Playing Field, that games were

played in the Village Street and that the village had wanted a recreation ground for years.

At the meeting in Dec.1944 Mr Barker proposed that a letter be sent to all villagers of 16 years and over asking if they were interested in having a Village Hall. Mrs Miles, the Village Schoolmistress, was to be asked if schoolchildren would write copies. This was agreed by all six Councillors present and the letter drafted. There is no further reference in the minutes to what then happened, but this must have stimulated action in the village because at the July 1945 meeting it is reported that a Mr Hardwick was unable to be present to give a Village Hall report. This suggests that Villagers had formed a group to work towards obtaining a Village Hall. There are no further references in the minutes in 1945 to a Village Hall; but a letter in the archives of the Village Hall shows there was a public meeting on the initiative of the Parish Council on Nov.16th 1945, where it was unanimously resolved that a fund should be inaugurated for the purpose of acquiring a Village Hall and a children's playing field. A further public meeting on Nov. 23rd resolved that the Village Hall scheme should be "a memorial to those who gave their lives and a tribute to those who served in the recent war and as an expression of thanksgiving for victory." The proposed hall would be vested in publicly elected trustees, would be non-political and unsectarian and would serve as a community centre for village life. The appeal letter on behalf of the Committee was signed by W.H.Holdsworth, Rector of Orton Waterville (the committee chairman), W.C.Frisby, Chairman of the Parish Council (Assistant Honorary Treasurer) and W.G.Hardwick (Hon Secretary). The manager of Barclays Bank Peterborough had consented to be the Hon. Treasurer.

It is clear that the Village Hall Fund Committee was acting quite independently of the Parish Council. In Jan. 1946 a strongly worded letter was to be sent to the secretary of the Village Hall Committee pointing out that the Parish Council should not be cut out of future business in relation to the Hall and wanted all Parish Councillors to be on the Village Hall Committee during their term of office. There is no reference at all in the minutes to the Village Hall throughout 1947 and until Nov. 29th 1948 when it was agreed that the Parish Council would accept the Trusteeship of the Village Hall.

It would seem that a piece of land for a Village Hall had been identified which was in the possession of Pembroke College Cambridge and which the College was prepared to give to the village. Although the Village Hall Committee had raised the funds, the Committee, being an "unincorporated association" did not have the right to own land. It would have been unsatisfactory to give the land to an individual committee member to hold and therefore Pembroke College wished to give the land for the Parish Council to hold as Trustee. The Deed of Gift created a Charitable Trust. It stated the objectives of the Charity and laid down its constitution, giving to the Management Committee not only the day to day management but also the power to obtain advances on the security of, and, with the agreement of a Public meeting and the Charity Commission, to dispose of part or all of the premises. There appears to be no obligation to consult the Parish Council. The Management Committee was to consist of six annually elected members and a person appointed by each of a number of named village bodies, of which the Parish Council was one. The actual hall itself when built was provided under a Government Scheme and rented by the Management Committee from the National Council for Social Service. In March 1964 the Hall was

bought by the Committee from this body for £480 and became part of the Charitable Trust created by the Deed of Gift.

Surprisingly, there is no mention of a Children's Playing Field in the actual Deed of Gift. Young children were in fact to play on the grass around the hall and some swings were provided, but in the early years of the 21st century, because of safety problems, vandalism and misuse these were removed by the City Council.

Although the Parish Council had accepted Trusteeship of the Village Hall in Nov.1948, it is clear that it was suspicious of the draft Deed of Gift, fearing it would involve the Council in expenditure. Mr Hardwick, the Village Hall Fund Committee secretary, came as a guest to the March 24th meeting and explained that, although the Deed said that the Parish Council as Trustee would have to fence the land given, the Deed also stated that the Management Committee would have to pay any costs the Parish Council incurred. The Parish Council nevertheless decided that the Deed should be sent to the Clerk of Huntingdonshire County Council for his observation and approval. At the next meeting on April 19th, at which Mr Hardwick again attended by invitation, the Trust Deed of Gift was signed on behalf of the Parish Council by Mr Frisby, Chairman, Mr Clayton and Mr Hornsby in the presence of the Clerk. The Council then appointed Mr Hornsby as its representative on the Village Hall Committee. The actual Deed is dated: 1st June 1949.

Parish Council minutes over the next half century or so were to show that both Parish Councillors and Village Hall committee members, not surprisingly, were at times ignorant or misinformed or lacking in understanding of the terms of the Deed of Gift. Minutes of the 1982 Annual Parish Meeting show that the Parish Council took out a large loan £5700 to pay for improvements to the Village Hall. Although it had no legal obligation to do so, in later years as the increasingly necessary maintenance and new legislation meant increased costs, the Parish Council was to make considerable financial contributions, as it had the legal power to do, and with a great increase in the rateable value in the Parish it had the ability to do. Indeed, in the 1990s the Parish Council offered to accept ultimate responsibility for the cost of repair and maintenance to the building and land where this was beyond the ability of the Management Trustees. Assistance included the building, with the aid of a lottery grant, of an accessible toilet, double glazing, roof improvements etc. and culminated with the promise of a grant of £30000 which made possible the first stage of a major refurbishment and improvement project which started at the end of 2012, a Celebration of the Diamond Jubilee of Queen Elizabeth II. Financial help had not been very feasible in earlier years, for in 1947 a penny Parish Council rate brought in a total of only one pound ten shillings (£1.50).

May 1949 New Council

This was the first time that the Parish Council was elected by a poll. (This cost £12,12s and was paid for by an increase in the rates) There were nine candidates for the seven seats. Those elected were: William George Hardwick – 98votes

Reginald Eli Sutton -82votes

William Claude Frisby – 76

Henry Herbert Clayton -73

Kathleen Roberts -66
Albert Bannister Bettles – 62
Reginald Keber -55

J Tatman -51 and L.J.W.Barker -40 were unsuccessful.

(Mr Tatman, a former Chairman, had been a Councillor until the 1946 election. Mr Barker had been co-opted in 1943 and had scored with Mr A Keber the highest number of votes in the 1946 election in which there was not a poll. Lawrence Barker had been brought up in the village, living in the house at the end of Church Lane overlooking the Village Green where the Village Feast (or Fair) was held. An entrepreneur, he had interests in Huntingdon and in 1951 the Council sent a letter congratulating him on becoming Mayor of Huntingdon. His wife, Mrs Jean Barker, was years later to be the first representative for Orton Waterville on the Peterborough City Council when Orton Waterville became part of the City in 1974, a position she held until 1991.

Miss Roberts was the Parish Council Clerk.

Mr Hardwick was history master at Deacons School Peterborough, then a boys' Grammar School. He was closely involved in Parish Business. He was secretary of the committee raising funds for a Village Hall and is named on the Village Hall Deed of Gift as the representative of the Parochial Church Council on the Management Committee. He was to be Chairman of the Parish Council and the Orton Waterville representative on the Norman Cross RDC until he retired in 1974. His wife Etta of Cherry Orton Cottage was named on the Deed of Gift as the representative of the Women's Institute. Also on this Deed, Mr Frisby of the Council Houses was named as the representative of the Parish Council, Mr Clayton of Holmfield- the British Legion and Mr R Keber- The Committee of the Girl Guides.)

Street Names

At the Aug.1949 meeting it was suggested that the Council Houses should be given a proper address and that villagers should be invited to make suggestions. By December this had led to names for other roads being proposed and sent to the Norman Cross RDC. In March 1950 the Council asked NCRDC to reconsider the name of the village street, (which historically was the seldom used Town Street) and suggested Cherry Orton Road *(It appears that in the past Orton Waterville had often been referred to as Cherry Orton, allegedly because of cherry orchards there. Certainly, those living in the village street would find it an enhancing name. Many of the street names in the housing estates subsequently built have a local connection – Field or farm names, a local charity, a land owing college and a connection with the family at Orton Hall)*

August 4th 1950

The meeting on this date was the first in the newly opened Village Hall – in what is described as the Committee Room, (presumably what is now the kitchen?). The Council was charged 2/6d a year for use of the hall.

Councillors took part in a survey of **rights of way** in the Parish.

A year later the Council unanimously refused to accept **responsibility for footpaths** in the Parish.

There was concern about the condition of the footpath from the Parish Boundary to Orton Longueville and a letter was sent to Orton Longueville Parish Council about this.

Coronation of Queen Elizabeth II

At the October 1952 meeting coronation activities in the Parish were discussed and, as a previous meeting had not met with results, it was decided to call an open Public Meeting, invitations to be sent round to every household. At the Jan.1953 meeting a reply was to be sent to the Norman Cross RDC concerning coronation souvenirs for the children and Hunts CC was approached about a site for the planting of a coronation tree on the Village Green. At the July meeting it was decided that the Parish Council would not make a donation to the Coronation Fund as sufficient money had already been collected

THE SALE OF THE PEMBROKE COLLEGE ESTATE 1952

There is only an indirect reference in the Minutes to this sale, which had a considerable impact on the Parish.

(The information in this section is based on an annotated copy, complete with press cuttings, of Bidwell's Sale Catalogue of the Orton Waterville Estate by Pembroke College Cambridge on June 25th 1952. This catalogue was in the possessions of the late Kathleen Roberts, one-time Parish Councillor and Council Clerk, and sent to Mr. Len Sumpter, the Clerk of the Council, after her death. The complete accuracy of the figures quoted in the notes and in the newspaper cuttings cannot be guaranteed.)

This sale, which took place at a time when rents were still controlled, comprised the sale by auction by Pembroke College of a major portion of Orton Waterville in 21 lots, including: six farms, a small holding, 12 houses and cottages, allotment gardens and accommodation land, totalling 606 acres.

The six farms were:

Manor Farm: "a good, compact corn and stock rearing holding" with three cottages and two sets of farm buildings, totalling 200 acres. Let at £292-5-0.

Reserve price: £9500. Withdrawn at £8600. Later sold privately to tenant.

College Farm: "a useful small dairying and mixed farm with farmhouse and good premises", totalling 110 acres. Let at £178-1-0

Reserve £5000. Withdrawn at £4300.

Station Farm: 132 acres with building adjoining the Oundle – Peterborough Road. Let at £148-12-4. *Withdrawn at £4700*

Cherry Orton Farm with cottage and farm premises totalling 73 acres. Total rent from two tenants £89-19-6 *No offers*

Glebe Farm "with farmhouse and extensive premises" totalling 19 acres. Let at £63-10-0

Sold to the tenant for £1500

This fifth lot was the first property actually sold, which led to a round of applause from the 120 or so people present. (This land included the site of the new cemetery, "The Meadows" and part of "The Gannocks")

Forty Acre Farm "dairying and mixed holding" including stone and tile farmhouse and farm premises totalling 40 acres. Rented at £52-12-6d *Withdrawn at £1700*

Small Holding 11 acres including brick and stone cottage with slated and thatched roof. *No offers*

Houses and cottages included:

Cherry Orton Cottage Mainly stone with collyweston slate roof. Rent £60 -13s a year, landlord being responsible for main structure, walls and roof timbers only.

Reserve £2000. Withdrawn at £1650. Eventually sold privately to tenant.

(Two long-serving parish councillors and Council chairmen resided in turn at this cottage)

50 Cherry Orton Road Cottage, stone and thatch, Garden and Orchard. £35 rent *Withdrawn at £750*

48 Semidetached cottage and garden. Brick and slate, stone and thatch. £17-10s rent *Sold to tenant at £500*

46 Semidetached cottage and garden, stone and thatch. Rent £23-2-0d
Sold for £350
23 semidetached cottage with garden. Stone and thatch. Rent £14-12s *Sold £350*
21 ditto *Sold £220*
14 detached cottage with garden. Stone and thatch. Rent £6-10s
Sold £225 to tenant
9, 11, 13 Block of three cottages stone and thatch with brick and tile outbuildings
Reserve £400 Withdrawn at £350
62 Semidetached cottage with garden Stone and thatch with brick and tile lean-to
 Rent £8-3s *Sold £200*
Field with buildings *Sold £375 The site of future Cherry Orton Road allotments*
Plot of land at southern end of village *Sold £70*
Barn at south end of village Stone and thatch *Sold £50*
Allotment gardens 6 acres, approached from Church Lane. *Sold £300*
Allotment gardens 6 acres, with frontage to New Road and Mill Road *Sold £350*

According to the press cuttings, after sales by private treaty had taken place, the proceeds from the sale of the Estate was nearly £30,000.

The sale of the Pembroke College Estate was to bring about changes to the Village. A number of cottages with gardens, a plot of land and a field of allotment gardens were bought by a Peterborough builder. A block of cottages was converted into a single dwelling. Some farmers, now being landowners rather than tenants, were to seek to sell off some of their land for building. Barns and farm buildings were to be converted into dwellings. Those, who were now no longer tenants but owners of increasingly desirable attractive cottages, now had an even greater incentive to preserve the character of the Village and thus enhance their investment. The same was true of those who built new houses in the Village on land that now became available. This doubtless had some effect on the attitude of some residents to proposals to introduce street lighting in the Village Street, to the Lady Lodge Estate, the inclusion of Orton Waterville in the Peterborough New Town and towards businesses in the Village.

War Memorial

At the May 1955 meeting it was reported that the reconditioning of the War Memorial, which stands in the Churchyard next to the Church Lane wall, was in hand and that further offers of financial help had been received.

An article on Orton Waterville War Memorials can be viewed under Orton Waterville Parish History on the Parish Council website.)

2.5% Consols and a Bus Shelter

Possible sale of the Council's 2.5% consols, acquired from the sale of Tollgate Cottage was discussed in 1951 and it was suggested that the money might be used to build a bus shelter on Oundle Road or for street lighting. In Jan 1953 getting an estimate for street lighting was suggested (there is no evidence that this was ever done). In July a Public Meeting was proposed to discuss the provision of a bus shelter. It appears that this meeting led to the setting up of a Bus Shelter Working Group and this started to raise money, for in Dec 1953 it was proposed that the £50 consols be sold and the money given to this fund. By June 1954 permission to sell the consols had been obtained from the Ministry of Local Government. It was decided that a meeting should be held about the bus shelter of two bus shelter representatives plus Rev Haywood, the Council Chairman (Mr R Keber) and the Clerk. This was to lead in turn to a meeting on site with representatives of the County Planning Authority, Police, Norman Cross RDC and Eastern Counties Bus Company. Some alterations to the proposed plan were agreed and the liabilities of the Council with regard to the construction of the shelter were pointed out, it being decided to approach Mr Crosby, the owner of adjoining land, and the telephone authorities, because of underground cables. New quotations were sought. In November 1954 a quotation for £24-10s-0d for bus shelter lighting was accepted but then it was decided to ask Norman Cross RDC to do the installation. It was reckoned the annual cost of the lighting would be about £3-16s which would have to be a Parish Council rate for the year 1955/56. In Feb. 1955 it was decided to pay Mr White for work done on the bus shelter from funds collected at the Coronation (£70). In September Mr White was asked to make a cupboard to cover the electricity meter and to fix a rain guttering on the shelter. The shelter obviously became a gathering place for youths, for in Aug. 1956 it was reported that the Police had been successful in finding some of the culprits for damage done to the shelter and the Council agreed to their prosecution. Mr Cornell is to fasten the end windows of the shelter with riveted bolts and a whist drive is to be arranged to raise funds towards bus shelter costs. At the Oct. meeting it is reported that two local boys had been acquitted on the charge of breaking one of the windows, though the father of one of the boys had since repaired the window at his own expense. A Woodston boy was fined 36s with 1s costs in respect of the ceiling damage. It was agreed that the other window should be repaired with wired glass and the newly appointed Clerk (Mr Hugh Semper) agreed to obtain and fix it with the help of another Councillor.

It was suggested by the Rector that a seat be provided in the shelter, but it was agreed not to proceed until the shelter was paid for. The guttering had not yet been fixed and

it was now decided it was not needed. All councillors promised prizes for the forthcoming Whist Drive for the shelter funds.

In Jan.1957 it is reported that the wired glass in the east window had been fixed by the clerk and the Chairman and the bill of 11/4d was passed for payment. Mr Cornell had not yet riveted the windows or Mr White finished the floor. No approach had been made to Mr Williams about the ceiling repairs and Miss Roberts said she would arrange for the ceiling to be repaired with hardboard. The whist drive had raised £3-10-6d. The possibility of the bus shelter fund balance of £15-9-2d and money from the Constables Fund being used to provide a seat in the shelter was mentioned, but held over until the final account on the shelter was settled.

In May 1957 the east window was again broken, though P.C.Apthorpe thought it might have been a stone from a passing vehicle. A lock on the electricity meter cupboard had gone missing. Damage was to continue, for in March 1958 the Hunts Constabulary was approached about a warning notice and advice to children and Mr J Hodson was asked to quote for ceiling and window repairs.

In May 1959 it is reported that the Giddings Trust would donate a small surplus (£4 or £5) for a bus shelter seat and a precast concrete one was suggested. There was a problem in getting a builder to quote to install one. Another fund raising whist drive was planned. Work had still not done by March 1960 when a different sort of seat was proposed and a ceiling made from sheet metal. By April nothing had been done, but it was agreed that parents of the children concerned be asked to contribute £1 each towards the cost of repairs. In Jan 1961 it is reported that the shelter had been badly damaged and it was suggested that the windows should be bricked up, the cost to be borne by the rates. Money had been raised by a dance and the local charity made a donation.

In 1964 the shelter was badly damaged by a lorry. The lorry owners admitted liability. In August the Parish Council wanted all the debris removed and planned to rebuild the shelter with concrete blocks with a stone facing, though in the meeting a few weeks later Councillors were looking for bricks of which there was a shortage at the time. The shelter was to have windows, which if broken regularly, would be bricked up. Tenders to build were slow in coming in and by the November there had been a report in a local newspaper criticising the delay in rebuilding. The new shelter must have been quickly built, because by the January meeting there were complaints that the shelter was draughty. It was decided therefore to brick up the doorway on the west side leaving a window 2ft 6ins in depth. The outside was to be of cedar boarding. By June the alterations had not yet been carried out, but Miss Roberts, Councillor and one time Clerk, agreed to clean the windows occasionally. In Feb.1966 the roadman was to be paid £1 to clean the shelter and in April a window cleaner was to clean the windows once a month. By April 1972 all the glass had been broken, the timetable torn from the wall and the light fittings damaged. It was decided not to replace the glass at that time and to remove and make safe the light fittings.

A request to replace the glass and light in Nov 1972 was turned down because of past vandalism.

There are few further references in the minutes to the bus shelter. There were complaints about the bus being much too early and about it not stopping at the shelter when people were waiting there. (When the Oundle Road was straightened the bus shelter came to be in a lay-by) In March 1969 the bus company said it would divert one bus up the village on a Wednesday and a Saturday and soon the Council asked for a second bus to do so. It seems the bus turned round at the upper green or triangle at

the Cherry Orton/ New Road junction, but there were complaints about the verges being damaged. It was suggested that the bus could run through Lady Lodge Estate, but the company claimed that some of the roads were still private and that a perfectly practicable suggestion by the Council to avoid missing out the bus shelter and the shelter provided by Orton Longueville Council near to the entrance to Lady Lodge Drive was declared not practicable by the Company. Later Orton Longueville Council was asked about rerouting the service through the Estate, still largely in Orton Longueville Parish and, after canvassing opinion, Orton Longueville Council objected. Occasional repairs to the deteriorating shelter were carried out and in the end a regular bus service during the day was established via Cherry Orton Road, Church Drive and Lady Lodge Drive. Thus the bus shelter became largely unused except mainly early morning, evening and Sunday services.

Youth Club

At the May 1959 meeting the Rev. Haywood expressed his concern about the young people in the Village and wondered if something could be done for them. They had no place to play and seemed to be at a loose end, (as vandalism in the bus shelter might seem to some to suggest.) The Rector was assured by other Councillors that there were the grounds of the Village Hall and that Mr Bettles would be asked if they could play in his field as in previous years; but after lengthy discussion it was decided to try to start a Youth Club. If leaders could be found, a meeting of interested parties would be called. In October Rev. Haywood reported on the difficulty of forming a committee and that the Village Hall hiring fee was outside the range a Youth Club at the moment, but that it was hoped to form a club of about twelve to sixteen members in the twelve to fourteen age group. There is no further mention in the Minutes of a Youth Club until May 1967 when it was reported that J. Holborn had asked if the Parish Council would like to nominate a member to the Youth Club Management Committee. The Council decided to leave this decision to a meeting of the new Parish Council when Mr R Smith was appointed. In October 1968 it was reported that Mr Smith was leaving the area and resigned. There is no mention of a replacement on the Committee until June 1969 when the Rev. Christopher Gardner, who had replaced Rev. Haywood as Rector some six years earlier, was appointed. A Youth Club existed for a number of years, but there seems to have been no direct Parish Council involvement in its financing or management.

HOUSING

New Council Houses were built in stages in Glebe Avenue. In Jan. 1951 the Council chose four suitable tenants from a long list. At the May 1952 meeting Mr Reeve, Surveyor for Norman Cross RDC, was present when a discussion took place about future planning for houses in the village. The next year a complaint was sent to NCRDC about the road surface in Glebe Avenue and in 1955 the condition was described as terrible and the NCRDC was asked if work could start on the road. In 1957 it was reported that Hunts CC would not accept responsibility for the road until the NCRDC made it a proper road but NCRDC regarded it only as an occupation road.

In 1954 particular concern was expressed about the need to rehouse those people living in the "bungalows", (which were not considered habitable). In 1959 a need for Old Peoples bungalows was expressed but the RDC had no plans for these. In 1961

Old Peoples flatlets to release existing houses for families was suggested and the next year NCRDC said it was considering building some flats to accommodate old persons between two of the council houses. Three years later the Parish Council was making its recommendations for tenants of council flats and for two council Houses that would then become vacant.

The Council was asked its opinion about a new housing estate in the Mill Lane area and in 1954 there was a Ministry of Housing enquiry into an application by Clifford Estates to erect 36 houses on allotments in Mill Lane. (36 houses obviously were not built). Three years later the Council expressed a willingness to accept in principle a development proposed by Mrs A M M Barber, provided the entrance was from New Road and not Cherry Orton Road.

STREET LIGHTING

There was for many years no street lighting in the village of Orton Waterville. A few houses had an outside light that might illuminate the footpath a little; a light was installed in the bus shelter and there was a light on a farm building in Church Lane which illuminated the entrance to the churchyard.

At the Council meeting on Jan. 9th 1953 an estimate for street lighting was suggested. There is no evidence in the minutes that this proposal was carried out – or even agreed. At the August 1956 meeting Mr Sutton was asked to make definite enquiries of the Eastern Electricity Board about the cost of street lighting in the Village and the possibility of offering electricity to the houses in Orton Waterville on the North Road. At the next meeting it was reported that street lighting would cost about £24 per light and that the annual maintenance cost would be about £4. It was agreed that 25 – 30 lamps would be necessary for the Village and after discussion the matter was held over for future reference. Three years later the Clerk stated that a few residents had asked him about street lighting, as Orton Longueville was to have street lighting. Costs of installation and maintenance were produced and after a general discussion the proposal was turned down. Two years later in June 1961 Miss Roberts suggested the proposal to have some form of street lighting be examined again. The general opinion was that street lighting would be an asset, but the cost might be too big a strain on the rates. The Clerk was asked to ascertain costs. In Sept. it was stated that the cost for 12 lights would be £350 and it was agreed that the Chairman and the Clerk should meet a representative of the Electricity Board to discuss the matter. In January 1962 an estimate had been received from the Electricity Board. Although there was a proposal to shelve the project because of new building developments (Lady Lodge Estate), the decision was taken to deliver a circular to all ratepayers in the Village, giving examples of how the rates would be affected. This was done and a Public Meeting called for April 3rd. At this 35 members of the public were present. The approximate positions of the lights were given and it was said they would be attached to existing Post Office or Electricity poles. It was realised that if the proposed Lady Lodge development in Orton Waterville was carried out, the Estate would have street lights. Mr Smart said he was against street lighting, but elderly and very young people should be considered. Mr Boulton Brewer said any danger could be avoided by carrying torches. Mr Hardwick said he was definitely against it as it would spoil the character of the Village. Various statements were made and the Chairman then asked for anyone who wanted street lighting to speak. There were no offers and so the Chairman put the matter to a vote and the voting was 2 votes for street lighting and 29 against.

At the December 1962 meeting the Parish Council stated that it had no objection to lamp standards on Lady Lodge Estate but the developer should be informed that the Parish Council had not yet adopted the Street Lighting Act.

In December 1963 correspondence was read from Ruddle and Wilkinson about proposals to erect lamp standards in Church Drive, and also in Glebe Avenue, where the Council Houses were, and the firm wanted to know if the Parish Council would accept responsibility for them. The Parish Council decided that a decision should be made at a Public Meeting. 52 people were present, of which at least 17 spoke. It is clear that the discussion did not simply concentrate on Church Drive and Glebe Avenue. When the Chairman asked whether anyone had a definite proposal, Miss Roberts proposed, seconded by Mr Fisher, that street lighting be provided in the Village. A show of hands resulted in 20 votes for the motion and 6 against. A further Public Meeting would be held when all the details of cost were available. This Public Meeting was held on 27th February 1964. 36 people attended with Mr Henderson, Clerk to the RDC, present. After a general discussion Miss Roberts seconded by Mr Hayhurst proposed that the Council adopt the relevant part of the Parish Council Act relating to street lighting and this was carried by 22 votes to 7. It was then agreed by 22 votes to 1 to apply to the Ministry of Housing and Local Government for his consent to adopt this section. Mr Henderson explained that if any five electors demanded a Poll on the matter there would have to be one, but no-one did. It was agreed that the Parish Council should apply to the Ministry for loan sanction for the amount deemed necessary. Mr Evans-Gordon seconded by Mr Finn, proposed, without opposition that the annual capital repayment be limited to £100 (this was later changed to £300). It was agreed that the Council obtain second-hand lamp standards from Peterborough Corporation and that the number and position of the lampposts be left to the Parish Council and the Electricity Board. At the next council meeting it was decided to write to the Ministry of Housing and Local Government for the necessary permissions. By the May meeting the contract had been signed and it was agreed the lampposts should be painted stone to match the existing buildings. In September the Parish Council was told that it would have to get permission from the Highway Authority.

At the March 1965 meeting it is clear that the Street Lighting had been installed. The general opinion was declared to be favourable.

As the Lady Lodge Estate expanded into the parish, the Council had additional lights installed to bring the lighting up to highway standard in order to escape from the responsibility of paying for the cost of the electricity. In 1971 the Parish Council wished to bring the lighting in Cherry Orton Road up to County Highway standard and suggested that any extra lights should be on the east side of the street to help preserve the character of the village, as the standards would be obscured by the trees behind them and would drop their leaves in winter. The County Surveyor rejected the Parish Council's amendments to his improvements plans.

THE LADY LODGE ESTATE COMPANY

The Lady Lodge Estate Company, in which a local landowner had an interest, was to bring about great changes to Orton Waterville. The first reference is in the minutes of Jan 9th 1957 and is to the proposed development plan of Lady Lodge Estate Company. The Council declared itself unanimously opposed to this development in principle and

asked Norman Cross RDC more time to discuss it in conjunction with Orton Longueville Parish Council. It objected to Cherry Orton Road being used for this development from its junction with New Road to its existing end at Top Town Pond; to the proposed density of housing; to any future connection to the village pumping station as it would be needed for plans already approved in the village; to the unnecessary sacrifice of agricultural land and the Council proposed that Kings Drive from Oundle Road should be the main road for the development and also that any entrance through the Manor paddock should be reserved for future council houses (*In the minutes there are frequent references to Planning Numbers, Ordnance Parcels or points marked on a map, which means the exact location of some areas cannot always be identified*)

A joint meeting with Orton Longueville Parish Council was held on Jan 22nd with Mr Reeve, Surveyor for Norman Cross RDC present. The capacity of the sewerage scheme was discussed and Mr Reeve stated that the various pumping stations between Orton Waterville and Fletton would be able to take the new load and still leave capacity for 473 further houses in Orton Longueville. The figure for the proposed Lady Lodge Estate Development was 185 houses. A proposal by Archdeacon Royal (Orton Longueville Parish Councillor, and County Councillor) to exclude five parcels of land from the scheme was carried and it was agreed that any outlet road to Orton Waterville village should not go through Manor paddock. It agreed that the development should not exceed six to the acre and the ratio should be four houses to one bungalow. The meeting wanted Kings Drive to be the main access road for the proposed estate, but Mr Reeve said that the cost would be enormous and that Mr King did not own the land on either side and that the County Planning Officer was against any further access to the main Oundle Road. He said that street lighting would be a Parish Council responsibility, which at present would only affect Orton Longueville rates. It was pointed out that Parish Councils had no power to veto any scheme and that semi-detached or terraced houses could not be ruled out.

(The Parish Council over the years has frequently had to face the reality that however strongly held or locally supported its view on a planning matter, the Parish Council is only consulted and it is not the planning authority, that makes the decision.)

Lady Lodge Estate plans were next discussed at a Parish Council meeting on May 8th 1957. This followed a meeting at Norman Cross RDC offices two months earlier between representatives of Orton Waterville and Orton Longueville Parish Councils, The County Planning Officer, Norman Cross RDC Chief Officers and the RDC Plans Committee. This plan showed an amended layout on O.S. 92 Orton Longueville. It was noted that the number of dwellings was 6.5 to the acre and the total number reduced from 187 to 167. (*This presumably referred to the start of the building of Lady Lodge Estate and would consist of the roads to be known as Charles Cope Road, Lady Lodge Drive, Aboyne Avenue, Pembroke Avenue and Church Drive (part)*)

The Parish Council was willing to accept only Stages 1 and 2, (*presumably Charles Cope Road and Lady Lodge Drive*). The Parish Council would not commit itself to any of the other stages. As this area of land (O.S.92) is not mentioned again in the minutes, it would appear that the Planning Authority did not agree with the Parish Council as the area was built on.

In March 1958 a plan was discussed for possible development on what was a triangular plot of land between Kings Drive and the already approved entrance to the proposed Lady Lodge Estate (i.e. Lady Lodge Drive). The Parish Council unanimously agreed with the view of Orton Longueville that the area should remain an open space. In Sept. 1961 a slightly differently composed Council stated that they would prefer an open space or a park. The only other option should be the erection of "high class properties". This remained an open space for many years. So far the Lady Lodge Development had been in what was then Orton Longueville Parish, leaving a single strip of arable fields between Orton Waterville village and the new buildings, mostly bungalows (rabbit hutches as they were sometimes referred to, though not in the minutes). This was too close to the village for some, who feared the development would change the character of the village. There had already been enquiries by the Parish Council as to whether the postal address would be Orton Waterville and the Ecclesiastical Boundaries of the Parish of Orton Waterville had been changed to include the Lady Lodge estate almost before any dwellings were built.

It was in Jan. 1962 that plans for the first stage of proposed development on Lady Lodge Estate in Orton Waterville Parish were discussed. Approximately 144 dwellings were to be erected with provisions for shops, a public house and parking space. It was stated that this would practically double the population and all Councillors were against the proposal as it appeared "Orton Waterville would become a suburb of the new development". Various reasons for opposition were put forward such as unsatisfactory road access, insufficient sewerage facilities and ignoring of existing rights of way. The draft report on Rural Policy was briefly discussed and Councillors were asked to read it and present their opinions at the next meeting. At that meeting the consensus of opinion was that a limited well planned development would be an asset but there was unanimity that the Village should not be an area of major development, because this would swamp the essential village atmosphere, and that Orton Waterville should be part of the green belt.

On March 20th 1962 all Councillors attended a meeting with six members of the public present to discuss the proposal to expand the Lady Lodge Estate into the area east of the village, (i.e. to extend Church Drive into Orton Waterville). Mr Viney, the Chairman, explained that outline planning permission had been given to Lady Lodge Estate Company to build 103 houses, 4 shops and a public house. His opinion was that the Parish Council had not been given a fair chance to put forward its views on the matter. Though this development had been shown on the Old Fletton Town Map, it was doubtful whether any Councillors or residents had heard about it when it was published (*this would be because Old Fletton was in the Old Fletton Urban District and not like Orton Waterville in Norman Cross Rural District, although both were in the county of Huntingdon which decided planning policy*). He reported on a meeting he and the Clerk had had with the County Planning Officer who answered their questions but no satisfaction had been obtained. The opinion of the Officer was that the matter had gone so far ahead that nothing could be done. Mr Viney said that the Council had to decide whether to register a protest to the Ministry or to accept the scheme. A lively discussion followed. Mr Hardwick, seconded by Mrs Ratcliffe, proposed that everything should be done to oppose the scheme. This was carried by 3 votes to 2 with one abstention. A letter was sent to the Minister of Housing with copies to Norman CrossRDC, the local MP (David Renton) and the County Planning

Officer. At the May meeting replies to this correspondence were read and it was agreed that nothing now could be done, though the Council was “relieved to hear that the new roads would not add to congestion in the village”. Mr Robinson, the County Planning Officer was invited to a meeting, which took place on the 19th June with all members of the Council and eight members of the public present. Mr Robinson explained that in the last revision of the Old Fletton Town Map Orton Waterville had been included. The aim was to try to create a Village Centre by the church with shops, a public house, a car park and open space.

In September detailed plans were discussed. The Parish Council

1. said the public house should be nearer the eastern edge of the Parish boundary (i.e. further away from the Village and the Church.)
2. wished to know who would be responsible for the grassed area.
3. wanted the two access roads (*presumably to Cherry Orton Road*) made dead ends, in view of the Ministry of Housing assurance that traffic in the Village Street would not be increased.
4. wanted provision for recreational facilities
5. wanted a turning space at the north end where the development met the Council tip
6. regarded the design of the properties as unimaginative and wanted an attempt to mingle them with existing properties – wanted a scheme that would be a credit to the district

In October plans for a further extension of Lady Lodge Estate at the south end of the Village were opposed by the majority of the Council, arguing that a similar proposal had been turned down earlier on the grounds that the Village should not be lengthened; that it would create traffic hazards; that it was contrary to the Rural Policies for Huntingdonshire as it would swamp the Village, and that this area was not on the existing Town Map.

In March 1963 a letter was received from Lady Lodge Estates, asking if they could purchase the allotments or alternatively exchange an equivalent piece of land for the allotments. After a long discussion it was decided that the Council would not sell.

ALLOTMENTS/PLAY AREA–Some background

The Wyman Way Allotments and Village Play Area (sometimes called Plegan Place) are situated on what had been the Parish Stone and Gravel Pit. This area was Plot 72 on the Orton Waterville Enclosure Award Map of 1809 and is described as 2 acres 3 roods and 3 poles lying in Church Field. To the north (presently The Gannocks) it was bounded by land of the Earl of Aboyne (Orton Hall) as lessee of the Master and Fellows of Pembroke College Cambridge; to the east by the Parish of Long Orton; to the south by land of Pembroke College and the Earl of Fitzwilliam; to the west by the old enclosures i.e. the ground behind the properties in the Village Street. The area was awarded to the Surveyors of the Highways of the Parish of Orton Waterville and was to be used by owners and occupiers of land, houses and buildings in Orton Waterville for getting stone, gravel and mortar for use on their respective premises and for the repair of public and private roads within the Parish. Its access would be from Church Lane and the Surveyors were to erect a fence and gate which “shall be for ever maintained and kept in repair”. The right of pasture on this land was awarded to the Surveyors who could rent it out and apply the rent to the repair of roads.

To the west the area was marked by the existing enclosures. The boundary to the south was to be marked by a fence or hedge by the owners of the land there; similarly

the land to the north “shall be made and for ever here after maintained and kept in repair at the expense of the said Master and Fellows and their successors”. The fact that it was likely that any hedge was placed on the very boundary, but over the years would spread either side, was in due course to lead to doubts and disputes over whose responsibility it was to maintain and trim it.

At the May 1943 meeting of the Council a letter was received from a Mr A Barber, the tenant of Pembroke College, with reference to the repair of the hedge on the north side of the allotments. The Council was of the opinion that the ownership of the hedge was in dispute and it was under no obligation to repair it, but it was decided at the July Meeting that Mr Barber should be asked to trim his side of the hedge and the Council would trim the other.

Confusion continued to arise over the years because the Enclosure Act had imposed on the Surveyors of the Highway no obligation to maintain boundary fences or hedges on any of the sides of the area, the obligation being on the adjacent land owners.

As the areas first to the south (Dale Close, Wyman Way) and then to the north (The Gannocks) the Parish Council was anxious that the boundary hedges should not be destroyed. Although the Council did get an estimate for fencing the south boundary, this was never attempted. In August 1968 it was agreed that Mr Dale be approached with a view to topping and laying the hedge on the north side, but no progress was made. Doubts were again expressed about ownership of the hedge. It was reported that Norman Wright, the agent for the Estate Company, was looking into the question of ownership of the hedges around the area and in July 1971 Jeffrey and Orrell, the solicitors for the Estate Company, which had no wish to saddle itself for responsibility for any hedge, requested information from the Parish Council, who replied that it no knowledge of any title to the hedge, but wanted it to be regarded as the Council's and wanted this marked on the deeds of owners of houses being built adjacent to the hedge. Nevertheless, the deeds of the first property occupied, showed the boundary the middle of the hedge. The Parish Council continued to have doubts about ownership and sought legal advice from the Rural District Clerk, but this failed to throw light on title. Finally, in November 1979 the Parish Council sent a letter to all the adjacent owners, stating that it had investigated the matter and had established that the hedge is jointly owned by the owners of properties backing on to the hedge and by the Parish Council and that the centre of the hedge formed the boundary and that the Parish Council needed to be informed if maintenance was required on its side.

It is not clear from the minutes how the Parish Council came to be charging rents for allotments on this area. The right to charge for “herbage” had been given to the Surveyors of the Highway. who were succeeded by the Highway Authorities in the nineteenth century, whose functions were later taken over by County or District Councils. It is possible that the title to the area did not pass from the Surveyors to these bodies, but remained with the Parish. In this case, (like the Toll Cottage), all parish property that was not ecclesiastical property would have passed by the Parish Council Act to the Parish Council.

There was some concern that if the area was considered to be the property of the local District Council Norman Cross RDC would be prepared to dispose of it to a developer for building. The Parish Council believed it was Common Land and the minutes report that its submission for Common Land registration had become final on August 1st 1972, there having been no objections by that time. By 1983 it had successfully been registered as Common Land in the ownership of the Parish Council.

PARISH BOUNDARY

In May 1963 Miss Roberts suggested the possibility of altering the Parish boundary to include the whole of the Lady Lodge Estate. It seemed a nonsense that the Estate should be split between two parish councils, particularly as the ecclesiastical parish boundaries had been changed in advance of the development. Also, people in the Orton Longueville part of the estate had been renting allotment in Orton Waterville from the start and were members of village organisations such as the Women's Institute, Young Women's Fellowship and Men's Fellowship. It was agreed to make enquiries of local opinion. In November 1963 it was reported that the Orton Longueville Parish Council and the Lady Lodge Ratepayers (Residents) Association were against a change of boundary. (The product of a penny rate was much lower in Orton Waterville than in Orton Longueville; consequently the rate charged on property in Orton Waterville had to be much higher for the same return. There was also the perception that Orton Waterville was less go-ahead.)

THE INFLUENCE OF A PRESSURE GROUP, THE PRESERVATION OF THE ALLOTMENTS AND THE CREATION OF THE PLAY AREA.

There is reference in the minutes to the Lady Lodge Residents Association. It was formed in the early years of the building of the Lady Lodge Estate, initially with the object of bringing collective pressure to bear on the builder to carry out outstanding maintenance and to get the estate roads adopted. Whereas the first area built up to just beyond Charles Cope Road had been given a road with a top surface, after that many dwellings were constructed without a proper road. The Association, Chairman Mr Turner and Secretary David Thorpe, a local journalist and a future Mayor of Peterborough, had widespread support. It believed it had a greater chance of success if it gained representation on local councils and it gained a virtual majority on the Orton Longueville Council, two of the Councillors being Mr Tom Holmes, who soon took over as Chairman when Archdeacon Royle retired, and Mrs Wendy MacArthur. Its candidate for Orton Waterville did not succeed but Mr L Tolson won the Rural District seat for Orton Longueville, coming into contact with Mr Hardwick the Orton Waterville representative. The Association now widened its aims. One concern was a safe route for young children to get to school. (the practice of ferrying children to school was not widespread in the 1960s!!) There was a growing number of children on the Estate and children in Orton Waterville had to go to the new Primary School in Orton Longueville when the Village School closed. This meant walking along the Oundle Road where the footpath was narrow. The Association wanted a footpath to the School from Lady Lodge Drive through the woods, but the County Council was reluctant to agree to this. Pressure continued and this led to Orton Waterville Parish Council being involved for in March 1964 it had a joint meeting with representatives of the Residents Association and Orton Longueville Parish Council to discuss the matter. The opinion was that the route should be kept clear of the main road and it was agreed that two representatives of each of the three bodies should meet the

Education Subcommittee on this subject. This subcommittee met on site on April 3rd. At the next meeting on May 26th the Orton Waterville representatives reported that as a temporary measure part of the footpath would be next to the main road but fenced off and it was hoped that the whole of the footpath would be entirely within the curtilage of the school grounds sometime in the future. By June nothing had been done and the Clerk was instructed to write to the Director of Education (an approach was also made to the Local MP). This was eventually to lead to the building of the metal fence which still exists along Oundle Road from Grange Crescent. A narrow tarmac path was then created within the school grounds finishing at the Primary School playground. It gradually became grassed over; fell into disuse and part was subsequently built on.

Another issue considered by the Residents Association was that there was no provision on the Estate for any play area. Those who were Orton Longueville Councillors contrasted this with the large play area that had been planned off Oakleigh Drive in Orton Longueville. As the Orton Longueville part of Lady Lodge Estate had now been built on, any play area would have to be in Orton Waterville Parish. The problem was there was no plan for this, as Mr Hardwick stated at the meeting in July 1962 saying that the County Planning Officer should be informed. Contrastingly at the meeting in Dec 1963 Mr Hardwick stated that he had had a letter from the Residents Association about the provision of a playing field and that he had replied that one already existed (presumably the grass around the Village Hall) and this was considered sufficient at present. (One problem that Orton Waterville Council had in comparison with Orton Longueville was that a one penny rate in 1965 for example, produced only £42 in total. As the Council imposed a 10 penny rate already it was reluctant to increase its expenditure)

In August 1964 a letter was read from the Chairman of the Residents Association saying that the developers were to provide a playing field at the north end of the Estate. At the Oct. meeting Mr Eric Smart wanted to know what land had been earmarked for this and the Clerk said he would contact the Residents Association for further details. As the Clerk had not done this in November he was instructed to write to the County Planning Officer and Orton Longueville Council on the subject. In Feb. 1965 the Clerk said he had not heard from the Planning Officer and was instructed to write again. In May the Council received correspondence and plans from Ruddle and Wilkinson, acting for Lady Lodge Estate Company, showing that the provision of a playing field was dependant on the Company obtaining the allotments. N.B the Estate Company had unsuccessfully tried to obtain the allotments in March 1963. (the layout of Wyman Way and of The Gannocks opposite would appear to be designed in order to obtain access to this area). At the May 1965 meeting the plans and correspondence from Lady Lodge Estate Company involving the allotments were discussed. All now agreed that a playing field was desirable but that the Council should write to the County Planning Officer stating that the Parish Council had a legal responsibility to provide allotments, that the allotments were over subscribed, that although a playing field was necessary, the Council considered it should be provided by the Estate Developer and that any further planning permission should be contingent on adequate playing field provision being made. This view was repeated in December in reply to a letter from the County Planning Officer.

This was the main topic in January 1966. It looked as if the District Council was proposing to sell the allotment land to the Developers and the Parish Council said that if this was so an alternative site for allotments must be found. It was agreed that if the

Developers provided a playing field the Council would accept responsibility for maintaining it. It was felt that an open space in the centre of the built up area was necessary and preserving the allotments would help to maintain the rural atmosphere of the Village. It was also said that the issue of a play area involved Orton Longueville Council as well as Orton Waterville as the bulk of the Estate was in Orton Longueville Parish.

In Feb.1966 a special meeting was held to which Mr Norman of the County Planning Department was invited. Mr Norman said that a road across the allotments was necessary for the circulation of traffic and that the Planning Committee must have very good reasons for refusing consent, particularly if another suitable piece of land for allotments was provided. He suggested that the Parish Council give up the allotments, half to be included as part of a playing field and houses built on the west side (nearest the village) only, (presumably an extension of Wyman Way) – in return for a piece of land of equal size. At a later Council meeting it was proposed that the existing allotment holders should draw up a petition to retain their holdings and that the Council wished to preserve the existing allotments. It was agreed that Lady Lodge Estate could construct a road from Wyman Way to the east end of the allotments provided it levelled and seeded the eastern rubbish dump end of the area for a playing field and provided extra play land in the new development in the Gannocks field. In April Mr Hardwick, the Chairman gave details of a meeting with RDC members, Orton Longueville Parish Councillors, County Planners, Lady Lodge Estate Company, Ruddle and Wilkinson and the Lady Lodge Residents Association, that, he said, was of little use. It was understood that the Estate Developers no longer wished to have a road through the allotments (presumably because they were not prepared to accept the Parish Councils demands). Rev Christopher Gardner suggested that the Orton Longueville Parish Council now be contacted about a play area to the east of the allotments but it was decided to wait until a definite decision from the Developers was received. Nothing further had been heard in May nor in July when it was understood that the Developers intended to take no further action on the subject.

The conflict with the Lady Lodge Estate Company over the allotments had brought into focus the matter of the provision of a play area, which had been the request of the Lady Lodge residents Association that with the expansion of the Estate now had members living in the Parish of Orton Waterville. The controversy had identified a possible location i.e. the area to the east of the allotments, part of which had been the parish rubbish dump, where sand and gravel had been excavated in the past. At the August 1966 meeting the Chairman, Mr Hardwick, reported that he had had a meeting with Mr Colin Brooks (who lived in the Village) of Mitchell Construction, and the letter was read from the Company stating that the Company was willing to assist in preparing the land for a play area for a nominal sum when they had machinery in the area. By October it was reported that some land had been levelled and would in the spring be covered with soil from the Sugarbeet Factory in Woodston--- the factory was normally keen to get rid of soil from the sugarbeet. Mr L Holmes, who farmed at Manor Farm, was to be asked if he would seed the area. This does not appear to have happened because in September 1967 a quotation from Peterborough Land Drainage of £325 to prepare and seed the flat area was accepted, though it seems that the sowing was delayed because of rain. The far eastern end where rubbish was still exposed had still to be dealt with. A major alteration was being made to Oundle Road at the junction with Ham Lane and arrangements were made for spoil from the construction of the new road to be used to cover the rubbish and to create the slopes at

the eastern end of the Play Area. The intention was to replicate the slopes that there had once been in the field opposite the bus shelter in Oundle Road. They had traditionally been used by children for tobogganing when it snowed, but had largely disappeared when the road had been straightened. The Play Area slopes have been well used when conditions permit ever since.

The minutes show that a Parish Council Play Area subcommittee was set up, but it seems to have been short-lived as there are references to further subcommittees with different personnel being created. Discussions were held with Orton Longueville Council with its strong Lady Lodge representation for help over the creation and development of the Play Area and that council made a considerable grant to assist. A grant of £495 was promised by the Hunts. Education Committee. In December 1967 it was agreed to precept £350 pounds in view of the imminent bill for the Play Area; but when the precept was actually decided in February it was £400, being £300 for street lighting and £100 for general purposes.

Various proposals were made about a possible tarmac path to the play area and the entrance gate at Wyman Way, but in the end there was no tarmac path and a pedestrian entrance plus a simple barrier gate. It was laid down that the area was not to be used for organised games; it was an adventure play area for younger children. Concrete tunnels were provided and patterns from a local engineering firm were used to create slides. Volunteers raised money for further improvements and participated in the work. Eventually, when the income of the Parish Council increased, more equipment was introduced.

The Peterborough Development Corporation was approached for advice and assistance on the development of the Play Area and a subcommittee of Mr Hardwick, Mr Lancaster and Mrs Fitzjohn was formed to deal with this. In May 1971 Mr Lancaster reported that the Play Area subcommittee had met representatives from the Young Women's Fellowship, the Play Group, the Women's Institute and the Men's Fellowship and that a working party had been formed to carry out work on the Play Area and to discuss requirements. Work had already started.

The successful opening ceremony of the Play Area was on September 11th 1971. It was decided to retain the subcommittee, augmented by representatives from Village organisations as before, Mr Don Lancaster playing a prominent role.

In due course there were to be problems concerning the role and powers of the augmented committee, particularly with regard to financial matters, as it was not really a Parish Council committee.

One problem the Parish Council faced at first was finding a contractor to cut the grass regularly, a problem that was not solved until after 1974 when arrangements were made with the City Council. Although the play area remained the property of the Parish Council, maintenance and inspection were to become the responsibility of the City Council.

Although a Play Area for young children had been created, there was no provision for organised games. Consequently in the April 1972 Parish Council meeting Mr Lancaster spoke on the vacant land in the area bounded by Church Lane, Cherry Orton Road, Chapel Lane and the allotments /Gannocks footpath and stated that there was a suitable area here for the provision of sports and recreational facilities. It was agreed that letters should be sent to the County Clerk and the Parish Council

Association asking for advice on procedural matters. The reply stated that there were loans and grants that might be sought. It was agreed that an approach be made to the principal land owner (Mrs Barber) and the Rector, Christopher Gardner, undertook to make an initial approach. He reported that she needed time for consideration. He agreed to inquire what the Cricket Club (that played on the school field in Orton Park) and Mr Williams, the landlord of The Windmill thought of the proposal. Mr Lancaster was authorised to seek the opinion of the Development Corporation but it was unable to assist at this stage. It was agreed that the County Council be asked to earmark the land for recreation purposes and not residential and to buy the land under a 1937 Act. Mr Lancaster continued to pursue the possibility of acquiring the property from Mrs Barber without success.

The Parish Council asked the District Council to consider the possibility of compulsory purchase of the land for a sports field but in Dec.1972 it was reported that the District Council did not think this was feasible because of the cost; but some in the Parish Council did not agree. When the owner subsequently put in an application to build houses the Parish Council opposed this on the grounds that access would be on to Cherry Orton Road.

The Parish Council continued to show an interest in acquiring the land, eventually wishing to acquire it for a new burial ground, At one stage a price had been agreed and a contract drawn up but at the last minute the vendor withdrew and a planning application for quite a dense housing development submitted. This application was opposed by the Parish Council, approved of by the City Council officers but rejected by the City Planning Committee. The developer appealed against this decision but the Parish Council view was backed by the Ministry Inspector and this particular planning application was rejected. A subsequent application for part of the site, which sought to deal with some of the objections to the earlier application, was accepted by the City Council, part of the arrangement being that the rest of the site was handed over to the Parish Council for a burial ground.

FURTHER DEVELOPMENT OF THE LADY LODGE ESTATE IN ORTON WATERVILLE

Plans for the development of Lady Lodge Estate which were considered by the Parish Council are usually referred to in the minutes by their Stage Numbers and the actual area cannot always be identified. However, at the July 1966 meeting the Council considered an application for six shops and or houses and/or bungalows near the Church and on the corner of Church Drive. The Council's view was that four shops would be ample and that bungalows were preferred to houses. The Church was the focal point in the Village and new properties should not obscure or dwarf it. In August 1966 the Parish Council welcomed the reduced density of houses proposed in the Gannocks field but stressed that the footpath across the field must be preserved. At the January 1967 meeting the Parish Council opposed further development

southwards because it thought this should be covered by a Development Corporation if the expansion of Peterborough went ahead. In February 1967 plans for shops east of the Church were submitted showing four shops with living accommodation above and two lock up shops. The Parish Council approved the designs – (*though not everyone would consider the design is in harmony with the medieval church and its churchyard.*) The Council fully approved plans for two pairs of semi detached bungalows in Dolby's Lane (i.e. Chapel Lane). Later in the year there were complaints about the state of the roads on the Estate but the County Surveyor stated that he could not enforce the completion of these roads. In September the Clerk was instructed to write to Hunts County Council and to Lady Lodge Estates asking that the proposed alterations to the footpath across the Gannocks field be completed and adopted before the existing footpath was obliterated, because of the large number of people using this path. When no replies were received, it was agreed to write to the Ministry of Transport saying the footpath was essential. Later the County Surveyor and the Developers said that a serviceable footpath would be maintained. It was reported in October that the Ministry of Housing had overruled all the objections to Stage Eight – which involved an extension of Valence Road. The Council thought a temporary turning point should be redesignated as permanent, because the Council was fearful of further expansion, the Hancock Plan for the development of Peterborough showing a tree belt there. In December it was reported that the Parish Council's objection to Stage Eight (presumably the *temporary* turning point) had been upheld and in February 1968 that development, such as the land behind Rectory Farm, was premature until full details of Peterborough Expansion Plans were known.

There were frequent complaints about the Lady Lodge Estate "For Sale" sign at the junction of Church Drive/ Cherry Orton Road, which was described as an "eyesore", and damage caused to walls and paths by bulldozers and dumper trucks during the development. It was complained that there was no street light shown on the footpaths on Stage VII (The Gannocks) and the Council wanted assurances that the trees shown on the plans would be planted. The Council pointed out that the plan showed that the public footpath from Chapel Lane to the allotments had been incorporated in the building plots. It was pointed out that the plans would leave isolated part of the former roadway to Lady Lodge Farm. The Council approved of the chalet bungalow built at the entrance to Chapel Lane and expressed satisfaction that the promise of better design where the Estate met the village had been fulfilled. It proposed the use of old fieldnames for streets being built e.g. "The Gannocks" and "Littlemore".

In 1969 a quotation was received for the erection of 12 lampposts and the resiting of an existing lamp on two of the earlier stages of the Lady Lodge estate, which would bring the lighting up to roadway standard. (This would mean that the cost of electricity would be borne by the Highway Authority and not by the Parish Council). However, the Council felt unable to finance this project at that time.

In August 1969 the Parish Council endorsed the objections of the Planning Officer to proposal for dwellings between The Gannocks and Oundle Road. In August 1971 a further plan for building on the area between The Gannocks and Oundle Road, access to the site being from land in The Gannocks on which permission to build bungalows had already been obtained. This was strongly opposed by the Council which stated that it would be against the principle of the Conservation Area and that it wished to preserve the rural aspect to the Village entrance. The Planning Authority also opposed the application but there was an appeal to the Ministry against the decision and the Parish Council request for a Public Enquiry was accepted. The decision was to allow limited development of the field (i.e. first part of Martins Way), but leaving a large

triangular area bounded by the rear of properties in Cherry Orton Road and by Oundle Road, in order to preserve the character of the Village entrance. Later, after the Peterborough City Council became the Planning Authority this area, despite Parish Council opposition, was gradually whittled away, the properties built having access from Oundle Road.

Meanwhile, the Parish Council had wished to stop the expansion southwards of the Lady Lodge Estate in order to preserve a green gap between the Village and any proposed New Town Development.

A remaining issue was the area between the shops and the Church wall, which the developer seemed reluctant to put into a satisfactory state. The Parish Council repeatedly complained about the weedy and untidy state. Similarly there were complaints about the area between the shops and Church Drive which the Council wished to remain undeveloped. The area at the corner of Church Drive and Wyman Way had been designated the site for a Public House, but when this was not built the developer suggested flats whereas the Parish Council expressed a preference for Old Peoples bungalows. For years nothing was built and much later the bungalows known as Waterville Gardens were built.

SOME OTHER PLANNING MATTERS

Before 1960 only occasional references to Planning Applications occur in the minutes. When planning applications for single properties are mentioned in the Minutes, it is often not possible to identify the location of the property, and sometimes where this is possible, the Parish Council sometimes approved applications for buildings which were in contrast with neighbouring properties. This may be that parish councillors are influenced by their personal knowledge of the applicants and their needs.

Inevitably, in the business of Parish Councils- and indeed other bodies as well-, not only in planning matters, but roads, open spaces, allotments etc., the personal interest and preference of councillors and their attitude to persons they personally know cannot fail to have influence on decisions made. The fact that on two separate occasions the Parish Council opposed planning applications next to the residence of a Councillor does not necessarily mean this Councillor had undue influence. Often Councillors who have an "interest" in a Parish matter may be those with real knowledge of the issue.

There was usually opposition to plans to build several houses, but it was often impossible to learn what the decision of the Planning Authority was. In general, there was a desire to restrict direct access from the Village Street.

For example, outline permission was given for three houses to be built on College Farm stackyard, provided there was only one entrance from Cherry Orton Road.

There was no objection to the conversion of the village school to residential premises, provided no alterations to the front.

In 1962 a proposal to build a house and garage was strongly opposed and when in January it was reported that the Ministry of Housing had given permission, the Parish Council protested that there should have been a public enquiry. At a subsequent Parish Meeting it was decided to protest to the Ministry, particularly as the County Planning Officer had said there would be no development west of the Village. The Chairman, Mr Hardwick, took no part in the debate, as he was an immediate neighbour.

A proposal for a petrol station and house on Oundle Road, west of Ham Lane, was opposed.

In 1964 there were complaints about Church Lane being used as a thoroughfare. Later posts were erected to prevent this.

Alterations to The Windmill were approved, provided no alterations were made to the front.

There were no objections to the building of a new house in the garden of a parish councillor, who lived in Cherry Orton Road. The councillor shortly afterwards announced his resignation from the Council as he was leaving the district.

The Parish Council, after a Public Inquiry, succeeded in limiting the extent of development in New Road, the development being given the name of an old fieldname, "Debdale".

In September 1967 plans were submitted by Mr Lawrence Barker and Mrs McLean for alterations to a property at the corner of Church Lane/Cherry Orton Road, but the Parish Council did not approve of the property have an entrance on Church Lane. When at the next meeting it was announced that the plans had been approved, the Parish Council registered a protest, fearing this would open up Church Lane for further development. This did happen years later.

In 1970 a plan was submitted for a Fish and Chip shop in Church Drive. The Council did not make an immediate decision, but it was thought that that the majority of people in the immediate vicinity would not favour this. At the next meeting the Council expressed its opposition to the idea on grounds of noise, litter, smells and increased traffic. It was incensed that Orton Longueville Parish Council had apparently expressed its support for the idea and noted that Orton Longueville parishioners "would obtain all the benefits without suffering any of the adverse effects"

PLANS FOR THE EXPANSION OF PETERBOROUGH

In April 1966 there was a general discussion on the booklet and plans that had been seen by all members of the Council about the Expansion of Peterborough. The Parish Council's view was that in the event of expansion an undeveloped area be left to the west and south of the Village. The schools and the flood plain would form the open spaces on the east and north side, thus preserving the character of the Village. The Council had no desire to be included in the City of Peterborough and would prefer to remain part of Norman Cross Rural District. Further consideration should be given to a proposal to develop the City to the north west i.e. towards Helpston. At the next meeting it was pointed out that the local papers had not published the Council's view and it was suggested there should be a public meeting of residents of Orton

Waterville, Orton Longueville and Alwalton on the matter. This suggestion was again put forward at the August 1966 meeting.

In the November meeting a motion was carried, the Rector Rev C J Gardner abstaining, that the Parish Council strongly opposed the New Town Designation Order and wished its views put to a Public Inquiry. In January 1967 it was reported that Mr Hardwick would be putting the Parish Council's case at the inquiry. Mr Boulton Brewer undertook to obtain additional copies of the Parish Council's objections, but these objections are not detailed in the minutes.

In 1968 Mr Wyndham Thomas was appointed General Manager of the Peterborough Development Corporation, whose task was to bring into being the New Town. This was to be a somewhat modified version of the earlier Hancock Report with its idea of a number of Townships around Peterborough with the system of Parkways and the creation of a Country Park. When it was confirmed that the Parishes of Orton Waterville and Orton Longueville would be part of the Peterborough New Town Development, the Parish Council was anxious for the Village and Lady Lodge Estate to be kept separate from the new development by a green space or tree belt. Consequently, the Council was not happy about any proposal to extend Lady Lodge southwards, as this might make any green space unlikely.

There was cooperation with Orton Longueville Council, whose view was not dissimilar to that of Orton Waterville. The desire was expressed that any industry that was situated south west of the Village should be free from noise and fumes; that the first phase of expansion (Bretton) should be completed before the Orton started; that roads be completed before houses are built, and that recreational areas be provided. In April 1971 the Chairman, Mr Hardwick, reported that the Development Corporation had given an assurance that when plans for the Orton Development were sufficiently advanced, the Parish Council would be consulted. At the end of September 1971 the Chairman and the Clerk met Mr Smallman of the Peterborough Development Corporation. Mr Smallman indicated that gravel would be extracted from the flood plain in the Parish and the pits would form a basis for the Lake in the planned Nene Park, the plans for which were not finalised (*much of the gravel extracted was used in the creation of the embankment for the bridges for the Nene Parkway – a temporary means of transit across the flood plain being created*) In November Mr Robin Guthrie, Social Development Officer for the PDC attended by invitation. He stressed that after a plan for the Orton Township was published early next year, there would be a period of public consultation before a firm proposal was submitted for approval by the Ministry. PDC officers would attend meetings of local organisations and other meetings for views and explanations. The Parish Council expressed areas of particular interest, namely: the extent the wishes of the local community would be incorporated in the plan; the extent of separation and interchange between the old and the new; the type of industry introduced; the road system especially its effect on the Village; the Nene Park and its means of access.

By March 1972 the draft plans for the Orton Township had been published. Concern was expressed at the lack of a clear promise to maintain a green area around the Village; about existing public bridleways and footpaths; the future use of Oundle Road; and the prevention of vehicular access between the New Town and the Village.

The original Hancock Plan had shown a road through the Orton Park wood, parallel to Lady Lodge Drive, linking the New Orton with Oundle road. There had been strong local opposition to this at the time and the views of both Orton Waterville and Orton Longueville Parish Councils was that there should be no vehicular access between the two village streets and their adjacent estates with the New Town Development. The

PDC accepted this view. Existing footpaths and cycle access would be retained. The wish of the two Councils for a wide green belt as a separation proved unrealistic, but a newly planted tree belt and playing fields provided a degree of separation. The industrial area in Orton Waterville Parish (Orton Southgate) was placed well away from the existing residential area. Although Ham Lane was used to transport some of the gravel extracted, the Parish Council's concern about the access to the Nene Country Park being from Ham Lane appears to be misplaced and its existence was beneficial to the whole parish. Existing footpaths and bridleways in much of the Parish were extinguished, but new footpaths, bridleways and cycleways were created in their place. The presence of a large high density housing development within easy walking distance of village and estate inevitably created problems at times. There was not the increased traffic in the Village Street that had originally been feared. The planners hoped that the parkways, the cycleways and the dedicated busway would reduce traffic on Oundle Road. Mr Wyndham Thomas reportedly stated at a packed public consultation meeting in Orton Longueville Grammar School Hall that Oundle Road would become "like a country lane". A consequence of the New Town designation was that all farms within the parish disappeared and this further contributed to the village being regarded as a residential area only.

THE CONFLICT BETWEEN RESIDENTIAL AND COMMERCIAL/BUSINESS INTERESTS

Already by the time of the first Parish Council, Orton Waterville had started to change from the traditional village with its inhabitants largely connected with agriculture and its associated trades to the modern village, the means of livelihood of most of its residents being (or had been) outside the village. The change was to be exacerbated by the consequences of the sale of the Pembroke College Estate and house building from the 1950s onwards. Consequently, there was a conflict between those who wished to earn a living in the village and those with a different concept of a village and wished the village simply to be a pleasant and attractive place to live in. There has already been reference to complaints about the mess made by cows walking along the village street, and there were to be complaints about the smell from pigs. Traditionally in villages, it was not unusual for farmers to sell farm produce, such as eggs, poultry, milk, fruit and vegetables directly to the public, but by the 1950s some residents complained that they were being seriously inconvenienced by certain commercial activities. The Parish Council from time to time was drawn into this conflict.

In 1957 the Parish Council raised no objection to the front room of 44 Cherry Orton Road being turned into a general store. The front of a former shop is also clearly visible in a house on the east side of Cherry Orton Road. Later on, the front room of no. 48 Cherry Orton Road became the village post office. A few years later Orton Waterville Post office was to move to an existing purpose built shop at 2 Lady Lodge Drive which was then in a different parish

The Parish Council would not agree that a room in a council house in Cherry Orton Road should be used as a doctor's surgery.

In 1959 the Parish Council discussed a proposed extension to a property in Cherry Orton Road. The majority view of the Council was that the business had expanded a great deal more than was anticipated since original planning consent was given and that it was “situated within a highly rated residential area and the neighbours generally complained of the noise, smell and nuisance of flies emanating from the premises.” A minority view was “that the cloakroom and toilet facilities were essential and the other development only an extension of existing use, which by providing the applicant with greater facilities might in fact decrease the nuisance of which they complained.” At the next meeting a motion, proposed by Mr Boulton Brewer and seconded by the Rev. Haywood, to reject the application as it did not fit in with the amenities of the district was rejected in favour, by 4 votes to 3. of an amendment, proposed by Mr Hardwick and seconded by Mrs. Ratcliffe, not to recommend the application but to ask for a new plan with a smaller restroom, which, it was feared, would be used for storage purposes. Two years later it was alleged that the applicant had broken various byelaws by erecting buildings without planning permission. The Rural District Surveyor said he had no objection to the layout provided the buildings were in brick. The applicant, who was now a parish councillor, but had taken no part in the discussion, was asked if he had any intention of expanding the business and he replied no extension was envisaged. After learning that the County Planning Officer had inspected the premises, the Parish Council expressed no objection; but the next year correspondence between the County Planning Officer and various ratepayers was read out and it was announced that planning permission had been refused. In March 1968 an application was received for a store on this property. It was reported that large vehicles were reversing up Cherry Orton Road as the entrance to the premises was difficult to enter. The Council “did not think that this end of the Village was suitable for further business expansion”. In November it was alleged that some buildings had not been vacated in accordance with planning conditions and the Clerk was to ask the RDC surveyor whether planning conditions had been met. When no reply was received, the County Planning Officer was written to, who later said he would inspect. Subsequently, an application was received to convert the existing garage into part of the poultry farm. The Parish Council produced seven reasons for objecting: that the one tenth industrial expansion had already occurred; that the original poultry farm had been at the end of the road, but it was now surrounded by residential property: “past history of flouting of authority”; reports that equipment was already erected in the garage; practice of vehicles reversing to reach the farm; complaints from local residents of noise from existing plant. The minutes show that there was an appeal against planning refusal and the Parish Council wrote to the Ministry in support of the refusal. The minutes do not mention the outcome of the appeal, but it is perhaps significant that in May 1972 it was suggested that there ought to be a weight restriction in Cherry Orton Road. The next year it was alleged that the garage was being used for the storage of deep freeze cabinets and it was stated that the County Planning Officer was not keeping an eye on things as promised. The conflict of interests between this developing business and those of local residents has continued and has remained unresolved.

In November 1961 the Parish Council thought it undesirable to develop a field behind the Village School as a caravan site as this would be detrimental to neighbouring properties.

Earlier in January there was an application for a caravan and poultry packing station on land just to the west of the village street in the centre of the village. The Parish Council recommended that permission for the caravan should be given for a maximum of twelve months only for use by the occupier for the purpose of guarding the poultry holding and it was to be used for sleeping only for one person only. The conversion of a barn to a poultry packing station had been carried out some months previously and was too close to residential properties and in hot weather was a nuisance because of flies and smell as well as the noise of machinery. In October 1968 there was an application for the erection of two more poultry houses. The Parish Council gave numerous reasons for objections, including the proximity of houses and the prevailing wind blowing smells over the village and the estate. A resident had already complained to the Public Health Inspector about the existing unit. At the next meeting it was reported that the District Council had not approved the plans, but it was probable that the County would approve. In January 1971 the Council wrote to the NCRDC Public Health Department about manure and piglet carcasses at the premises and the Inspector reported that nothing was wrong at the time of inspection. In September a letter with 18 signatures was received complaining about the smell emanating from these premises. It was reported that the Inspector was visiting these premises regularly. The next summer the matter of the smell from manure heaps and offal bins was reopened with the Public Health Inspector.

This problem was solved when the land here was part of the area compulsorily acquired by the Peterborough Development Corporation. The land was not used for building as anticipated, being very close to the Village Street. The poultry sheds were used for storage and the land initially leased and eventually bought by the Parish Council for allotments.

In November 1968 an application had been received to convert an old cowshed at "Yew Trees" into an office. Although the applicant was running only a small business, the Parish Council was concerned that granting planning permission might create a precedent for future applications. When the County Planning Officer said it was not policy to allow commercial enterprises in residential areas, the Parish Council would not approve the application.

In September 1973 the Chairman, Mr Hardwick, said there was evidence that a resident in Cherry Orton Road was using the premises for a transport or plant hire business and that a corner of a barn had been damaged at the entry. Although a planning officer had visited the site, a letter should be sent expressing concern at these infringements of regulations.

The Parish Council was concerned that planning permission had been given for Grass Track Racing at the comparatively new East of England Showground, then in Alwalton parish. The NCRDC Surveyor said that if complaints were received next season, he would investigate noise levels in the village. In November 1971 there was an objection to an extension of the use of the speedway track. This was based on noise both from the machines and the public address system: also "congested and dangerous" traffic conditions along Oundle Road, before and after the meetings. The application was granted, but extended use was restricted to Saturday mornings as the Parish Council had requested.

The Parish Council continued to be concerned about the use of the Showground for non-agricultural purposes and the impact on residents. Since the first complaints,

Orton Brimbles, nearer the Showground, has been built and later parts of the Showground itself sold off for house building.

In June 1973 an application for a barn at a property in Cherry Orton Road to be converted for use as a solicitor's office was opposed, concern being expressed about cars entering the property opposite a road and the precedent of the refusal to allow a cowshed to be converted into an office two doors away.

In April 1972 the Parish Council complained that the Norman Cross Planning Committee had approved an application for an established poultry sales business situated in Orton Longueville parish to sell freezers. It was alleged that the business was causing traffic problems in the parish and the Clerk was instructed to write to the County Planners about this. A meeting took place with representatives of Orton Longueville Parish Council and the County Planning Officer, but the Council was to criticise the County Planning Officer for allegedly condoning irregularities in planning procedures and made the allegation that there was a cash and carry business masquerading as an agricultural. The Planning Officer wrote to explain why it was necessary to approve the application, but the Parish Council repeatedly asked for another meeting.

In 1973 Mr Lancaster proposed that the design of the new township should include provision for access from the South to divert heavy traffic away from Lady Lodge Drive and Church Drive and this proposal was sent to various bodies, but no replies were received from the District or County Councils.

In May 1974 the Parish Council objected to plans for a conversion of a piggery, arguing that this would aggravate the traffic problem; that expansion was out of place in a residential area and the need for additional agricultural storage was questioned as there was now less agricultural land because of development.

There was concern that heavy haulage vehicles were operating from the Windmill premises. The brewers were contacted about this in April 1973, but in November it was reported that the haulage business remained.

There was correspondence with and an offer to arrange a meeting from Sir David Renton, MP for Huntingdonshire, concerning the problem of heavy lorries using the village street: but it was found that any heavy lorry ban would effectively also prohibit removal lorries. As lorries became larger and the character of businesses changed, the problem intensified.

In this conflict between business and residential interests the Parish Council, the interest of whose members were to become almost entirely residential and who were answerable to an electorate with similar interests, unsurprisingly tended to oppose the business interest. The juxtaposition of even established business/commercial premises and houses seemed to many to be increasingly out-of-date with the growth of business and industrial parks.

THE LAST YEARS IN HUNTINGDONSHIRE

The first of the four handwritten minute Books has just under 150 pages of minutes and covers the period June 1929 to March 1955. The second and less substantial book covers from September 1955 to November 1966. These minutes contain rather more detail, the Clerk for much of the period being Mr Jock (George) Ness. Initially, meetings were held infrequently, but towards the end of this minute book, there was a meeting most months of the year. The third, quite substantial, minute book with 191 pages of minutes runs from January 1967 to August 1972, the Clerk being Mr John G Hurst until he was succeeded in April 1971 by Mr Len Sumpter. There was now usually a monthly meeting, but it seems it was only towards the end of this period that meetings tended to be the third Wednesday of the month, the current practice. The minutes of some of the meetings were in parts harsardlike in detail. By this time, with the extension of the Lady Lodge Estate and the expansion of Peterborough, there seems to be more business to transact. The fourth and final minute book (109 pages) covers the period up to May 1974, by which time Orton Waterville had been absorbed into the City of Peterborough. This book ends with the minutes of a number of Annual Parish Meetings.

(It is noteworthy that even under a very experienced chairman, ordinary Parish Council business was transacted at what was the Annual Parish Meeting with members of the public present. Sometimes there is confusion in the minutes between the Annual Parish Meeting and the Annual meeting of the Parish Council at which appointments e.g. Chairman, are made)

Although latterly a great deal of business was transacted in a few years, a great deal of it is somewhat repetitive. For this reason the treatment of these years may seem a little superficial. Apart from matters already dealt with elsewhere, the Parish Council repeatedly complained about the failure of the Lady Lodge Estate Company to tidy up and deal with weeds on plots awaiting development: also the tardiness of bringing estate roads up to adoption standard. Another issue was the responsibility to prepare and maintain the area between the Churchyard wall and the shops; also the area in front of the shops. When it seemed that the designation of the area at the corner of Wyman Way as a public house was not a viable proposition, the Parish Council was concerned lest any residential development was out of character. Its real preference was for the area to be open space, but the Estate Company would only agree to this if the Parish Council gave it the land it wanted (i.e. the allotments) in exchange. The Parish Council then asked the County Council to buy the land, but it was unwilling. When the estate company proposed a pub/restaurant, the Parish Council strongly opposed the idea and it was dropped.

The Parish Council did manage to secure motor cycle barriers on a number of footpaths on the Lady Lodge Estate.

One recurring theme was the confusion caused by the fact that one side of New Road where new houses were built had been given the name, presumably for marketing purposes, of the more attractive "Debdale".

It was in 1970 that Mr Don Lancaster joined the Council and his name features frequently in the minutes. It is clear that he certainly walked around the Parish with an observing eye, acting in what he thought was the public interest and bringing to the

Council's attention what he considered to be faults or malpractices by the Estate Company, or landowners or businesses or householders. Somewhat dogmatic, he refused to accept defeat. It is noticeable at times the Parish Council would appeal against a decision by the District Council to the County Council, and if this failed to the ministry or to the local MP.

Mr Lancaster, along with other councillors, was keen on tree planting in the Parish. He was very interested in the development of the Play Area for young children and liaised with officials of the Development Corporation on its development. He then encouraged the Parish Council to try to obtain a field for organised games without much chance of success. The Brewers were then asked to donate the field behind The Windmill, although it was acknowledged it was not big enough for a full football pitch.

As mentioned earlier, Mr Lancaster was passionate about the preservation of footpaths, irrespective of their usage or utility. As the Lady Lodge Estate was built, some existing footpaths were replaced by diversions. In May 1973 it is recorded that the Parish Council cannot agree to the stopping up of a footpath until the legal formalities concerning the consideration of alternatives had been carried out. In September 1973 the Parish Council objected to new proposals concerning this path because it felt its own suggestions had been ignored. This opposition was maintained. As a result, the owner of a newly built bungalow was unable to build his garage because it was on the route of a footpath which now led nowhere, because the rest of it had been built on. The owner came to a Parish Council meeting to appeal and eventually became a parish councillor.

The Parish Council had shown great concern about traditional footpaths and bridleways and soon after he became a councillor Mr Lancaster pointed out that many footpaths were not used because they were not signposted and were ignored and obstructed by landowners. Some fingerposts were erected and stiles repaired, but Mr. Lancaster pointed out that on Bridleway 10 the stile was too highly stepped and it should really be a gate because it was a bridleway. Footpaths had been ploughed up and a manure heap placed on one. He wanted the County Council to take legal action against the landowners, but the County would not act, as the land would eventually be taken over by the Development Corporation. The Parish Council refused to accept this and complained to the Ministry in May 1973 about the County Council's attitude, but the Ministry simply referred the matter back to the County. After more complaints in 1974, the County Surveyor said it would be irresponsible to spend money on works that would be rendered valueless, because of PDC development, but the Council would not accept this view.

Other issues raised in these years included parking and turning on the Village Green, and vehicles turning and wearing away the triangle of green at the junction of the Village Street and New Road, which led to the kerbing of this green, albeit an area said to be smaller than the original green. Parking outside the Windmill led to the appearance of the first double yellow lines in the Village.

In the 1970s Parish Council meetings became increasingly lengthy. In July 1973 the meeting ended at 10.55pm. In September, Mr Lancaster, who had already proposed that the Parish Council should see every planning proposal, spoken on footpaths, reported on the Children's Play Area Committee, raised nine items in Any other Business, including "mud or dust which lies constantly in Overton Way". The meeting closed at 10.35pm. In October, after Mr. Lancaster had brought up three

items in Any other Business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 11pm, deferring other matters to the next meeting. In November the meeting ended at 10.42, in December at 10.47, in January 10.44 (leaving several matters to be discussed later); in February 10.30, after six items of any other business. In March, after the public Annual Parish Meeting lasting one hour thirty minutes, there was a Parish Council meeting lasting two and half hours. The minutes do not indicate whether any members left these long meetings before the end.

Parish Council elections took place on June 7th 1973, but the Councillors elected then would not take office until April 1st 1974, when the Parish of Orton Waterville would pass from the Norman Cross Rural District within the County of Huntingdon and Peterborough and pass into the new Peterborough District within an expanded Cambridgeshire. The existing Parish Council of seven members would continue in office till that date.

The newly elected Council of nine members did have its first and annual meeting on June 20th 1973 with Mr Hardwick as chairman and its second in January 1974, when it decided the Council's precept for 1974-5 should be £1200 based on an estimated requirement of £300 for street lighting with loan repayment and interest, £300 for grass cutting, £200 for general administration and £200 for contingences- which was approximately equal to a 1.5p rate.

When it learnt that the Peterborough Council intended to call this new Peterborough District, (which also included the villages outside Peterborough in the Soke of Peterborough, together with Eye and Thorney in the Isle of Ely) Peterborough City, the Parish Council strongly protested as Orton Waterville had always been in the rural County of Huntingdonshire and never in Peterborough. It was equally unimpressed by a counter proposal from the Soke villages of "The City and Soke of Peterborough", as Orton Waterville had never been in the Soke, which was officially part of Northampton shire. The Parish Council appealed to the Privy Council, but the City of Peterborough prevailed.

THUS, as the handwritten minute books come to an end, a new era for Orton Waterville Parish Council as an urban parish within the City of Peterborough begins.

APPENDIX

The following is based on information provided by Mr P L Froggitt:

CLERK

Mr FWJ Mason 1929-1943
Miss Kathleen Roberts 1943-53 and 1954-56
Mrs Wass Jan- June 1954
Mr H E Semper 1956-58
Mr G Ness 1958-66
Mr Sweet Nov 1966-Jan 1967
Mr J G Hurst 1967-71
Mr L Sumpter 1971-79 and 1986-98

CHAIRMAN

Mr A Sutton June 1929 for *the inaugural meeting only*
Rev P D Johnson 1929-33 (*asked to act as an independent Chairman*)
Mr T W Holdich 1933-34
Mr J H Mitchell 1934-35
Mr Joseph Tatman 1933-44
Mr W C Frisby 1944-52
Mr R E Sutton 1952-53
Mr Reginald Keber 1953-58
Mr D J Viney 1958-63
Mr W G Hardwick 1963-74

LONGEST SERVING COUNCILLORS

Mr W G Hardwick 1949-1974 *25 years 3 months*
Miss Kathleen Roberts 1949-70
Mr G J Bettles 1929-49
Mr Arthur Keber 1929-48
Mr Joseph Tatman 1929-46
Mr J H Boulton Brewer 1963-79
Mr W C Frisby 1937-52
Mr B J Cornell 1961-76
Rev C J Gardner 1964-79
Mr Donald Lancaster 1970-1983
Mrs G Ratcliffe 1958-70
Mr R? Killingsworth 1953-64