

ORTON WATERVILLE PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk to the Parish Council: Mrs A Brown
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Minutes of the Orton Waterville Parish Council meeting held in the Village Hall, Glebe Avenue, Orton Waterville on Wednesday 29th March 2023 at 7.00 pm.

PRESENT: Councillors T. Rouse (Chair), M. Chambers, S. Dallimore, B. Fearon, J. Goode, R. Pickett, J. Piercy, S. Swan and Mrs A. Brown (Clerk).

Members: 13 Quorum: 5 Members of the public: 4 PCC Ward Councillor: 0

Public Question Time

Public Bodies (admissions to meetings) Act 1960 s 1 extended by the LG Act 1972 s 100.

1. Representatives from Orton Waterville Village Show committee asked the Parish Council to consider their request to reallocate their April 2019 grant award to purchase a film projector. Agenda item 222/03/23.

2. A resident raised a concern that many cars and lorries speed on Cherry Orton Road which is a dangerous for pedestrians and at times, shakes the walls in their house. They also believe that the speeding has caused small cracks to appear in the walls of their house. Double parking on some parts of the road sometimes makes it difficult for the bus and emergency services to get through. The resident also asked why speed bumps cannot be laid on Cherry Orton Road as other parts of the city have them on bus routes. The Parish Council agreed to have this as an agenda item at the next meeting.

211/03-23 Apologies for absence

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllrs Farnham, Dr Sridhar, Stevenson and Warne (personal).

212/03-23 Declaration of interests and dispensations

None.

213/03-23 Parish Councillor vacancy

The meeting noted the resignation of Cllr K. Knight. The vacancy is being advertised on the Parish Council website and noticeboards.

RESOLVED: To send a letter of thanks to Cllr K Knight for her passed Parish Council work.

Action: Clerk.

214/03-23 Local police matters

Police Officers Gareth Price and Jamie Plant from the Southern Sector Neighbourhood Team attended the meeting and answered questions from Councillors. They also gave a verbal update on crime within parish. The Police plan to attend future meetings and give regular updates.

215/03-23 Ward Councillor reports

1. Report submitted to the Clerk by Cllr Stevenson:

AEPG Part-Retrospective Planning Application

Residents of Orton Southgate and Orton Northgate have taken exception to AEPG's decision to start a new temporary car storage operation on the showground without planning permission. AEPG has now applied for the permission.

Peterborough Police

Cllr Stevenson met with Sgt Sam Tucker with a view to arranging regular update sessions and agreed an arrangement whereby someone from Peterborough Police will attend parish council meetings in future.

Lynch wood Road Safety

Cllr Stevenson and OWPC Clerk Alison Brown met to look at the road safety measures the city council has put in place. These were found to be inadequate and Cllr Stevenson will raise this with the city council again.

2. Report submitted to the Clerk by Cllr Day:

To update, myself, Cllrs Warne, Fearon and Swan have created a Climate Change Action Plan for Orton Waterville Ward.

I continue to go out every week in the ward and take up residents' concerns and issues.

- 216/03-23 Minutes of previous meeting**
RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Orton Waterville Parish Council meeting held on 22nd February 2023 were agreed as a correct record of the meeting and signed by the Chair.
- 217/03-23 Clerk's update**
None.
- 218/03-23 Correspondence received**
1. CAPALC: Bulletins and updates
2. CAPALC: NALC Newsletters
- 219/03-23 The Gannocks**
No update
- 220/03-23 Bulky waste**
Dates of the next collections were noted: 1st April, 30th September 2023 and 3rd February 2024.
- 221/03-23 Parish Lengthsman**
No update.
- 222/03-23 Village Show committee's April 2019 grant award to purchase a film projector**
As raised in the earlier public forum, the request to reallocate the funds from a previously awarded grant towards a different use was discussed.
- In April 2019 the Parish Council awarded a grant of £500 to the Village Show committee towards the purchase of projector equipment for their film nights. Since the return to normality after Covid, the new Show committee has been looking into the purchase of the equipment and found that the total cost would be £3,000 to £5,000. Although the Village Hall and Village Show committees are willing to help towards some of the cost the Show committee feels that it would not be cost effective to spend that amount of money on the equipment. Other costs of putting on the Film nights have also increased, especially the cost of a film license which is required for each film that is shown. They would now prefer to purchase a Personal Address (P.A.) system for the Show, and allow the Village Hall to use it as well which costs £300-£500.
- RESOLVED:** That permission is granted for the Village Show committee to use their previously award grant of £500.00 to now purchase a P.A. system.
- 223/03-23 Solar speed signs for the parish/Oundle Road**
Cllr Goode asked the Parish Council whether it can consider purchasing a solar speed sign for Oundle Road between Notcutts and Nene Park Academy as she has noticed that it is common for cars to speed on this stretch of road, especially as the road has staggered changes from Northgate through to Notcutts. The Parish Council has Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) money which could be used for this purpose. It was noted that the police speed camera van can be requested by the Parish Council for Oundle Road. It was agreed that Highways should first be approached and asked if they are able to provide any solutions to enforce the speed limit on Oundle Road.
Action: Clerk.
- 224/03-23 Addressing Climate and Nature emergency**
Cllr Swan reported that the working group had drawn up a Climate Change Action Plan for the Parish Council with 6 proposals to help tackle climate change. It was agreed that the plan needs to be achievable and that the Parish Council will need to engage with the local community to make it work. It was suggested that the plan could be launched at the Village Show in September and that councillors could attend the show. It was agreed that the Clerk will send a copy of the plan to all councillors and that it will be discussed further at the next meeting as to how to deliver the plan.
Action: Clerk
- 225/03-23 Reports from outside bodies**
1. Village Hall – Cllr Fearon reported that the Village Hall Committee is looking for a new Treasurer.
2. Parish Council Liaison – Cllr Pickett attended the recent meeting and gave a verbal report.
3. Reports from other bodies – Cllr Piercy attended the Orton Counselling Service for Young People (OCSYP) meeting and reported that they only meet twice a year. The service now only has 2 counsellors when previously they had 6. There are 51 children on the waiting list to see a counsellor. It is thought that Covid lockdown has had a negative impact on children, especially on those who have moved from Junior to Senior school. It is feared that some children may not even get the chance to see a counsellor during their school life. OCSYP are looking at options for mentors however the volunteers have to be available during school time.

226/03-23

Parish Council Landscape maintenance contract annual price increase

The Landscape Maintenance contract between the Parish Council and Richard Harding & Son Landscaping was reviewed in accordance with the contract condition whereby the contract is reviewed annually by the Parish Council at their March meeting and an agreed increase price is applied for inflation based on published CPI figures.

RESOLVED: That the Landscape Maintenance contract between Orton Waterville Parish Council and Richard Harding & Son Landscaping, is increased by 10.4% as from 1st April 2023 to 31st March 2024. This figure is based on the current published CPI figures.

227/03-23

Bunds/trees on Brimbles Way to improve security

Bunds to improve the security on Brimbles Way were discussed. It was noted that Ward Cllr Knight had previously stated that the cost to install them would cost Peterborough City Council approximately £23,000. It was agreed to ask Cllr Knight if she is pursuing the matter any further.

Action: Clerk.

228/03-23

Allotments

1. A request by the allotment site representative at the Cherry Orton site to consider a ban of the use of carpets on all Parish Council allotment sites was discussed.

It was explained to Councillors that on allotments, people use carpets to suppress weeds, define paths and reinforce driving tracks - there are examples of all these uses on Gostwick and Cherry Orton sites.

Although there is no specific research that addresses this practice, it is widely acknowledged to cause problems on allotment sites and in many cases bans are already in place. Peterborough City Council Allotment Tenancy Agreement expressly bans the use of carpets on their sites.

Expert advice from [Garden Organic](#) the UK's foremost organic gardening charity states that the biggest immediate problem with most carpets (and plastic mulch membranes) is that they are made from non-biodegradable fibres. This gives them incredible capacity to become overgrown on top, and then form an impenetrable barrier to forks or other tools when attempting to cultivate the area later. They form dense mats of fibres which never fully break down, which are heavy to haul out and infuriating to deal with. Carpet backing materials include synthetic rubber derived from styrene and butadiene, both of which can cause respiratory irritation, or PVC. Padding and adhesives are also known to contain potentially dangerous chemicals, including recycled polyurethane foam.

As knowledge of microplastics increases, the possible danger the carpet fibres may present to soil life continues to grow, and so this would be sufficient to justify a ban on the use of all except natural fibre products. Even the dyes and various treatments – stain resistant, waterproofing, anti-microbial and flame-retardant compounds used have considerable potential to be harmful as they slowly leach into the soil over time.

Introducing such a ban would be a move towards a healthier, more environmentally friendly site and align with the Parish Council's green agenda and its Climate Action plan.

RESOLVED: That the Parish Council will ban the use of carpets all 3 sites – Gostwick, Cherry Orton Road and The Gannocks for the reasons outlined above. The Tenancy Agreement will be amended with the addition of clause 2.35, 'Tenants are not permitted to use carpet as a weed suppressant, walkway or any other use on any Parish Council allotment site'.

Allotments tenants will be given 4 months' notice to remove and dispose of any carpet on their plot from the date which they are notified by the Clerk. After the date has passed, the Parish Council will have the right to remove any carpet from any allotment plot.

2. The request by the Clerk to consider adopting Peterborough City Council (PCC), allotment tenancy agreement and moving the annual rent payment date to 1st January was considered. It was noted that the Parish Council Tenancy Agreement was already very similar to that of the Parish Council and it would be easier to keep the existing agreement rather than amending the PCC agreement to fit the Parish Council needs. Moving the rent payment date to 1st January would fit the growing seasons better as some crops are not harvested until late autumn which can be an issue for those wanting to give their plots up.

RESOLVED: That the annual allotment rent payment date is moved to the 1st January starting from 1st January 2024 and not to adopt the PCC Allotment Tenancy agreement.

3. Request to consider for an allotment site for Orton Northgate residents - withdrawn.

4. The Clerk reported that 2 taps and a stopcock have been stolen from Gostwick allotments. It was also noted that free compost is available to anyone from the household recycling centre in Alconbury.

229/03-23

Cemetery

The Clerk reported that the loose chickens roaming the cemetery have been reported to Peterborough Trading Standards as this is the authority that deals with such matters when government avian flu restrictions are in place.

230/03-23

St Mary's churchyard boundary wall repairs

The Parish Council has been notified that St Mary's churchyard boundary walls are in a bad state of repair. Volunteers from the church have agreed to clear all vegetation from the walls if the Parish Council can arrange for it to be disposed of. This is necessary for the walls to be fully inspected and repaired.

RESOLVED: That the Clerk will obtain quotations for the wall repairs from suitably qualified stonemasons. The Parish Council will ask Richard Harding to dispose of the vegetation cleared from the wall by church volunteers.

231/03-23

Finance & Administration

1. RESOLVED: That the following items of expenditure are approved:

HSBC	February 2023 bank account charges	£8.00
Peterborough Limited	Lengthsman March 2023	£2347.30
Peterborough Limited	Orton Centre - Supply/plant/maintain for 3 years Fagus sylvatica Purpurea	£1303.80
Peterborough Limited	Don's Walk - Supply/plant/maintain tree for 2 years	£669.08
Wave	Water charges cemetery	£20.06
R Harding & Son Landscaping	Cemetery & parish landscape maintenance works Mar 2023, allotment drainage ditch improvements and digging of 2 graves	£4937.00
Mrs A Brown	Clerk's salary March 2023	£1345.88
Mrs A Brown	Clerk's expenses and reimbursements March 2023	£87.50
Cambridgeshire County Council	Superannuation March 2023 (employer/employee contributions)	£416.84
HM Revenue & Customs	Tax and NI March 2023	£290.26
CAPALC	Planning E Learning course – Cllr Swan	£14.00
Sharpe Pritchard LLP	Legal fees re: Allotments advice and assistance	£930.00

2. Income received

Cemetery fees	£3946.00
HSBC Bank interest	£34.77

3. RESOLVED: That the end of month accounts and bank reconciliations are approved.

232/03-23

Planning matters

1. RESOLVED: To submit comments where appropriate on applications including those received after the agenda has been issued and which are on Peterborough City Council planning page:

23/00287/CTR	Proposal: T50436 Ash - Branch removal. Remove lowest limb over road back to main stem. T50440 Ash - Crown lift over highway to 5.2m. Land Adj. To 2 Debdale, New Road, Orton Waterville, Peterborough PE2 5HS	No material observations
23/00148/HHFUL	Renovation works and upgrading of elements of the dwelling including some demolition and a small rear extension at 7 Cherry Orton Road, Orton Waterville, Peterborough PE2 5EF	No material observations
23/00251/FUL	Temporary change of use from Sui Generis Showground and F1 exhibition hall to B8 car storage and distribution with ancillary car preparation and maintenance and erection of x2 mobile office cabins, x2 paint booths/ovens and marquee (part retrospective) at Exhibition Hall, East Of England Showground, Oundle Road, Alwalton, Peterborough	No material observations

2. Showground development

There was no further update on the proposed showground AEPG housing development application.

Cllr Dallimore left the meeting.

233/03-23

Maintenance

None.

234/03-23

Future agenda items and announcements

None.

- 235/03-23 Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 Exclusion of the Press and the Public**
RESOLVED: That in accordance with Section 1(2) of the Public Bodies Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 and by reason of the confidential nature of the business, the Press and the Public be excluded from the meeting.
- 236/03-23 Allotments legal correspondence relating to Rights of Way onto the site**
Update received on further legal correspondence relating to Rights of Way onto the site. (For details see confidential minutes folder).
- 237/03-23 Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 Re-Admittance of the Press and the Public**
RESOLVED: That the confidential business having been concluded, the Press and Public be readmitted to the meeting
- 238/03-23 Date of next meeting – Wednesday 26th April 2023.**

The meeting closed at 8:38 pm.