

# PARISH OF ORTON WATERVILLE

## ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting  
at the Village Hall, Glebe Avenue, Orton Waterville  
on Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> May 2023 At 6:30 pm

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Present: Cllr Farnham (Chair of the Parish Council), 7 electors and Mrs A Brown (Parish Clerk).

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE – None.
2. MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD ON 31<sup>st</sup> May 2022 were read, approved and signed by the Chair.
3. CHAIRMAN’S REPORT – The Chairman gave her report, a copy of which is attached.
4. LOCAL MATTERS RAISED BY PARISH ELECTORS – No matters were raised.
5. ANY OTHER BUSINESS – There was none.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 6:39 pm.

## Orton Waterville Parish Council

### Chairman's Report 31<sup>st</sup> 2023

During the year we received resignations from three Councillors for personal reasons. I would like to acknowledge the work of Mathew Barrows, Kirsty Knight and Brenda Fearon for the work they undertook over the years serving the Parish. Two of the positions have already been filled and we welcomed Steve Swan and Christian Hogg both bringing a wealth of knowledge with them. The latest vacancy is still going through the legal paperwork stage prior to co-option.

We continue to employ a Lengthsman and he works Monday to Friday moving around the different areas of the Parish. We now receive weekly sheets showing the amount of bags collect in each area. Residents are encouraged to contact the Clerk Alison Brown on 01733 346483 or email [clerk@ortonwaterville-pc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@ortonwaterville-pc.gov.uk) to report any areas of concern so that we can target these spots.

The free bulky wastes which are paid for and organised by the Parish Council and held in the small carpark at the back of Ortongate Centre from 10 am until 12 midday still prove to be successful. Dates for these can be found on the website and are displayed in our noticeboards. My sincere thanks to those who volunteer to help especially Cross Keys and the Ortongate Security Team.

The Parish Cemetery has recently been improved yet again. The benches have once again been cleaned and varnished. The burial area set aside for children is undergoing improvements to make it a peaceful and attractive place for families to visit. Thanks to Richard and Brett for help and advice on caring of the burial ground and Judith and Alison for helping me carry out the H&S checks.

The allotment sites have waiting lists. We are always looking at ways to improve the sites. Security being top of the agenda and we are now part of the Allotments Security Watch Scheme following all the extra security we put in place during the past year. This has not been without its problems however; it is our duty to ensure that the allotments are a safe place for the allotment holders to be. We have also agreed to adopt the same rule as other allotment sites in the City and ban the use of carpets as these are not biodegradable and have found to be harmful to the soil. Allotment holders will be given four months notice.

We have given grants to:

- Orton Counselling Service for Young People
- Magpas Air Ambulance
- Family Voice
- Royal British Legion Poppy Wreath appeal
- Cambridgeshire Search and Rescue

Following the death of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, the Parish Council agreed to provide books of condolences at several sites around the Parish. Christ Church Orton Goldhay, Sue Ryder Charity shop in Ortongate, Ormiston Bushfield Academy, Napier Place Community Centre, the Village Hall, and the Visitor Centre at Ferry Meadows. My thanks to all those who volunteered to help with setting up the spaces for people to go and sign the books and Christ Church volunteers for opening

the church for people to light candles as well as signing the book of condolences. There were some lovely tributes and the books are now archived with all the other Peterborough books. A special Church Service was held at Christ Church and I had the honour of reading the Proclamation on behalf of the Parish. We also arranged with the Ortongate management team for a place to be set aside where residents could leave flowers. Another site was provided in the Gannocks by the Cemetery gates. We were, as part of Operation London Bridge, asked to gather up the flowers and use them as compost when planting a tree in the Her Majesty's memory. We purchased and planted a purple copper beech tree at Ortongate on the site of the original Bushfield Community School in the grassed area near Wilko's. Aragon helped a small group of students from Ormiston Bushfield Academy with the planting of the tree along with some bulbs. It is hoped that once the tree is established, the students will help design a small memorial garden at the site.

It was agreed to purchase a King's Coronation commemorative plaque for the village sign on the corner of Cherry Orton Road/Oundle Road. The plaque will be situated underneath the Queen's commemorative plaques.

There is now a working party for Addressing Climate and Nature Emergency and they are formulating a simple plan for the Parish which will help address this problem. Information can be found on our website. Thanks to the group for the progress they have made so far.

Travellers have once again been moving around the Parish. Thanks to Julie for her help with addressing this problem for us. We continue to work with PCC on a solution to this problem.

Cllr Trevor Rouse and Cllr Julie Stevenson attended the resident's information meeting with AEPG development re: proposed plans for the Showground site.

Drifting continues to be a significant problem especially for the residents in Orton Southgate. However it is also having an impact on Orton Goldhay, and Orton Northgate residence. PCC have been actively working towards trying to address the problem. The police will be attending the Parish Council meeting tonight to update us on the situation.

Graffiti still causes us problems around the Parish. We are now looking into purchasing our own removal kit as this would enable us to address the problem quicker. Until now Julie has kindly sprung into action with her kit removing as much as she can and I am grateful to her.

We were elected to serve the people of Orton Waterville Parish. This is a voluntary position and one I am proud to hold as I am sure we all are.

Every month our minutes are posted to the website and are available to all residents to read and so to give you all rest from my voice I will conclude this report by thanking all councillors and Alison for the help and support I have received during the year. I have however to thank Trevor as vice chair for being there when some difficult decisions have had to be taken and taking the Chair while I had to travel overseas to look after my 101 year old mother. Thank you everyone.

Jenny Farnham

Chair