

PARISH OF ORTON WATERVILLE

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting
at the Village Hall, Glebe Avenue, Orton Waterville
on Tuesday 22nd May 2024 At 6:30 pm

Present: Cllr Farnham (Chair of the Parish Council), 3 electors and Mrs A Brown (Parish Clerk).

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE – None.
2. MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD ON 31st May 2023 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 6:34 pm.

Orton Waterville Parish Council

Chair's Report 22nd May 2024

Parish Council

Since the last Annual meeting we received Cllr Jo Piercy's resignation for personal reasons. We co-opted and welcomed two new councillors Cllr Anna Jurs and Cllr Rubie Rattan which gave us a full complement of councillors.

Following the Parish Council elections on May 2nd, 2024, we received no candidates for one ward and we hope to fill this position by co-option at the Parish Council meeting later this evening.

Lengthsperson

We continue to employ a Lengthsperson and he works Monday to Friday moving around the different areas of the Parish. We receive reports on the number of bags collect in each area. Andy also reports any fly tipping, and this then gets dealt with promptly. We have agreed to trial a change of route as some areas required more cover and others less. This will be monitored over the next few months. Residents are encouraged to contact the Clerk Alison Brown on 01733 346483 or email clerk@ortonwaterville-pc.gov.uk to report any areas of concern so that we can target these spots.

Bulky Waste

We have recently agreed to continue the free bulky waste service which is paid for and organised by the Parish Council. It is held in the small car park at the back of Ortongate Centre from 10 am until 12 midday. These still prove to be successful. Dates for these can be found on the website and are displayed in our noticeboards. Thanks to all Councillors who pop along and support these.

The Parish Cemetery

The benches have 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. Cllr Judith Goode, Alison and I carry regular carry out the H&S checks. The sanctum units are nearly full, and we are in the process of ordering more. We are looking at improvements to the rose garden. We have now stopped taking reservations for burial plots.

St Mary's Church Cemetery

This cemetery is now closed and so the responsibility for it comes under the Parish Council. At present we are waiting for contractors to repair the part of the wall which has collapsed. We also maintain the grounds and carry out H&S checks.

Debdale Pond

We have agreed to undertake major improvements to this area shortly.

Allotments

The allotment sites have waiting lists. We are always looking at ways to improve the sites. Security remains top of the agenda, and we are now part of the Allotments Security Watch Scheme. We had a good turnout at the allotment sites annual bulky waste. These were well organised. Thanks to all allotment holders for this.

Planning

We have received numerous planning applications during the year including some challenging ones. All planning applications are agenda items with a link to Peterborough City Council planning page. All agendas can be found on our website. My thanks to Cllr Steve Swan for taking the lead on planning applications and chairing the newly formed planning working party.

Grants

We gave grants to Orton Counselling Service for Young People, and the Royal British Legion Poppy Wreath appeal.

Graffiti

Graffiti still causes us problems around the Parish. Cllr Julie Stevenson has sprung into action with her own removal kit removing as much as she can, and I am grateful to her for this.

Speed indicator devices

We now have a speed indicator device which will be moved between Lady Lodge Drive, Church Drive, and Cherry Orton Road. Thanks to Cllr Julie Stevenson and her husband for setting this up. Hopefully this will address some of the complaints we have been receiving re speeding in the village.

Agendas and Minutes

Every month our agenda and minutes are available on our web site for all residents and members of the public to access and read.

This has been a busy year and often quite challenging. I would like to thank all councillors and Alison for the help and support I have received during the year and a big thank you to Cllr Trevor Rouse as vice chair for always being available when some difficult decisions have had to be taken. To conclude let me share with you the words of Archbishop Justin Welby speaking on ITV news item 8th May 2024 "PEOPLE WANT TO KNOW THEY MATTER". We were elected to serve the people of Orton Waterville Parish. This is a voluntary position and one I am proud to hold which I am sure we all are and I ask that we remember these few words when carry out our duties as Parish Councillors.