

PARISH OF ORTON WATERVILLE

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting
at the Village Hall, Glebe Avenue, Orton Waterville
on Tuesday 28th May 2025 At 7:00 pm

Present: Cllr Farnham (Chair of the Parish Council), 6 electors and Mrs A Brown (Parish Council Clerk).

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE – None.
2. MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD ON 22nd May 2024 were approved and signed by the Chair.
3. CHAIR'S REPORT – The Chair 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 7:10 pm.

Orton Waterville Parish Council

Chair's Report 28th May 2025

Following the Parish Council Elections on 2nd of May 2024 we were left with a vacancy in Goldhay East Ward to be filled by co-option. One applicant attended the meeting on 22nd of May and Sophie Grindlay was co-opted onto the council.

This has been a busy year. We celebrated Councillor Michael Chambers 50 years as a Parish councillor, and we suggested to him that to mark the occasion we would like to plant a tree somewhere in the Parish. Mike was the driving forces in acquiring the land for the cemetery and requested a tree to be planted in the cemetery in remembrance of his daughter Helen.

Lengthsperson

We continue to employ a Lengthsperson and he works Monday to Friday moving around the different areas of the Parish. We meet regularly with Andy and Anthony his supervisor to receive regular reports including the number of bags collect in each area. Andy also reports any fly tipping, and this then gets dealt with promptly. Unfortunately, there has been a steady increase of fly tipping including one in the cemetery. This has become a significant problem, and we are working with Peterborough City Council on ways to try to address this. We agreed to trial a change of route as some areas required more cover and others less. This has helped. 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 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. The next ones are 27th September and 10th January 2026. Thanks to all Councillors who come along in all types of weather and support these. The residents certainly appreciate the help with unloading their cars.

Grants

We gave a grant to Orton Counselling Service for Young People.

Debdale Pond

We have started to undertake the improvements to this area. Ward Councillor Nicola Day is the lead for this.

The Parish Cemetery

Councillor Judith Goode, Alison and I carry out the H&S checks. We no longer reserve plots. The burial area set aside for children now has a bench and the layout has been improved. Only two of the first group of sanctum units remain, and we have just had another consignment delivered. We also await the delivery of some that have been purchased by Orton Longueville Parish Council and will be reserved for residents living in certain parts of Longueville Parish not covered by Orton Longueville Parish Church. The rose garden has been improved. Thanks to Richard Harding for once again being the cemetery landscape maintenance contractor.

St Marys Church

As the cemetery is now closed the responsibility for it comes under the Parish Council. Contractors have repaired the parts of the wall which collapsed. We also maintain the grounds and carry out Health and Safety checks.

The Gannocks

There was a spate of vandalism in the playpark with replacement parts required for some of the equipment. A new bench was purchased to replace one that was vandalised couple of cherry trees in the avenue leading to the cemetery died had to be replaced, and a football net has been purchased and is certainly being well used.

Allotments

The allotment sites have waiting lists. We are always looking at ways to improve the sites. Security remains top of the agenda. We are part of the Allotments Security Watch Scheme. Gostwick and Cherry Orton allotment sites are now fully enclosed. It was agreed to not re-let Wyman way allotments when they were given up. The thought was to turn them into a community orchard. This is still in the planning stage. We had a good turnout at the allotment sites annual bulky waste. Thanks to all allotment holders for being well prepared as this certainly helps on the day.

Planning

We have received numerous applications during the year. The role of the Parish Council is a consultee the same as any resident. The decisions are made by the local planning authority in our case Peterborough City Council planners. All planning applications are on the agenda.

Agendas and Minutes.

Every month our agenda is on all Parish Notice boards and the website. The Minutes are available on our website for all residents and members of the public to access and read.

Traffic regulations consultations.

New no parking and waiting traffic restrictions are out for consultation to address the HGV parking which regularly happens near to Church Drive and the junction of Cherry Orton Road, part of Wistow Way to address car parking,

Speed Indicator device

Orton Waterville Village now have a speed indicator device which will be moved between Lady Lodge Drive, Church Drive, and Cherry Orton Road. Thanks to Councillor 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. We have still have not heard if our request for the speed limit to be changed to 20mph has been approved.

Departures and arrivals

Since the last Annual Meeting we have received resignations for personal reasons from Cllr Sophie Grindlay, Cllr Steve Swan, and last month from Cllr Anna Jurs. We co-opted and welcomed Cllr Alex Bowerbanks, and Cllr Martin Brett. One vacancy remains and this will be filled by co-option hopefully next month.

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

I would personally like to thank Cllr Trevor Rouse as vice chair and all councillors for the help and support I have received during the year. To Alison a very big thank you for everything she does. Taking her for an odd coffee at Starbucks does not seem nearly enough for all the extra hours she puts in.

Thank you everyone.
Cllr J. Farnham