

Minutes of a Meeting of the Parish Council
held in the Village Hall, Glebe Avenue, Orton Waterville on
Wednesday, 18 November, 2009.

Present: Mr M Chambers (in the chair) Mrs J Farnham Mr C Long Mr M Rowett
Mrs J Stokes Mrs G Thornley Mr R Hammerton

Members of the Public – none Police – PCSO Matt Lauch Ward Councillors – none

1. CO-OPTION – Mr Chambers proposed and Mrs Farnham seconded that Mr Ron Hammerton be co-opted into the vacancy at Orton Goldhay West. This was carried and there were no other nominations.
2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE were received from Mr P Froggitt, Mr M Stone, Mr M Smith Cllr G Elsey and Cllr Mrs S Allen.
3. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS – Item 11(c) – Mr M Rowett (allotment tenant)
Item 8(b) – Mrs J Farnham (school governor)
4. LOCAL POLICING MATTERS –PCSO Matt Lauch reported that there had been a significant improvement in anti social behaviour at the Church Drive shopping parade and therefore priority had moved to Bringhurst, Herlington and the BMX Track. Successful prosecutions had resulted in 2 crimes of anti social behaviour and 1 graffiti artist. Burglaries are increasing and therefore the Neighbourhood Watch Scheme is being promoted.
5. REPORTS FROM WARD COUNCILLORS – There were none.
6. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 21 OCTOBER 2009 – The following was omitted from item 7(c) of the minutes, “It was agreed that the Chairman would ask Mr Hammerton if he would consider becoming a Parish Councillor and, if he agreed, he would be co-opted at the next meeting.” Subject to this amendment Mr Rowett proposed and Mr Long seconded that the minutes be signed as a true and correct record. This was carried.
7. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES
 - (a) Freedom of Information Act (minute 6a).
Mr Froggitt produced a list of possible documents which will be circulated and reviewed at the next meeting.
 - (b) Spring Flowers (minute 6b).
Mr Froggitt has sent a report on his meeting with Mr Armstrong (PCC) and Mr Russell (Warden). Mr Russell had obtained some quotations for spring flowers as discussed at the above meeting. Mr Long proposed that the quotation from Notcutts for 100 Daffodil bulbs and a few Bluebell bulbs (free in return for publicity) be accepted as the lowest tender. This was seconded by Mrs Stokes and carried. It was agreed not to plant any bulbs around the Village Sign until the sign has been repaired.
 - (c) Victim Support (minute 6c).
An acknowledgement for the donation was received.
 - (d) Barrier Replacement (minute 6d).
The Parish Council has not yet heard whether its request for a replacement barrier, conforming to the current standards, will be granted. The Clerk was asked to following this up.
 - (e) Village Sign (minute 6e).
The Chairman had not yet been able to obtain another quotation. He agreed to try a different source.
 - (f) Vacancies (minute 7c).
The co-option of Mr Hammerton to Orton Goldhay West has now filled all the vacancies in that particular parish ward. However, vacancies still remain in Orton Goldhay East and Orton Wistow. These will continue to be advertised and are available for co-option.
 - (g) Neighbourhood Council (minute 13).
Confirmation was received that the requested items will be on the Council’s next agenda.

8. CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED

- (a) DIAL – A letter was received from DIAL, a charity promoting health & wellbeing among disabled people through Sport, requesting funding under section 137 LGA for one of its programmes based at Bushfield. Mr Long proposed and Mrs Thornley seconded that £50 be granted. This was carried.
- (b) St John's School – At this point Mrs Farnham left the meeting. A request was received from St John's School for help with funding to re-develop the garden area at the front of the school. As well as improving the environment, this project would involve the children in an ECO working party. Mrs Stokes proposed and Mrs Thornley seconded that £50 be granted under section 137 LGA. This was carried.

9. BURIAL GROUND

The water has now been laid on and the construction of the cemetery is complete. The contractor has been paid except for a sum retained in case anything goes wrong within a year. For this reason it was agreed to remain with the present Architect who is our agent. However, it was agreed to ask him to give a fixed quote instead of an hourly rate for the next stage of the work which is the Landscaping.

The Working Group met and produced a draft set of regulations which were circulated to members. These were amended and Mr Hammerton proposed that these be approved as a second draft and sent to the Council's bereavement manager for comment. This was seconded by Mr Chambers and carried.

It was agreed that the Clerk would manage the cemetery but it was recognised that expert training would be required. Mr Hammerton proposed that the Software for £1000 including first year support, installation and set up be purchased from RBS Software Solutions and that the CD on cemetery management for £27 plus £2 p&p from the Society of Local Council Clerks also be purchased. This was seconded by Mr Long and carried. It was also agreed to ask the City Council's Bereavement Manager to grant a day's training at his offices.

10. STORAGE SHEDS

A notice was received from the District Valuer that the rateable value of the property was £3,650. This figure is much lower than the opponent was claiming. Legal Advice is that the opponent is entitled to twice the rateable value. Therefore, it was agreed to leave it to the solicitor to negotiate a settlement no higher than £7,300.

11. ALLOTMENTS

- (a) Wyman Way – Normally it would be time for a Meadow cut. However, it was agreed to leave this until the spring when a review of the whole area will be made.
- (b) Cherry Orton Road – A complaint was received that one of the plots was very untidy. The Chairman agreed to do a site inspection. The tenant of another plot had recently died. It was agreed not to approach the widow too soon about the continuance of the tenancy.
- (c) Gostwick – The allotment plot in poor condition has been taken up by a tenant. The half of another plot had been offered to the next on the waiting list but no reply was received. The Clerk will chase it up.

12. FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

- (a) The following payments were authorised

Victim Support (grant under s137 LGA)	£100.00
Maypine Construction (cemetery construction)	£67,527.30
PDG Architects (architect's fees)	£2,143.12
Peterborough Office Supplies (stationery)	£16.88
Buckles solicitors (interim fee)	£303.60
HM Revenue & Customs (Tax and NIC)	£101.10
Clerk's Salary (for November)	£395.20
Expenses (for November)	£14.04
British Royal Legion (poppy wreath)	£18.00
- (b) Income received to date

J Hopper – shed rent (for October)	£140.00
Bank Interest	£0.86

- (c) Salary Review – The current increased rates from NALC were circulated. It was agreed to postpone this review.
- (d) Annual Return – The Annual Return has been signed off by the Auditor. In his opinion ‘no matters have given him concern’. Under ‘Other matters not affecting his opinion’ he has commented that ‘The level of general reserve should be kept at a level that enables the Council to operate even in the event of unusual expense.’ His comment was noted. The VAT can now be claimed back.

13. PLANNING MATTERS

(a) New applications since last month

09/01131/ADV	Signs at Midas Centre, Orton Southgate	No objection
09/01126/CON	Demolition of existing garage at 48 Cherry Orton Road	No objection
09/00987/FUL	New dwelling at 48 Cherry Orton Road, Orton Waterville	No objection

(b) Decisions on previous applications

09/00887/FUL	Temporary Portakabin for use as Dental Surgery, at Ortongate	Granted
09/01013/CTR	Fell tree at 24 Cherry Orton Road, Orton Waterville	Granted

14. MAINTENANCE AND OTHER MATTERS – It was noted that a section of wall at the former Glebe Farm had collapsed (or been taken down). Since the village is a Conservation Village, it was agreed that this section of wall should be reinstated. The Clerk will inform the City Council’s Conservation Officer.

It was brought to the attention of the Parish Council that the base of the War Memorial requires some repair. Mrs Thornley agreed to let the Clerk have contact details of the previous stone mason who had dealt with this item.

15. ANY OTHER BUSINESS – There being no further business the meeting closed at 10.25 pm.