Orlingbury Parish Council Meeting
held on 14th May 2026 at
7.30pm
in the Village Hall

Present:
James Duffin
Linda Crocker
Michelle King
Andy Hankin
Andy Gosling

Shelley Chambers (Parish Clerk)

Apologies: None

Public	**Public –** One member of the public present.	Actions
	Orlingbury PC – AGM All councillors confirmed that they are happy to remain on the committee. James Duffin proposed to remain as Chair for the 26/27 year. Andy Hankin volunteered for the role of Deputy Chair. All in favour and agreed.	
1/26	**Declarations of Interest**- None.	
2/26	**Approval of the minutes dated 19th March 2026** All agreed and approved.	SC move minutes from draft to minutes section on website.
3/26	**Public Question Time (Max 3 mins per person at Chairperson's discretion)** No questions – appreciation for the work of the Parish Council shown with thanks.	.

4/26	**Update on the Speed Indication Device data– discuss recent statistics from devices and discuss communications with Gareth Cross (PCSO)** The speed indicator devices have continued to work as expected. There has been no progress made with regards to downloading the data – this needs to be rectified as soon as possible.	SC to post data on website once downloaded.
5/26	**Ownership of the village green – update** Consultant instructed to register the Village Green for the village ownership. All information gathered to stake a claim to the Land Registry. Consultant seeking answers to some questions: **Posts on the green -** Erected within last 15-20 yrs, paid for by parish council possibly via grant. **Benches-** Parish Council are responsible for the benches and do look after them. Benches have been on the green for roughly 50 years at least. The current benches have been on the green for at least 15 years. Some other questions raised surrounding bins and telegraph poles and parish green cuts. Declaration on document to be signed by James Duffin – all agreed. Application currently in the process – update to be given at next meeting.	Clerk to seek details of application to keep track of progress of this. SC send James invoice from tree surgeon as evidence
6/26	**Update regarding church lighting (testing of white bulbs)** No update – testing of bulbs yet to happen. Andy Gosling to speak again with electrician (testing to happen as and when possible).	
7/26	**Update on liaising with Little Harrowden PC regarding speed limits** No contact received from Chair of Little Harrowden Parish Council. No comments made at present.	
8/26	**Update on need to replace bench slats on green and possible restorations on village phonebox** James Duffin has spoken with a local joiner to have spare slats made and fitted to the benches – no cost to the Parish Council (self funded by James Duffin). James Duffin has received one quote regarding repairs to the village phonebox – happy with quote however possibly need to seek additional quotes for comparison.	
9/26	**Meeting update regarding road safety between Orlingbury and Broughton/ Pytchley in connection with request for support from Broughton parish clerk**	SC to send details of meeting to Linda Crocker

	Linda Crocker to attend online meeting to represent Orlingbury. Councillors confirmed that Orlingbury have no distinct views on the situation but are willing to attend in support of Broughton.	once received and confirm attendance .
10/26	**Public path flooding/ obstructions around village – update** James Duffin has contacted the number given by SC at the last meeting and reported this issue again – still awaiting a response/ call back.	
11/26	**Councillors to discuss the disappearance of the Village Green sign** James Duffin has contacted the number given by SC at the last meeting and reported this issue again using the previous reference number – still awaiting a response/ call back despite numerous attempts to chase this.	
12/26	**Councillors to discuss parish council insurance premium renewal** Parish Council Insurance Policy due for renewal in June – Councillors discussed the minimal increase in costs for the year. James Duffin proposed to accept the renewal quote - All approved and agreed.	SC to pay invoice.
13/25	**Councillors to discuss the need for a Parish Council facebook page** Linda Crocker suggested creating a facebook page with a dedicated login access for councillors, to enable parish matters to be shared with village residents and to request views where needed. All in favour of creating a user profile on facebook for Orlingbuy Parish Council – Linda Crocker volunteered to create this with support of Andy Gosling (page to be set up as a government organization).	
14/26	**Update regarding unauthorized driveway (property on The Green)** James Duffin contacted enforcement Officer – response received stating that due to stonewall no exceeding 1m in height, this would not be a planning issue. James Duffin then contacted Highways to discuss – Representative from Highways attended resulting in resident being informed of the need to reinstate the site as it previously was. Deadline and reinspection given. Deadline date passed – Highways in communications with resident – Occupier has some questions. Update to be given at next meeting.	

15/26	**Councillors to review grass cutting needs and decide on future dates for cuts** 2nd cut of the year – booked before bank holiday. Expected to continue with one cut per month. Councillors agreed to assess need on a regular basis and instruct Warne Services when cut needed. Brass on the green booked for the beginning of September- ensure grass will to be mowed before this event.	
16/26	**Discuss results of the recent village litter pick and any future litter picks** Successful litter pick with a good turnout – roughly 15-18 residents. Councillors agreed that one litter pick per year is sufficient, to be in National Litter Pick Week. Thanks given to Wythmails for providing free tea and coffee to participants.	
17/26	**Finance including payments and payments** Finances detailed and discussed below - All agreed and approved.	
18/26	**Approval of the AGAR and setting dates for making provision for the exercise of public rights** Following cancellation of NCALC membership, AGAR financial audit conducted as included in last year's membership. James Duffin confirmed decision to cancel membership and instruct an independent auditor bi-yearly (self-auditing yearly). SC to send spreadsheet to James and check details of claiming VAT over the past few years. James Duffin has read through Katrina Jones' audit report – all seems in order and acceptable. Auditor detailed the need for mowing tenders – SC to check minutes as councillors sure that more than one quote was obtained at the time. Auditor suggested that personal email addresses are not used – recommended government email addresses. James Duffin suggests not setting up different email addresses due to the ease of access. All agreed. Auditor raised concerns surrounding clerk's pay and contract details – SC and James Duffin to meet at another time to discuss details and rectify. James Duffin read figures from AGAR document – precept figure does not cover costs.	SC to send finances spreadsheet to James.

	Dates agreed for 'making provision for the exercise of public rights' – dates to be standard – document to be posted to website on Tuesday 2nd June 2026. SC to post financial documentation on website once signed to include AGAR, precept and budget.	
19/26	**Bank reconciliation (to be produced bi-monthly) – all to review and approve** Bank reconciliation approved – Financial auditor confirmed that invoices should form a part of the bi-monthly bank reconciliation.	
20/26	**Councillors to review and approve financial regulations, Standing Orders and other poicies** Policies reviewed – Councillors happy with current policies. James Duffin suggested proposed – all agreed and approved.	
21/26	**Planning applications (councillors to discuss)** 5 Rectory Lane - no comments made Councillors discussed that planning team are not contactable by phone.	
22/26	**Unitary Update** Scott Brown – Councillor for NNC present at meeting – report provided on website but verbal report given. Scott firstly suggested that the Parish Council contact him directly with any NNC matters that haven't been dealt with (for example bridleway issue ongoing). Contact Scott by phone or email and he will chase up matters. Change of administration within NNC - many positives so far – an effective start, particularly with Chris McGriffen in Highways. Cameras fitted to council vehicles to pick up on potholes – improvement for speed and accuracy of pot hole reporting. Planning department – issue with retention of officers. Investment ongoing – it is believed that there is currently a full quota of planning officers. James Duffin asked questions surrounding grants for smaller organisations due to recent cancellations of grants – Scott Brown pressing on this matter. There is a specific grants page on the website which is updated regularly. Scott Brown discussed the potential for applying for youth council grants soon (not yet released) if village projects involving youths arise.	SC contact Scott with details of matters not heard from

	Reform councillors currently wokring on conservative budget so far – budget agreed for forthcoming year. Increases in budget for non-entitled school transport, garden waste increase, administrations. Settlement from government wasn't as much as expected – NNC generally poorly funded by central government despite fair funding formula. Further cuts likely. Generally things settling in council, challenges with overspends as expected. Scott Brown apologised for non-attendance at meetings in recent months and confirmed that he or Vicki Jessop will attend wherever possible and are happy to support the Parish Council with any issues at all current or arising. ***Question asked regarding potholes*** **-** Ringfenced budget for potholes, but budget isn't enough (roughly £100 million under budget received compared with quote to make all roads good). Pothole budget has increased significantly but challenges in the reporting of potholes. Reporting tool – Working more efficiently – progress being made currently. Claims – difficult to claim roughly 10% of claims paid out – there is a need to be able to prove which pothole caused the damage. If pothole has previously been reported, set time limit to repair up to 90 days. Members of the public can look on the website for pot hole date reporting and dates.	
23/26	**Councillors to agree on meeting dates for the remainder of the year** July - TBC Sept 17th Nov 19th Jan 21st March 18th May 20th	

The next meeting will be held at **7.30pm on TBC** in the Village Hall.

Meeting ended: 20:20

Chair's Signature……. Date……..

Check below schedule and change
Payments agreed at meeting:

PAYMENT DUE/NAME	**AMOUNT**	**VAT**
Village hall hire	10	
Clerk Salary		

Insurance renewal	541.68 (due 1st June) up from £525.07	
Floodlights	340.95	18.47
PAYMENT MADE IN BETWEEN MEETINGS		
Village hall hire	10	
Nathan Warne	100	
Village Hall	241	
NNC	25	
SSE Energy	160.16	8.43
	104.94	5.17
Defib pads and batteries	173.49	28
GREATWELL HOMES	65.56 (£3 increase)	0.00
	65.56	