Orlingbury Parish Council Meeting
held on 11th November 2024 at
7.30pm
in the Village Hall

Present:
Nigel Cole (Chair)
Chris Hartley (Deputy Chair)
Linda Crocker
James Duffin

Shelley Chambers (Parish Clerk)

Apologies:

Public	**Public –** Two members of the public present.	
		Actions
34/24	**Declarations of Interest**- None.	
35/24	**Approval of the minutes dated 16th September 2024 (sent out on 22nd September 2024)** All approved and agreed.	SC to move minutes from draft to minutes section on website.
36/24	**Clerk contract – confirmation of terms** All in favour of approving clerk's contract.	SC to send out updated contract to all councillors.
37/24	**Public Question Time (Max 3 mins per person at Chairperson's discretion)** Contributions by residents attending this meeting have been outlined below.	
38/24	**Tree repairs for the Village green – Update on TPOs and work start dates** TPOs have been lifted by Planning Authority, giving a two-year window to complete work. Reeves4trees have completed four days' work so far, focussing on 5m clearance off road and removing deadwood. Slight delay on the four trees (by telephone box side) due to needing to turn power off.	

39/24	**Update on the Speed Indication Device data and police support – discuss recent statistics from devices and police operations** Police speed operations have been carried out in the village. Email from Gareth Cross (PCSO) agreeing that Northampton Road is problematic. Gareth suggests contacting NNC/ Cllr Lora Lawman to see if they can help regarding speeding issue here. He also advises that he will return to Orlingbury with handheld device when possible. Cllr Lora Lawman will put forward any other suggestions but suggests posibility for councillors to use handheld devices (Police should be doing this when possible as confirmed by Gareht Cross).	SC to put data on website which we have.
40/24	**Highways re: double yellow lines in the village - update regarding timescale** No update as yet.	Wait for progress to be made.
41/24	**Ownership of the Village Green – discuss current position as to liability** Email received from ClearCouncils confirming as follows:- - The liabilities will fall with Orlingbury Parish Council as now the parish council carry out maintenance e.g grass cutting/ tree repairs, they are responsible for liabilities even though the parish council members are volunteers. - If an employee/volunteer were to injure themselves whilst carrying out the maintenance work, this would fall under the employer's liability section of the policy. - If a member of the public were to trip over/injure themselves whilst on the village green, then the council would be liable, and cover would be in place under the public liability section of the policy. - OPC are currently covered for £10,000,000 under the public liability section of the policy. Councillors discussed the above and questioned whether OPC should lodge for ownership after previous offer from the Local Authority / whether there is a need for ownership - Responsibility for liability wouldn't change if the green was owned by OPC, but would give clarity and protect the green. Potential costs for legal fees for registration and potential risk asskessment needed. Public member indicated that enclosed well on green should be added to a risk assessment when completed (NC will make this clear when risk assessment is undertaken). All in favour – Discuss at the January meeting.	SC to reply to NNC to determine what the legal costs would be to register ownership

42/24	**Church flood lighting** A resident attending the meeting gave brief background to the floodlighting situation, regarding the use of a Consistory court with legal powers which gave the Church permission to turn on their floodlights for 70 dates per year. OPC has questioned the Church's non-use of the lights over the last few years whilst still taking OPC financial contributions. No discussion was made with OPC or residents of the Parish by the Church as to its decision to not turn the lights on. The lighting of other churches in the benefice does not appear to be a problem. Cllr Cole - Should OPC continue to pay the standing order, if the church does not turn the lights on? As the Church sought legal means to enable the lighting of the building, it now seems perverse not to use the judgement granted by the Consistory Court. All in favour – Councillors agree that OPC are not happy to continue funding the standing order unless the lights are switched on. If the Church no longer wishes to light the building, then it should return to the Consistory Court and request a judgement to that effect, but OPC will strongly object to the cessation of the lighting of our Parish Church. The residents attending the meeting suggested asking for the Church to refund to OPC all monies paid when the lights have not been on.	SC to email the Church Wardens to inform them of OPC's decision.
43/24	**Grass cutting** Cllr Cole has been in contact with Greenteam lead – Ride on mower is used on a public highway and isn't taxed or insured. Greenteam usually carry out roughly 12 cuts per year. Cllr Cole suggests outsourcing the mowing and has sourced three quotes (with two received back): Rushden trees - £240 plus vat per cut Warnes garden services - £100 per cut on an as required basis April to Oct The NNE council cut the grass twice per year. Currently OPC shares a garage with the Church, although rental agreement is solely in OPC name and paid by OPC. All in favour – Accept Warnes quote to carry out the work, however limit to 6 cuts per year. The cost should be reimbursed by the saving of the garage rent and maintenance on the mowers. Quotes to be sort for selling the mower.	SC to contact church to ask if they would like to take over rental and make payments. Subsequently . SC to contact Greatwell Homes to check notice period.
44/24	**Finance including payments and payments made (inc confirmation of dual authorisation in place**	SC awaiting

	- See schedule below for payments made between meetings. - Letter received regarding precept 2025 (Apply by January) discuss at Jan meeting. SC send spreadsheet to NC showing expenses before next meeting.	contact from SSE regarding recent increased bills.
45/24	**Bank reconciliation (to be produced bi-monthly) – all to review and approve** Internal Control Councillor (Linda Crocker) and clerk completed review of bank statements from September and bank reconcilliations. Agreed and approved.	SC to continue to send bank statements to Cllr Crocker.
46/24	**Correspondence** Update regarding dangerous footpath - main drain output discharges onto public bridleway – SC can't seem to get contact with Ben Wright (potentially not working for NNC anymore). SC has logged this again with NNC fix my street. Response received: Investigation ongoing.	SC to update councillors with any further updates.
47/24	**Planning applications (councillors to discuss)** NW/24/00556/FUL - 440 Kettering Road – Four commercial units (21st Oct) No comments made.	
48/24	**Unitary update** No updates.	
49/24	**Any other business** None. Discussed the need for councillors / public to email ahead any requests for items to be discussed at meetings, so that the items can be listed on the agenda.	

The next meeting will be held on Monday 13 January 2025 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.

Meeting ended: 20:22

Chair's Signature……. Date…….

Check below schedule and change
Payments agreed at meeting:

PAYMENT DUE/NAME	**AMOUNT**	**VAT**
Village hall hire	10	
NCALC Training	242.40	40.40
Cloudnext renewal	119.98	19.99
Clerk backdated pay	1684	
Clerk salary	390	
PAYMENT MADE IN BETWEEN MEETINGS		
Clerk wages	279.12	
SSE Energy	238.52	
	230.87	
ICO	35.00	
GREATWELL HOMES	60.40	0.00
GREATWELL HOMES	60.40	