

ORFORD & GEDGRAVE PARISH COUNCIL
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Minutes of the 276th meeting of Orford & Gedgrave Parish Council
held on Wednesday 13th March 2024 at 7.00pm in the New Room of the Town Hall.

Present: Cllr Karen King (Vice-Chair)	Cllr Anne Macro (Chair)
Cllr Margaret Green	Cllr Nigel Addy
Cllr Mary Iliff	Cllr Alec Greenwell
Cllr Ian Thornton	Cllr Jonnie Howard
Cllr Craig Ambury	

In Attendance 0 members of the public.

Opening remarks

Cllr Macro (Chair) opened the meeting and it was then conducted by Cllr King (Vice-Chair).

MINUTES

1. Reports from Representatives

1. County Councillor Andrew Reid.
Andrew Reid submitted a written report and his apologies for the meeting.

2. District Councillor Tim Wilson
Tim Wilson had submitted a written report and he then summarised some of the points. The East Suffolk Council budget was passed by the full Council on the 21st Feb. The requirement is £50-55m per year. The Enabling Community Budget for this financial year has been spent. The Community Partnership has spent the last sum of money also. Tim has been involved with a resident who wishes to remain in the village and not move from the social house they are currently in. The amount of vehicle movements from Bentwaters through to Melton are being monitored. There is a need to check the permission granted to the site for vehicle movements. Sea Link and Lion Link are to have a significant impact on the coastline and the local area. ESC are opposing to the amount of land that will be used for these developments.

2. Apologies for absence:

Cllr Wingrove, Cllr Mallett and Andrew Reid.

3. Acceptance of Apologies

The Councillors all agreed to accept the apologies.

4. Declarations of interest:

None

5. Applications for dispensation:

None

6. **It was agreed by those that attended, that the minutes of the 275th Parish Council (PC) meeting held on the 14th February 2024 be accepted as a true record of the meeting.**
Cllr King had written the minutes for the in camera section where the Clerk was not present.

7. **Matters arising from the 275th Parish Council meeting held on the 14th February 2024.**
7.1 8 Town farm Estate – Cllr Iliff commented that there had been a meeting with a couple of representatives of Flagship Housing. The launch was on Friday, and it is open to those people with a connection to Orford & Gedgrave for 28 days. Because of the time this was announced this only gives people three weeks not four weeks. There is an open morning on the 16th March 10-12. A group of Councillors are to look at the property tomorrow afternoon.
ACTION: To place on the next agenda.

Prospective Parliamentary Candidate Julia Ewart arrived at 7.15pm.

7.2 Friends Garage Update – Cllr Addy reported that there is no update since the last meeting. Seaforth house has been demolished.
ACTION: To continue to place on the agenda.

7.3 Alde & Ore – No current update.
ACTION: To place on the next agenda.

7.4 Trees – Cllr Macro reported that she had left phone messages and sent emails, but she has had no response from T Will. She will continue to try and contact him.
ACTION: Cllr Macro to speak with T Will to inform him of the positioning of the trees.

7.5 20's plenty – Cllr Macro is to attend a Zoom meeting on Monday.
ACTION: To continue to monitor and place on the agenda.

7.6 'H' markings – The Clerk reported that an invoice will be sent for the cost shortly and the work will be completed within 14 weeks.

7.7 Road Signs – Cllr King reported that she had received confirmation that the road sign on the junction of Broad Street and Quay Street is set to be replaced/repaired.
Cllr Howard commented that the quote at Leiston Press was placed on hold as was the donation offer from a resident, this is in case the road sign is not fixed.
ACTION: Cllr King to monitor the work on the road sign and report back to the Council.

7.8 Recreation Ground – The Clerk reported that she and the NOTT Clerk would be conducting a survey of the benches when the weather improves.
ACTION: Clerk place on the next agenda.

7.9 Village Voice/Link – Cllr Macro reported that the current Vicar would be leaving at Easter so this item should be placed on hold till the new Vicar arrives.
ACTION: To place on a future agenda.

7.10 Footpath – Cllr King reported that she had taken photographs of the footpath with the trip hazards and sent through to the Highways Department. Cllr King commented that the Highways Department did not have any money to contribute to this, they are however aware of the condition of the footpath.

Tim Wilson (ESC) asked if he could be copied into any correspondence regarding the footpath.

Cllr Thornton said that the contractors used would need to be nominated by the Highways Team.

Cllr Addy said that the contractors would require a street works licence which has been approved by the Highways Department.

7.11 D-Day Commemoration – The Clerk confirmed that adverts had been placed in the Village Voice and that a couple of families had shown an interest in attending.

Tim Wilson asked if someone at ESC could be made aware of this event, as he was mapping all the events relating to D-Day in East Suffolk.

ACTION: Clerk to notify ESC.

7.12 Parking on the Village Green – The Clerk informed the Council that she had a couple of spare no parking signs on posts, these have been placed on the village green near to the gateway in the wall on Broad Street.

7.13 Grit Bins – The Clerk confirmed that the disclaimer notices had been placed on the Grit Bins.

8. Contributions by members of the public.

Tim Wilson (ESC) said that when he visited the village there was a discussion about some directional signage on A-Boards around the village.

Cllr Howard said that as there are so many businesses this may prove quite difficult and the village could end up with many A-Boards.

Tim Wilson stated that the area around the Church is very narrow for pedestrians, the signage may be able to direct visitors to a safer route. The other item that was mentioned was the size of the footpath down Quay Street, but I understand that this has been mentioned under item 7.10.

9. Finance

9.1 Authorisation for payment sheet – There are four payments to authorise: M Backhouse (reimbursement for land registry document) - £6.00, Parkwood Garden Services (Mole catching on the recreation ground) - £180.00, East Suffolk Services (Grass cutting and grounds maintenance) £3201.00, Orford Sports and Social Club (Electricity supply) £64.13 Total £3451.13.

Also, the staff wages of £949 per month for March.

Income – None

It was agreed by all the Councillors present to approve the payments.

9.2 Quote from East Suffolk Services for the grass cutting and maintenance.

It was agreed by the full Council to accept the grass cutting and maintenance quote for the village greens and the recreation ground. There was an increase of £260 from last year.

9.3 Asset Register – The Clerk commented that there have been no additional items to add to the register this financial year. The NOTT Clerk has informed the Clerk that there is a survey to take place of the NOTT properties, and would the PC like to have Figgs Shelter, and the Bus Shelter surveyed as it was completed five years ago. The Clerk will make an amendment to the asset register when the figures are received.

9.4 Internal Control Statement – Cllr King reported that she had met with the Clerk to go through the statements on the internal control report. Most of the items are covered; the staff contracts are to be reviewed this year; bank reconciliations are to be scrutinised by a non-signatory member of the Council. It was also suggested that any meeting of the F&GP Committee should take place in October to allow for the draft budget to be presented to the Council in November for full approval in January.

10. Planning

DC/24/0552/TCA – Great House, Church Street, Orford, IP12 2NT

1no. Red Oak (T1 on plan) - Remove two low boughs back to the main stem, re-prune recent cuts, reduce the remaining crown by up to 2 metres

1no. Sweet chestnut (T2 on plan) - Reduce lateral spread by up to 1.5 metres.

1no. Walnut (T3 on plan) - Reduce lateral spread by 1.5 metres.

1no. Indian Bean (T4 on plan) - Crown reduce height and spread by up to 3 metres, prune to clear the highway to 5.5 metres.

1no. Holly (T5 on plan) - Reduce height by up to 4 metres and crown spread by 2 metres.

1no. Tulip (T6 on plan) - Reduce lowest limb over driveway by up to 1.5 metres.

1no. Group of Bay trees (G1 on plan) - Reduce height by 3 metres and lateral spread by 1.5 metres.

It was agreed to submit a no comment to this application as the Tree Officer would make the final decision.

ACTION: Clerk to inform ESC of the Council's decision.

DC/24/0504/FUL & 0505/LBC – Rose Cottage, Quay Street, Orford, IP12 2NU

Construction of single storey rear extension, minor changes to dwelling, extension of outbuilding.

The Council discussed this application at length and were very conscious of the effect on the registered village green in front of the property.

The full Council agreed to object to this application.

ACTION: Clerk to work with Cllr Addy to construct a response to be submitted to ESC.

DC/24/0228/FUL – The Stables, Daphne Road, Orford, IP12 2NH

Alterations to fenestrations and a new flue pipe to an outbuilding/annexe.

The full Council had no objection to this proposal.

ACTION: Clerk to inform ESC of the Council's decision.

DC/24/0668/FUL & 0669/LBC – 118-119 Castle Hill, Orford, IP12 2NE

Single storey entrance link, rear sun-lounge extension and works to replace all rotten windows.

The full Council had no objection to this proposal.

ACTION: Clerk to inform ESC of the Council's decision.

DC/24/0727/FUL – Black Cottage, Quay Street, Orford, IP12 2NU

Installation of roof light to east side.

The Council had no objections to this proposal.

ACTION: Clerk to inform ESC of the Council's decision.

Other notifications:

11. Parish Council Business: -

1. Village Feast

The Clerk reported that the Butcher, the Band (Flaming Cheek) and the Bar are all booked. This is to take place on the 24th August.

ACTION: Clerk to organise the TENS licence and the Road Closure.

2. Signs for Quay Street Car Park

Cllr King commented that the signs for the car park do not appear until you are in the centre of the village, there is only then a small sign opposite the Church. There are no signs showing the car park from the Highways. Could there be a sign near to the village pond opposite the School as you enter the village or a larger directional sign on the Market Hill.

Julia Ewart suggested that Andrew Reid is contacted about the need for additional car park signage.

Cllr Thornton said that maybe the house owner on the Market Hill would permit a larger sign. Also, a directional sign by the village pond would be a good idea.

ACTION: Clerk to contact the CIL team to see if CIL funding may be used for this.

3. School Transport

Cllr King reported that some residents had spoken with her concerning school transport. The catchment school is Farlingaye but the nearest school is Leiston. 7 cars leave Orford taking 12 children to Farlingaye. CATS have had the funding cut. Many families will not be able to send the children to the catchment school because of the cost. Spare seats on the large bus may be used but these are given on a termly basis.

Tim Wilson commented that this is the policy from SCC. Andrew Reid needs to be made aware of this situation. The policies do not meet the need of the children.

ACTION: Cllr King to write to Andrew Reid and explain the school transport issues, copy in Tim Wilson to the email.

12. Correspondence

OSLOF – Orford Fest

The Clerk read out an email stating that the Orford Fest school fundraiser would not be taking place this year.

Open Gardens – request for posters

The Clerk read out an email from the Open Gardens group as they wish to put up posters advertising the open garden event a month before the event date.

All the Council agreed to the placing of posters a month before the event date, as long as the posters are removed the day after the event.

Cllr Thornton suggested that an article is placed in the Village Voice reminding people that if they place posters around the village could these be removed the day after the event.

ACTION: Clerk to place an article in the Village Voice.

Cllr Thornton commented that some residents had spoken with him about the state of the hedges in Pump Street. It was agreed by all the Council that the hedge was overgrown and needed to be cut back.

Tim Wilson asked what was happening with the pond, as it had been mentioned that this would be cleared.

Cllr Macro said that she was waiting for a quote to clear the pond.

Tim Wilson also mentioned that on a visit to the village the Friends Garage site had been mentioned and having spoken with ESC they seemed keen to speak with the owner of the site.

ACTION: Cllr Addy to speak with Tim Wilson about the progress so far with the Friends Garage site.

13. Items for next meeting:

Items included at the next meeting as in the minutes.

14. Date of next meeting: 10th April 2024

Meeting closed at 8.20pm.