

**ORFORD & GEDGRAVE PARISH COUNCIL**  
**The Town Hall, Market Hill, Orford, Woodbridge, Suffolk. IP12 2NZ**  
**Tel: 01394 459172**

E-mail: [orfordtownhall@outlook.com](mailto:orfordtownhall@outlook.com)

**Minutes of the 284<sup>th</sup> meeting of Orford & Gedgrave Parish Council**  
**held on Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> January 2025 at 7.00pm in the New Room of the Town Hall.**

Present: Cllr Anne Macro (Chair)	Cllr Gary Wingrove (Vice-Chair)
Cllr Margaret Green	Cllr Ian Thornton
Cllr Mary Iliff	Cllr Craig Ambury
Cllr Jonnie Howard	Cllr Sheila Stoker
Cllr Stuart Moss	

In Attendance 0 members of the public.

**Opening remarks**

**MINUTES**

**1. Reports from Representatives**

1. County Councillor Andrew Reid.

Andrew Reid will forward a copy of his written report to Cllr Wingrove for circulation. Andrew Reid summarised his report. The Suffolk Regiment Archives, which holds historical records, has found a new home. The Government has withdrawn £3m of funding to SCC, that would support local communities. In December the cabinet met and approved the Economic Strategy. This is a long-term plan to boost economic growth. This sets out to boost an additional £14bn into the economy. Suffolk has a lower unemployment rate but also a lower average wage rate. Please read the report and if you have any questions, please ask. There is a book published about the Anglo Saxons. SCC is working closely with ESC and other councils regarding NSIP's, this includes other sources of power etc. Trading standards continue to be busy. There are meetings to take place around the proposed devolution. This will be rolled out to priority groups, of which Suffolk is one. This will eventually be the whole of the Country.

Cllr Thornton asked what the loss of money was for?

Andrew Reid replied that the Rural Services Grant was £3m. The Government are looking to place more money into other deprived areas.

Cllr Stoker said that deprivation is measured on pro-rata, as Suffolk is less populated than London, it loses the income, although there may still be areas of deprivation in Suffolk.

Andrew Reid said that one question being asked is how the county obtains better funding. Funding is needed for schools, education and social care etc.

Cllr Thornton said that more people are moving into the county.

Andrew Reid commented that the new devolution is the way the Government may save money.

Andrew Reid left at 7.15pm.

2. District Councillor Tim Wilson

Tim Wilson will submit his written report to Cllr Wingrove for circulation.

Tim Wilson summarised his report. There is a possibility that SCC and ESC will become a unitary council, this means that your Councillor representative will be seen less if the devolution occurs. ESC withdrew from the Coastal Partnership East – this took resources

and time, but the partners were not contributing so much. £8m has been delegated to refit the ESC social housing stock. Rendlesham Parish Council has lost the Chair, and the Clerk so are needing a lot of support at this time. Andrew Reid and Tim Wilson are working together to sort the flooding in Tunstall and the Butley Baths. There is a lot of frustration regarding Butley Baths, it may be time to get the landowners involved.

Cllr Ambury said that the situation regarding the village pond near the School is ongoing. Cllr Macri said that a local contractor has tried to obtain the plans for the drainage at the pond but has had no luck with Highways.

Tim Wilson said that he could help chase this, please send him the emails or copy him into future emails and he will assist.

Cllr Moss said that the drains near the school are full of silt/mud.

Cllr Macro said that the Clerk has chased the department that deals with the road sweeping but had no response.

Tim Wilson said that the emails should include him and he will chase the departments on the PC's behalf.

Cllr Howard asked if there are still Traffic Wardens, as he had not seen anyone in the village for some time.

Tim Wilson said that there are still Traffic Wardens, but they tend to go where the issues are more urgent

Tim Wilson left at 7.23pm.

**2. Apologies for absence:**

Cllr Addy, Cllr Dunlop and the Clerk.

**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 283<sup>rd</sup> Parish Council (PC) meeting held on the 28<sup>th</sup> November 2024 be accepted as a true record of the meeting.**

**7. Matters arising from the 283<sup>rd</sup> Parish Council meeting held on the 28<sup>th</sup> November 2024.**

**7.1 Friends Garage Update** – Cllr Wingrove commented that the planning application is in, it appears that they are waiting for the Environmental Team to sign off. The developer is hoping to receive planning approval in about three weeks' time, then the work will begin.

Cllr Howard asked if an email had been sent to the owner of the site asking about the safety of it, and did it mention the liability insurance?

Cllr Macro said that an email had been sent to the landowner, but the contents of it would be checked with the Clerk.

**ACTION:** Cllr Macro to check the contents of the latest email sent to the landowner of Friends Garage.

**7.2 Aide & Ore** – Cllr Wingrove commented that the latest water quality test results had been circulated as requested.

**7.3 Road Signs** – Cllr Ambury reported that the pole and signs are in place at the corner of Broad Street and Quay Street.

**7.4 Footpath in Quay Street** – Cllr Macro reported that a response has been received from Birketts and this will be read through with the next step being considered.

**ACTION:** Cllr Macro to respond to the letter received.

**7.5 Village Project** – Cllr Ambury reported that this is ongoing as still awaiting for a response from Highways.

ACTION: It was agreed by the Council to wait for a response from Highways.

**7.6 Affordable Housing** – Cllr Wingrove reported that the next step appears to have a Housing Needs Survey completed, the cost of this is around £2,000, which there may be some funding for although this is not guaranteed.

Cllr Stoker asked if the survey would assist the PC to obtain additional funding towards affordable housing.

Cllr Wingrove said that the first step for the PC is to prove the need, which would assist with funding and give the PC evidence of what is needed in the village.

Cllr Moss said where would the housing be placed, Peacocks Pyghtle has been mentioned. There is a gap in the corner of the estate, but this would not be a suitable access road.

Cllr Thornton suggested that Cllr Moss declares an interest should Peacocks Pyghtle be discussed in the future as he lives there.

Cllr Macro said that there would be several sites to be considered, but this would be a long way down the process.

All the Councillors agreed to proceed with the Housing Needs Survey.

ACTION: Cllr Wingrove to contact Community Action Suffolk regarding proceeding with the housing needs survey.

**7.7 20's Plenty** – Cllr Macro said that this is ongoing.

ACTION: Cllr Ambury to email the Highways Engineer to ask about moving speed limits.

**7.8 Community Partnership** – Cllr Macro said that Cllr Dunlop would provide a report at the next meeting, as she was attending a meeting this evening.

## **8. Contributions by members of the public.**

None

## **9. Finance**

**9.1 Authorisation for payment sheet** – There are seven payments to authorise: Parkwood Garden and Estate Services (removal of moles) - £220.00, Cllr Macro (Santa Suit) - £55.98, Orford Sports & Recreation Club (electricity for the recreation ground lights) - £121.71, P R Bush Tree Surgeon (felling of tree in Quay Street) - £400.00, M Backhouse (additional Christmas Tree Lights) - £48.99, Unity Trust Bank (monthly charge) – £6.00, Woodbridge Excelsior Band (Christmas Carol Service) - £120.00, Total £972.68.

Also, the staff wages of £1048.84 per month for January.

Income – Cllr Macro (Santa Suit return) £55.98, Total £55.98.

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

**9.2 Use of CIL funding** – No updates

**9.3 To approve the Internal Auditor** – Cllr Macro asked if the PC would support the Clerk using SALC for the internal audit.

It was agreed by all the Councillors present to continue to use SALC as the internal auditor.

**9.4 Pre-payment Card** – Cllr Macro said that should the PC decide to purchase something either the Clerk or the Chair would need to use their own payment card and be reimbursed from the PC as a future date. Having consulted SALC it appears that the PC may have a pre-payment card which could be obtained from the Post Office.

Cllr Thornton suggested a debit card or a credit card may be the way forward.

ACTION: Clerk to obtain further information about a credit or debit card to use for payments.

## **10. Planning**

**Other notifications:**

**11. Parish Council Business: -**

- 1. Re-adoption of the Grants Policy, Publication Scheme and the Financial Risk Assessment** – Cllr Stoker commented that the Publication Scheme mentions the Councillors advertising of phone numbers on the notice boards and the website. Cllr Thornton said that this was changed when the GDPR came into effect.  
ACTION: Clerk to amend the policy ahead of approval at the next meeting.

**12. Correspondence**

Cllr Wingrove reported that an email had been received from a resident who had offered to do some gritting of Quay Street, Broad Street and Daphne Road and was unable to undertake this at the moment.

Cllr Howard said that he would be able to do the gritting of that area.

**13. Items for next meeting:**

- 14. Date of next meeting: 12<sup>th</sup> February 2025.**

**Meeting closed at 7.52pm.**