

ORFORD & GEDGRAVE PARISH COUNCIL
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Minutes of the 287th meeting of Orford & Gedgrave Parish Council
held on Wednesday 9th April 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 Valerie Dunlop
Cllr Stuart Moss	Cllr Sheila Stoker
Cllr Craig Ambury	Cllr Nigel Addy
Cllr Jonnie Howard	

In Attendance 0 members of the public and the Clerk, Marie Backhouse.

Opening remarks

MINUTES

1. Reports from Representatives

1. County Councillor Andrew Reid.

Andrew Reid submitted a written report and summarised this. The National Offer Day has taken place, this informs parents of the selected school placement for their child. 97.5% of the children had their preferred school. This is a testament to the hard work of the school placement team. The Norwich to Tilbury pylon project has some changes to the plan, it would be preferred if some of this was able to be placed underground. The Library Service – SCC became uncertain of the ability to continue as it is. They would like to keep the 45 libraries as they are with the existing hours, thus creating job security. The mobile library service needs some of the vehicles replacing. The decision for this is the 1st June. Travel training – this is something for special needs children, to increase their independence by training them to use the public transport. Devolution – this will be the introduction of a mayoral system, and a single tier government. This will be throughout the Country in time. Suffolk will be joint with Norfolk. The district and borough Councils have a different view of more than one tier of government. The proposal from SCC is for a single unitary council. Currently 77% of the SCC budget goes on children/social care. Each Council is to set out a business case.

Cllr Dunlop asked how this will affect the PC's?

Andrew Reid stated that the PC's will be offered the chance to take on more powers, there will only be one direct contact not a County and District Councillor. This is difficult as all the PC's are different sizes.

Andrew Reid left the meeting at 7.14pm.

2. District Councillor Tim Wilson

No response received.

2. Apologies for absence:

Cllr Greenwell

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 286th Parish Council (PC) meeting held on the 12th March 2025 be accepted as a true record of the meeting.

It was agreed to add one small amendment to 7.6, the word 'liaising with the office' needed to be added.

7. Matters arising from the 286th Parish Council meeting held on the 12th March 2025.

7.1 Friends Garage Update – Cllr Wingrove and Cllr Addy commented that there are no updates.

7.2 Alde & Ore – Cllr Wingrove commented that a meeting had taken place, and the summary from this had been circulated to the full Council. The budget for the project has increased significantly, and the original budget was completed 10 years ago. The cost of plant hire has doubled in price. £12m only pays for the first two flood cells not 6. Snape Maltings and Snape village are the first two to be completed. Work on these may start in September. The drop-in session held at Snape Village Hall was very well supported by many Orford residents, and they asked many questions. At this time the money for the second phase is not in place. There is an independent group in the village who have raised concerns about the possible flooding of the lower part of the village. Should a representative of the PC attend one of their meetings or should they be invited to a PC meeting.

Cllr Addy said that he attended the drop-in event. The Internal Drainage Board are running this project. They are very close to actioning the 2 flood cells in Snape. Hopefully the money will be in place for this. £12m will cover the cost of the work at Aldeburgh. The system is on a point score and areas that have houses and businesses will create more points. Agricultural land does not score points on the scheme. The lower estuary is not on a reasonable time scale. Could there be a scheme to protect Orford. Could the PC work with the independent group for a more cost-effective scheme. NOTT may be affected by the floods, they own land, car park etc.

Cllr Thornton said that the flooding was discussed in length several years ago. Is it more cost effective to pay for the clear up after a flood and organise a managed retreat.

Cllr Addy asked if the scheme would not cover this area, does the PC need to start a scheme.

Cllr Iliff said that the scheme would need to be done in conjunction with others.

Cllr Howard asked if the scheme should concentrate on the vulnerable points of the village, the sewer works being one point. It may be good to see the work to be undertaken at the Maltings.

Cllr Addy said that the form of the river walls will be slightly different in that they are to have a larger sloped area at the back of the wall to increase the stability.

After a vote by the Councillors it was agreed that no Councillor should attend a meeting with the independent group outside of a PC meeting.

7.3 Footpath in Quay Street – Cllr Macro said that there is a meeting taking place on Monday with the Highways Engineer. The Councillors had a copy of the report received from Birketts, which was not conclusive. There was a comment that stated the area may be a Registered Village Green as well as being owned by Highways.

Cllr Ambury stated that in 2000 the road in Quay Street was narrowed to allow for a kerb to be placed. If the Highways have records of this, then the area proposed to be placed as footpath would be Highways.

ACTION: To meet with the Highways Engineer and bring the outcome back to the meeting.

7.4 Village Project – Cllr Macro reported that this item may be removed from the agenda at the moment.

7.5 Affordable Housing – Cllr Wingrove reported that a meeting had taken place with CAS, and a proposal for the Housing Needs Survey had been circulated, with a timetable of the

work. The concern to pick up people who have been forced to move out of the village was raised, also it was suggested that the businesses in the village should be given some of the surveys, as the employees may wish to move into the village. The cost of the survey will be about £2,000. The agreement needs to be formally signed.

It was agreed by the full Council to sign the agreement and move the housing needs survey forward.

ACTION: To sign the agreement.

7.6 Community Partnership – Cllr Dunlop commented that a copy of the completed survey has been obtained, there was a concern relating to the confidentiality. Any surveys will now be completed in conjunction with the office. There was a meeting last week, and the Community Partnership has a pot of money for projects. So far there has been a couple of environmental projects approved. A mental health project was not financially supported. September is the time to apply for a grant. There are pots to assist with education and wellbeing. The statistics show that the life expectancy in this area is lower, as it is a high deprivation area.

7.7 Village Feast – The Clerk reported that the event has a live music, bar and hog roast. It is to be held on the 23rd August.

8. Contributions by members of the public.

None

9. Finance

9.1 Authorisation for payment sheet – There are two payments to authorise: SALC (6-month payroll fee) - £82.80, SALC (Annual subscription) - £320.12, Unity Trust Bank (monthly charge) – £6.00, Total £408.92.

Also, the staff wages of £1156.69 per month for April.

Income – none

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

9.2 End of year accounts – The Councillors had copies of the bank reconciliation and quarterly account to the end of March 2025. These documents were agreed by all Councillors present.

9.3 Asset Register – Following on from advice sought from SALC, the asset register does not show depreciation. It was agreed by the full Council that the asset register was correct.

9.4 AGAR – The Clerk reported that the AGAR (each Councillor had a copy of the form) had to be approved for the financial year 2024-25. The Councillors agreed the AGAR form, ahead of presenting to the internal auditor.

10. Planning

Other notifications:

11. Parish Council Business: -

1. Basket Swing for the Recreation Ground – Cllr Macro reported that this item had been on the agenda before, now at the end of the financial year there is a surplus that could be used to fund this piece of equipment. There have been several comments from parents that this would be a good asset to the recreation ground. The cost of the basket swing is £7645. It was agreed by the full Council to purchase the basket swing for the recreation ground.

2. Annual Parish Meeting – Cllr Macro reported that this was to take place on the 14th May at 6pm. Hopefully there will be some members of the village who provide annual reports for the event.

3. Use of additional precept income – The Clerk reported that it had been mentioned when the precept amount was agreed that the additional amount available was used for a Traffic Regulation Order. This is a necessary licence required if you wish to place

double yellow lines in the village, for example a passing place in Munday's Lane. After some discussion it was agreed by all to reserve this additional funding.

4. **To adopt the New Model Financial Regulations** – Cllr Howard proposed that the PC adopted the new Financial Regulations, this was seconded by Cllr Thornton and agreed by all.
5. **Clerks email address** – The Clerk reported that there had been some information circulated by NALC/SALC regarding the need to have 'gov.uk' email addresses. There are a couple of local companies that are approved to complete this, One Suffolk at a cost of £357 per year and Suffolk Cloud at a cost of £210 per year. The Councillor emails would be for the Council use only, and would be more secure email addresses. Cllr Howard proposed that the PC accepts the quote from Suffolk Cloud, this was seconded by Cllr Dunlop and agreed by all.
ACTION: Clerk to start the 'gov.uk' process for the change of email addresses.

12. Correspondence

13. Items for next meeting:

As minutes state, Standing Orders

14. Date of next meeting: 14th May 2025, APM 6pm and AGM 7pm.

Meeting closed at 8.37pm.