

ORFORD & GEDGRAVE PARISH COUNCIL
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Minutes of the 289th Meeting of Orford & Gedgrave Parish Council
held on Wednesday 11th June 2025 at 7.00pm in the New Room of the Town Hall.

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|----------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 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 Jonnie Howard | Cllr Nigel Addy |

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 which he summarised. East Suffolk has many NSIP's coming forward. SCC has objected to Sea Link and the large convertor stations. Friston will be subject to a lot of disruption. It is proposed that Sea Link will come in and need to build a bridge over the River Fromus. SCC has also objected to a large solar farm in Suffolk. There are talks of a possibility of one near Easton and Pettistree. These are several hundreds of acres in size. The farmer is offered £2,000 per acre for 40 years. Cllr Stoker asked what will happen with the food growth which would have been on that land.

Andrew said that there will be no crops grown on this land.

Cllr Thornton asked about the employment implications of not having the land as arable.

Andrew commented that farms will not employ so many people. Sizewell C has been given the final funding, and by 2035 Suffolk will produce a third of the required electricity for the whole of England.

Cllr Moss commented that there are acres of maize grown for the Biomass producers on Bentwaters. This provides green energy.

Cllr Stoker said that the country will become more dependent on imported food.

Andrew stated that the ESC and SCC will work together to ensure the best mitigation for this area, so it is not impacted by all the building etc. £200m has already been given to enhance this area. Suffolk and Norfolk joining together is the proposal for the new priority plan to have a unitary Council, this would be the abolition of SCC and ESC. There are currently three proposals, a single unitary Council, others support an East and West Suffolk Council or possibly a 3 way to include Ipswich as a stand-alone Council. A single unitary Council will save money, as will a dual Council, but if the Council is split three ways it would cost money. The government will look into what form of consultation will take place.

Cllr Stoker said that she and Cllr Wingrove had attended a meeting in Rendlesham last evening. It was a concern about the larger Council and the small PC.

Andrew said it was very important for the community to take part in the surveys.

Cllr Dunlop asked what the timescale is on the proposed changes.

Andrew responded that the Local Government Reorganisation has been discussed for

a while. The model around a Mayor started in December and joining up with Norfolk. The outline business case started in April with a business case being submitted in September. The model will be received from the government in February, with the Mayoral election then taking place in May. Maybe two or three years after that everything should be in place. This will involve the boundary commission. If there are any queries, please contact Andrew Reid.

Andrew Reid left the meeting at 7.22pm.

2. District Councillor Tim Wilson
Tim Wilson submitted his apologies for the meeting.
2. **Apologies for absence:**
Cllr Ambury and Cllr Greenwell.
Cllr Macro read out a letter of resignation from 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 288th Parish Council (PC) meeting held on the 14th May 2025 be accepted as a true record of the meeting.**
7. **Matters arising from the 288th Parish Council meeting held on the 14th May 2025.**
 - 7.1 **Friends Garage Update** – Cllr Addy reported that there is no update.
Cllr Howard asked if the Council could write to the owner and comment about the state of the site, and the safety of the canopy.
ACTION: Clerk to write to the owner of the Garage Site.
 - 7.2 **Alde & Ore** – Cllr Wingrove reported that there was no further update.
 - 7.3 **Footpath in Quay Street** – The Clerk reported that a quote has been received from the Highways Department, this is for a basic black asphalt surface, as the Highways will have no additional money to maintain another surface. The quote is for £35,568.87 +VAT. Currently the PC has £56,370.78 in CIL funding, and once this has been paid it will leave the sum of £20,801.91.
It was unanimously agreed to accept the quote from the Highways Department.
ACTION: Clerk to notify the Highways Department of the acceptance of the quote.
 - 7.4 **Affordable Housing** – Cllr Wingrove reported that the questionnaires have been delivered, and the next step is to wait for the data to be collated by Community Action Suffolk. This is expected to be in July.
ACTION: To wait for the survey data from Community Action Suffolk.
 - 7.5 **Community Partnership** – Cllr Dunlop commented that a copy of the statistics would be circulated to all again. There is a representative from NSIP's coming to the Flower Show. The verges on the entrance to the village have been cut, which is a shame for the wildlife.
ACTION: Cllr Dunlop to resend the statistics to all the Councillors.
 - 7.6 **Change of email address** – The Clerk reported that each Councillor has received notification of their new email address. Some of the Councillors have already set up the new emails. It was agreed that all the new emails should be in place by September.

8. Contributions by members of the public.

None

9. Finance

9.1 Authorisation for payment sheet – There are seven payments to authorise: Unity Trust Bank (monthly charge) – £6.00, Community Action Suffolk (Insurance premium) - £886.18, Suffolk Cloud (emails and domain) - £180.00, DB IT Support (assistance with email setup) - £35.00, SALC (internal audit service) - £398.40, Cllr Wingrove (Reimburse CAS event) - £15.00, Paul Bush Tree Surgeon (Tree inspection) - £37.50. Total £1558.08

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

Income – Orford General Store (VG rent) - £100.00, HMRC (VAT refund) - £756.94, NOTT (VE Day donation) - £500.00 Total £1356.94.

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

Cllr Thornton commented that the area that the Orford General Store uses outside the shop has increased. The area of green they are renting is only the gazebo area. Who is responsible for any accidents that may occur relating to the additional items outside the shop. The insurance cover needs to be confirmed by the Shop for the outside area and a rent review need to be undertaken.

ACTION: Clerk to locate original emails. A meeting to take place with the Shop, Cllr Addy, Cllr Macro and the Clerk.

9.2 Internal Audit – The Clerk reported that there were some comments in the audit report to be noted. The level of Fidelity Guarantee cover needs to be extended, this has been confirmed with the insurance provider and an additional fee of £11.66 will be required. It was agreed by all to pay the additional sum. The Council should consider a Reserves Policy, but as there is around £43,000 about to be spent on the footpath and the basket swing, this will take the reserve amount down by a large amount. Again linked to the amount of funds the PC has, the use of additional accounts should be considered; as the amounts will be decreased it was agreed to keep the bank accounts as they currently are.

10. Planning

DC/25/1808/FUL – The Cottage, Broad Street, Orford, IP12 2NQ

Alterations and single storey rear extension with a new flat roof.

It was agreed by the full Council to have no objection to this proposal.

Other notifications:

11. Parish Council Business: -

1. To readopt the Complaints Procedure, Privacy Statement, and Data Retention Policy

It was agreed to adopt the above policies by all present.

Cllr Dunlop wished to make an amendment to the Complaints Policy and she would email this to the Clerk.

2. Castle Knoll Dragon's Teeth – Cllr Macro noticed that there are several teeth missing from the Castle Knoll, it may be a good idea to have these fixed ahead of the large event to take place in the castle.

Cllr Thornton suggested that the Clerk speaks with the NOTT Clerk as there may be some telegraph poles available and the PC could use these.

ACTION: Clerk to speak with the NOTT Clerk regarding the telegraph poles.

3. Tree Survey – The Clerk reported that she had walked around the village with Paul Bush who had completed a tree survey. It appears that we have a large Ash tree and an Holm Oak that needs to be removed on the recreation ground, also a dead Cherry Tree on Broad Street. A quote would follow for the necessary tree work to be completed.

4. SID – Cllr Thornton reported that he had placed a fully charged battery in the SID, but it has not been noting the cars until they are almost on top of it.

Cllr Macro suggested that the PC uses some of the remaining CIL funding to purchase a new solar powered SID. It was agreed by all to gain some quotes of solar powered SID's.

ACTION: Clerk to obtain some quotes for a solar powered SID.

12. Correspondence

East Suffolk Council - bulbs

An email was received regarding some free daffodil bulbs. After some discussion it was agreed not to apply for the free bulbs.

13. Items for next meeting:

As minutes state, village feast volunteers.

14. Date of next meeting: 9th July 2025 7pm.

Meeting closed at 8.07pm.