

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

E-mail: clerk@orfordandgedgrave-pc.gov.uk

Minutes of the 293rd Meeting of Orford & Gedgrave Parish Council
held on Wednesday 12th November 2025 at 7.00pm in the New Room of the Town Hall.

Present: Cllr Anne Macro (Chair)	Cllr Sheila Stoker
Cllr Stuart Moss	Cllr Nigel Addy
Cllr Mary Iliff	Cllr Ian Thornton
Cllr Valerie Dunlop	Cllr Jonnie Howard

In Attendance 1 member of the public and the Clerk, Marie Backhouse.

Opening remarks

MINUTES

1. Reports from Representatives

1. County Councillor Andrew Reid.
Apologies and written report submitted.
2. District Councillor Tim Wilson
Apologies and written report submitted.

2. Apologies for absence:

Cllr Wingrove, Cllr Ambury, Cllr Green, Cllr Corris, Andrew Reid and Tim Wilson.

3. Acceptance of Apologies

Yes.

4. Declarations of interest:

None

5. Applications for dispensation:

None

6. It was agreed by those that attended, that the minutes of the 292nd Parish Council (PC) meeting held on the 15th October 2025 be accepted as a true record of the meeting.

7. Matters arising from the 292nd Parish Council meeting held on the 15th October 2025.

7.1 Affordable Housing – Cllr Wingrove submitted his apologies, so this item is to be moved to the January meeting.

ACTION: Cllr Wingrove to report to the Parish Council at the next meeting.

7.2 Community Partnership – Cllr Dunlop reported that there were no updates, the next meeting is to be held in December.

ACTION: To place on the next agenda.

7.3 Village Green Area – The Clerk is to continue looking at minutes from the Highways Committee dated 1984-2005.

ACTION: To place on the next agenda.

7.4 Tree Warden – Cllr Wingrove submitted his apologies for this meeting.

ACTION: To place on the next agenda.

7.5 Use of funding for the Orford Flood Defence project – It was commented that the Orford Flood Defence Group did not offer enough information regarding the roles of the members. It was not clear who the donation would be paid to, was it a personal bank account? The PC should not pay money into a personal account. There was a meeting in September, who proposed to ask for a donation from the PC. It was suggested that the group were trying to propose a scheme that may be affordable and effective. The existing wall should have been better maintained. This group are trying to make something happen and the PC should support it. It was felt that there was a significant lack of knowledge and understanding of the issue, are the Alde & Ore group holding a lot of money that is protected for Orford? No one wishes to stand in the way of this project, but we do need to be made aware of what is happening as this is a huge project with environmental issues. This project needs to be looked at as a whole and on behalf of the village. The PC agreed that a couple of the Councillors should go to the meeting and observe. The IDB attend the meetings but there is no evidence that they wish to sort the river wall, funding and costs are an issue. Could the PC pay a percentage of an invoice received, this way the money would go directly to a company.

ACTION: Clerk to invite a member of the Orford Flood Defence group to attend the meeting in January.

8. Contributions by members of the public.

None

9. Finance

9.1 Authorisation for payment sheet – There are six payments to authorise: Orford Church (Annual donation) – £300, Unity Trust Bank (monthly bank charge Nov & Dec) - £12, Royal British Legion (Annual Donation) - £100.00, Community Action Suffolk (final payment for the housing needs survey) - £1927.56, Genesis Orwell Mencap (commemorative bench paid for by an anonymous donation) - £1073.50, The Drain Doctor (investigative work to the drain in Quay Street) - £162.00, Total £3575.06.

Also, the staff wages of £1156.69 per month for November & December.

Income – HMRC (VAT refund) - £10,712.69, East Suffolk Council (CIL payment) - £490.16, Anonymous (Bench) - £1233.50. Total £12436.35.

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

9.2 Draft budget – Cllr Addy proposed that the Parish Council approves the draft budget, this was seconded by Cllr Howard and agreed by all.

9.3 Precept – Cllr Thornton proposed that the Parish Council requests a precept of £39,711.52, this was seconded by Cllr Dunlop and agreed by all. This would show a 0% increase in the Council Tax bills.

10. Planning

DC/25/4096/TCA – Creek Cottage, Quay Street, Orford, IP12 2NU

1no. Oak (T1 on plan) – Fell

1no. Corsican Pine (T2 on plan) – Fell

1no. Sycamore (T3 on plan) - Fell

It was agreed to have no objection to this application.

DC/25/4118/LBC – The Kings Head Inn, Front Street, Orford, IP12 2LW

Listed building consent – Reinstate a door which has been infilled with modern material, to extend the kitchen area of the pub. Closing up door opening from new kitchen area to WC and installation of sanitary kitchen wall coverings in the extended kitchen area.

It was agreed by all to have no objection to this planning application.

Other notifications:

11. Parish Council Business: -

1. To readopt the Risk Assessment for the Litter Controller.

It was agreed by all present to adopt the above risk assessment.

2. **Aide & Ore** – Cllr Wingrove submitted his apologies for the meeting, but there is a meeting later in the month, so a report will be available for January.
ACTION: To place on the next agenda.
3. **Friends Garage** – Cllr Addy reported that there is no further progress, but they are in the process of drafting the S106.
ACTION: To continue to place on the agenda.
4. **Benches** – The Clerk reported that there has been an interest in the advert and it is hoped that the two benches on the green outside the shop will be replaced.
5. **Meeting dates for 2026** – The full Council noted the dates of the meeting for 2026 and noted that there would be no meeting in August or December.
6. **Village Green Drainage** – The Clerk informed the Council that she had met with a company, Drain Doctor to look at the drainage on the village green in Quay Street. A camera was placed down a large drain on the edge of the footpath which showed this was for foul water. It was suggested that the PC has some investigative work completed on the large surface water drain, this may show why there is a small sink hole that keeps appearing beside a pipe. A quote has been received for the work, and it is going to be up to £850 +VAT for a day's work. At the moment it is difficult to know if this work will take a full day, it may only take a few hours.
Cllr Stoker proposed that the PC should undertake the investigative work, this was seconded by Cllr Addy and agreed by all.
The Clerk was also advised to report the main drain to Highways as it is silted up at the bottom.
ACTION: Clerk to notify Drain Doctor to go ahead with the investigative work, and to report the silted drain to Highways.

12. Correspondence

Resident request for the siting of a charging point – A resident has written requesting that permission is granted for a cable to run across the village green to the edge of the road for a pop-up charging point, also to cover the large drain as this is a trip hazard in the evening when it is dark as there is no street light nearby.
This item was discussed; it was thought that this is only one individual charging point and that in time there would be requests for more. Could there be points put into streetlights? It was agreed that the village greens define Orford, and it is not an area that should be dug up, and with the new footpath being put in how the cable would go over it.
It was agreed that Cllr Addy and the Clerk would respond to the resident.

A Councillor also mentioned that the Village Green in Daphne Road is looking a bit untidy, this is due to some work being undertaken on some of the houses. There is a large area of crushed concrete, that needs to be reinstated as Village Green. Could the PC write to the homeowners and ask that this work is completed.
It was agreed that a letter would be written to the two homeowners.

13. Items for next meeting:

As minutes state, quarterly accounts, bank reconciliation

14. Date of next meeting: 14th January 2026 6.30pm.

Meeting closed at 8.00pm.