

ORFORD & GEDGRAVE PARISH COUNCIL
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Minutes of the 294th Meeting of Orford & Gedgrave Parish Council
held on Wednesday 14th January 2026 at 6.30pm in the New Room of the Town Hall.

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

In Attendance 8 members of the public and the Clerk, Marie Backhouse.

Opening remarks

As the Chair, Cllr Macro, submitted her apologies, the meeting was Chaired by Cllr Wingrove.

The Presentation by the Orford Flood Defence Group (OFDG). (Three members plus two members of the Alde & Ore Community Partnership (AOCP)).

The group thanked the PC for the time this evening to listen to their proposal. The first point to make was that in 2013 the storm surge was recorded at 3.01m. A spot survey of the river defence shows that there are 4 areas at risk. These walls have not been maintained, and the position is worsening. The car park and the lower village is all at risk. The village has been relying on the Estuary Plan, but the clay issue at Iken causing additional delays and a significant increase in cost means that there is only enough funding to protect Snape. The OFDG was formed last spring. A local solution to the flood defence needs to be supported by the PC. To improve the river wall and would cost in the region of £2.2m to £3m. The initial report would cost £5,000. A check with the Environment Agency is required. There is a need to raise the £5,000. There are three requests from the PC –

1. To approve the establishment of an Orford River Defence Working Group as currently constituted, subject to the nomination by the Council of an additional member or members, and to give support to the further development of the proposal.
2. To approve the commissioning of the report.
3. To assist with the funding costs of the report.

The AOCP commented that there is a plan in place, but there is a significant escalation in cost involved. The AOCP supports the OFDG. There needs to be a new approach, because of the cost, and it needs to be done in smaller bits.

Cllr Wingrove asked if other areas along the river are doing anything about the issue.

AOCP reported that Aldeburgh and Snape have feasible plans. The existing rules around funding change in March, this may affect the funds available.

Cllr Howard asked if the landowners have been consulted. If the landowners say no, is it a stopper on the whole proposal.

OFDG reported that one of the landowners is supportive, their support is important. One landowner is not keen to lose their land but has said to continue with the report.

Cllr Thornton commented that a breach between the east and west bund would be a serious issue.

OFDG said that the design has a valve which allows for water to be let out not in.

Cllr Dunlop asked that if Orford was ringfenced, how would this affect others.

AOCP reported that a large-scale plan has been done, which shows how the work should be completed. The Environment Agency would monitor the work.

OFDG hopes that the PC would give support and a couple of Councillors would join the group. This should be thought of as a Community Project. If the PC does not support this, then this is at an end.

AOCP stated that the Environment Agency would need to lead the project.

Cllr Thornton said that the sewage works should be the responsibility of Anglian Water to protect.

AOCP said that in 2018 Anglian Water agreed to fund the protection of the sewage works.

OFDG reported that there is some funding ringfenced for Orford, and there are grants available to assist with the cost of the work. The report needs to be in place first.

Cllr Wingrove thanked the group for attending 5 members of the public left at 7.04pm.

Cllr Wingrove welcomed the other members of the public, who wished to comment about the Orford Museum.

MofP1 stated that the Orford Museum is holding an event at the Castle on the 15th August. The question to the PC is, would the recreation ground be able to be used for parking if the weather permitted. The event is to be well support and there is the capacity to sell 500 tickets. There would be stewards to control the parking.

It was agreed by all the Councillors present, that the Museum may use the recreation ground for parking if the weather permits.

MofP 2 was keen to listen to the comments of the Councillors regarding the proposal from the OFDG.

It was stated that this would be a financial discussion as they have requested some funding and therefore be held in camera. Any information relating to the group will be in the public domain in due course.

3 members of the public left at 7.10pm.

MINUTES

1. Reports from Representatives

1. County Councillor Andrew Reid.
No report.

2. District Councillor Tim Wilson
No report.

2. Apologies for absence:

Cllr Macro, Andrew Reid and Tim Wilson.

3. Acceptance of Apologies

Yes.

4. Declarations of interest:

Cllr Wingrove – Orford General Store planning application.

5. Applications for dispensation:

None

6. It was agreed by those that attended, that the minutes of the 293rd Parish Council (PC) meeting held on the 12th November 2025 be accepted as a true record of the meeting.

7. Matters arising from the 293rd Parish Council meeting held on the 12th November 2025.

7.1 Affordable Housing – Cllr Wingrove reported that the executive summary was included in the Councillors packs. The survey was well supported with a 29% return, this was 135

returned forms. It shows that a housing development is needed. There will be a summary of the report for the Village Voice and the Link. The PC may decide to park this idea, or set up a subgroup. The group could work with a housing association or NOTT could purchase a piece of land give a lease to a housing association to build on the land. The housing association will look for parcels of land. The properties would go to local people as a first option. A S106 would be in place. There may be no land available at this time.

Cllr Howard reported that a couple of Cllrs went down this route a few years ago with a housing association.

Cllr Thornton said that in Mill Close the S106 only referred to the initial first rental, then it goes to the open area.

Cllr Wingrove said that the garage site has two affordable properties proposed for the site. One is to be in perpetuity; this is not signed off yet.

It was agreed by all the Councillors present that a sub-group should be formed.

ACTION: Cllr Wingrove write an article for the Village Voice and the Link. Cllr Wingrove to send through some information to the Cllrs about forming a sub-group for this project.

7.2 Community Partnership – Cllr Dunlop reported that she was unable to attend the last meeting. There are some grants available to assist with the cost of living. This information is to be passed to the Good Neighbour Scheme.

ACTION: To place on the next agenda.

7.3 Village Green Area – The Clerk commented that she had looked through minutes of meetings from 1996 – 2008. There is no mention of the village green registered being amended to include the tarmacked area.

After some discussion it was agreed to enquire as to whether the PC could de-register an area of village green outside Bart's Hall in Broad Street and register the tarmacked area outside the shop. There would be a cost incurred with these changes.

ACTION: Clerk to enquire about the registering and de-registration of an area of village green.

7.4 Tree Warden – Cllr Wingrove is still awaiting information from the Tree Wardens group; he will send a chasing email.

ACTION: To place on the next agenda.

7.5 Use of funding for the Orford Flood Defence project – To be discussed in camera.

7.6 Village Green Drainage – The Clerk reported that having spoken to a resident who worked for the Highways, he believes that the drain is the property of SCC. The Clerk has requested an onsite meeting with the Highways Engineer, and the resident will support the PC at this meeting.

ACTION: To place on the next agenda.

Cllr Thornton reported that the trench that was created by City Fibre on Church Street, has some potholes on it.

Cllr Dunlop reported that the drain in front of 67 Quay Street, was full of mud.

ACTION: Cllr Ambury agreed to write to City Fibre and SCC Highways about the trench. The Clerk to pass on the email details.

8. Contributions by members of the public.

None

9. Finance

9.1 Authorisation for payment sheet – There are seven payments to authorise: DB IT Support (email assistance) – £7.00, Genesis Orwell Mencap (memorial bench paid for by donation) - £1075.80, Severnside Defib & Training Ltd (Defib battery and pads) - £424.80, Woodbridge Excelsior Band (carol service) - £120, Paul Bush Tree Surgeon (to section fell Holm Oak) - £370, Melbek (website domain) - £27.30, N Brown (reimbursement of duplicate memorial bench payment) - £1225.80 Total £3250.70.

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

Income – S Barker-Brown (memorial bench) - £1225.80, N Brown (memorial bench duplicate payment) - £1225.80, Unity Trust Bank (general account interest) – 166.36, Unity Trust Bank (CIL account interest) - £208.46. Total £2826.42.

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

9.2 Quarterly Accounts and Bank Reconciliation – The Councillors received the documents, noted and approved them.

9.3 Approval of the internal auditor – It was agreed by all present that the PC should continue to use SALC for the internal audit of 2025-26.

10. Planning

DC/25/4770/FUL – The Kings Head Inn, Front Street, Orford, IP12 2LW

Creation of hard and soft landscaping.

It was agreed to support this application.

DC/25/4736/FUL – Orford General Store, Front Street, Orford, IP12 2LN

To erect a flat roof over the existing storage yard and to raise the boundary walls to support it

It was agreed by all to support this application.

DC/25/4526/FUL – Green Lane House, Gedgrave Road, Orford, IP12 2NG

Proposed installation of a solar panel array.

It was agreed to support this application.

DC/25/4775/FUL – Dolphin House, 86 Market Hill, Orford, IP12 2LH

A replacement single garage to Dolphin House and below it, to the south, and parallel to Malletts Lane, a new single storey dwelling with 2 tandem parking spaces.

It was agreed by all to defer this application to the next meeting to allow the Councillors to look at the documents and plans.

Clerk to request an extension from the planning officer until after the next PC meeting.

Other notifications:

11. Parish Council Business: -

1. **To readopt the Grants Policy, Publication Scheme and the Financial Risk Assessment.**

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

2. **Alde & Ore** – To be discussed later.

ACTION: To place on the next agenda.

3. **Friends Garage** – Cllr Wingrove reported that there was no update at this present time.

ACTION: To continue to place on the agenda.

4. **Resignation of a Councillor** – The Clerk reported that there had been a letter of resignation received from Cllr Addy. It was agreed by all to consult Mr Addy on any planning applications that required some additional support. Mr Addy is happy to take on this role on behalf of the PC.

12. Correspondence

Orford Museum request for the use of the recreation ground for parking – Discussed earlier.

Resident regarding memorial plaque – The Clerk reported that a resident whose property was on the site of a WW2 bombing suggested that a memorial plaque was put on this site to remember those lost.

It was agreed by all that the plaque was a good idea, and that the resident should contact the Orford Museum for some advice.

Cllr Wingrove mentioned the spate of burglaries in the village; these tend to be outbuildings in dark places. It was agreed for the Clerk to contact the local Police representative and ask whether they may attend the village to do a pop-up event to meet with residents.

ACTION: Clerk to contact the Police.

13. Items for next meeting:
As minutes state, planning

14. Date of next meeting: 11th February 2026 7.00pm.

Meeting closed at 8.00pm.