

ORFORD & GEDGRAVE PARISH COUNCIL
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Minutes of the 295th Meeting of Orford & Gedgrave Parish Council
held on Wednesday 11th February 2026 at 7.00pm in the New Room of the Town Hall.

Present: Cllr Anne Macro (Chair)	Cllr Sheila Stoker
Cllr Stuart Moss	Cllr Margaret Green
Cllr Mary Iliff	Cllr Gary Wingrove
Cllr Valerie Dunlop	Cllr Craig Ambury

In Attendance 2 members of the public and the Clerk, Marie Backhouse.

Opening remarks

MINUTES

1. Reports from Representatives

1. County Councillor Andrew Reid.
No report.
2. District Councillor Tim Wilson
No report.

2. Apologies for absence:

Cllr Howard, Cllr Corris, Cllr Thornton, Andrew Reid and Tim Wilson.

3. Acceptance of Apologies

Yes.

4. Declarations of interest:

Cllr Wingrove – Birch View planning application.

5. Applications for dispensation:

None

6. It was agreed by those that attended, that the minutes of the 294th Parish Council (PC) meeting held on the 14th January 2026 be accepted as a true record of the meeting.

7. Matters arising from the 293rd Parish Council meeting held on the 14th January 2026.

7.1 Affordable Housing – Cllr Wingrove confirmed that he had written an article for the Link and the Village Voice. This is also available on the website.

7.2 Village Green Area – The Clerk reported that she had email SCC regarding the registering and de-registering of the village green. An email response stated that legal advice would need to be sought, and there is also a non-refundable charge of £4,500, which would be in place whether the application was approved or not.

It was agreed to put this on hold.

7.3 Tree Warden – Cllr Wingrove is still awaiting information from the Tree Wardens group. Cllr Ambury has agreed to be the tree warden for Orford, and is willing to learn more about this role.

7.4 Use of funding for the Orford Flood Defence project – Cllr Wingrove reported that an email had been circulated to all Councillors, a conversation had taken place with the

Orford Flood Defence Group, the Environment Agency and the Alde & Ore. He was advised that the Parish Council should take a step back to allow those groups to work through discussion about the way forward.

Cllr Iliff stated that it was very important that this should have been sent via an email, not a telephone conversation because it was agreed at the last meeting it was to be an email so all could see what was said and the response was.

Cllr Wingrove said that there was nothing to see, it was a phone call from the Environment Agency stating that there was nothing to do, as all the parties involved needed to sit down and review the way forward. An email can be sent to the Environment Agency so that it is clear. There is no point in asking all those questions that have been suggested at this stage.

Cllr Dunlop said it is important to achieve a paper trail so that it may be looked at in the future if required.

ACTION: Cllr Wingrove to draft an email to the Environment Agency confirming no further action was required at this time and circulate to all the Council for approval before sending.

7.5 Village Green Drainage – Cllr Ambury reported that a meeting had taken place with the Highways Engineer and a resident on site at Quay Street. The whole issue regarding the drainage and the possibility of the flooding of properties was discussed. The Highways Engineer had no history of the drainage in that area but would be going back to the records to find out. The Clerk explained that she had looked at minutes from 1998 and 1999 and these stated that SCC would be taking responsibility of the drain, keeping it clear etc. The Highways Engineer requested copies of those minutes, which the Clerk has emailed.

ACTION: To place on the next agenda.

Rose Cottage – The Clerk reported that dumper trucks and mini diggers have been seen going up and down the village green, and over the new footpath in Quay Street. A phone call was made to the company working in the garden of one of the houses, they stated that this was not them doing that, as they were laying a patio in the rear garden and everything was self-contained within that area. The Clerk then phoned the builders who are working at Rose Cottage, they stated that this was the preferred route given to them by ESC and formed part of the planning application. When the company was asked if they would use the bottom driveway that was already in place and used by residents, they stated no as it had not been approved by ESC. The new plans to allow them to use that route had not been agreed. The Clerk phoned Tim Wilson District Councillor, who said that he would write to the planning team and ask if this was correct and how this could be changed, as it is the responsibility of the PC to protect this area. The constant wet weather is not assisting with this; the area is an absolute mess.

8. Contributions by members of the public.

The members of the public wished to listen to the discussion and ask questions relating to the planning application for Garden Cottage.

9. Finance

9.1 Authorisation for payment sheet – There are four payments to authorise: Parkwood Garden Services (mole catching) – £100.00, Backhouse Maintenance (memorial bench siting paid for by donation) - £289.17, Cllr Dunlop (travel expenses) - £36.90, Unity Trust Bank (monthly charge) - £6, - Total £432.07.

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

Income – HMRC (VAT refund) - £991.83. Total £991.83.

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

9.2 To approve the Esat Suffolk Services grass cutting quote – The Clerk reported that the quote for the ground's maintenance on the recreation ground and the grass cutting was

£3270.00, an amount had been placed in the budget of £3500 for this. The increase from last year was £157. It was agreed by all present to accept this quote.

10. Planning

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.

Cllr Stoker stated that any vehicles going to this property would have difficulty in manoeuvring. The turning area was very small.

Cllr Wingrove commented that there is already a garage on the site. The ESC planning team would not allow this development if they felt there was insufficient room to do so.

There will of course be more vehicles using that small area.

Cllr Dunlop asked if this was in the conservation area, as there would be some run off from the paved area, maybe this could be noted as a concern.

Cllr Wingrove said that there had been several Pre-apps submitted in order to answer Planning Department concerns. The biggest concern for the PC is how will building material be delivered to site and how will waste be removed given the restricted nature of Malletts Lane. The PC will need to have a copy of the construction transport plan to understand how this is going to work. There is no planning reason for the PC to object, but the issues mentioned can be raised as concerns.

Cllr Wingrove to draft a response for submission to ESC.

DC/25/4800/FUL – The Garden Cottage, 2 Ipswich Road, Orford, IP12 2LT

Erection of 1.5 storey 2-bedroom dwelling as a self-build project.

Cllr Moss asked if the residents intended this to be their permanent home.

MofP1 said that the plan is to sell the current home and to live in the new development.

Entrance to the site for the workmen will be via Potkins Lane, the other end of the industrial units. All the materials will be taken on site from there. The final access to the site will be via the lane from Ipswich Road. There has never been a property on that site before or any previous planning approvals.

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

DC/26/0303/VOC – The Kings Head Inn, Front Street, Orford, IP12 2LW

Variation of Condition No.2 of DC/25/4118/LBC – 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 – Updated Proposed Floor Plan to include necessary floor repairs.

Cllr Wingrove reported that this was all internal work and was a listed building consent.

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

DC/26/0188/FUL – 9 Chantry Meadow, Orford, IP12 2FB

Construction of a 4 x 3m garden room.

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

DC/26/0225/FUL – The Old Rectory, Rectory Road, Orford, IP12 2NN

Construction of single storey rear extension and associated works.

Cllr Wingrove stated that this was a small extension for a boot room and toilet.

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

DC/26/0455/TCA – Birch View, 12 Raydon Lane, Orford, IP12 2BT

1no. Oak (T1 on plan) – Fell

It was agreed that Cllr Dunlop would look at this application and respond to the Councillors.

Other notifications:

11. Parish Council Business: -

1. **To readopt the village Green Policy, Gritting Policy and the electronic Communications & Social Media Policy.**

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

2. **Alde & Ore** – Cllr Wingrove reported that there is no update at this time.
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. **Community Partnership** – Cllr Macro reported that Cllr Dunlop is no longer available to attend these meetings, is there another Councillor that wishes to attend, if so, please let the Clerk know.

12. Correspondence

Suffolk Parishes Road Safety Group – Cllr Macro reported that this group are intending to support the parishes that wish to have 20mph in parts of their village. The cost for the Traffic Regulation Order is between £7,000 - £10,000, this group would propose to have the villages join together for one application.

Cllr Moss agreed to be the representative for the PC, and to move forward to join the group and find more information.

Cllr Ambury stated that the area in Church Street where City Fibre had placed some cables the tarmac is coming loose. This has not been resolved so a chasing email will be sent.

Cllr Moss reported that there are still some cars parking on the footpaths, and there are overgrown hedges.

Cllr Dunlop commented that some of the yellow lines are fading.

Cllr Ambury said that these items can be reported but there is no funding available at the Highways department.

13. Items for next meeting:

As minutes state.....

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

Meeting closed at 7.45pm.