

ORFORD & GEDGRAVE PARISH COUNCIL
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Minutes of the 296th Meeting of Orford & Gedgrave Parish Council
held on Wednesday 11th March 2026 at 7.00pm in the New Room of the Town Hall.

Present: Cllr Anne Macro (Chair)	Cllr Gary Wingrove
Cllr Craig Ambury	Cllr Margaret Green
Cllr Mary Iliff	Cllr Jonnie Howard
Cllr Ian Thornton	Cllr Brian Corris

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

Opening remarks

Cllr Macro welcomed a member of the Neighbourhood Watch. The representative is part of the Suffolk Neighbourhood Watch Association, which is independent of the Police. In 2016 the Police gave up. The street signs advertising the Neighbourhood Watch which have been in some villages have become very worn. There are new signs available free of charge, and each village is allowed 4. It has been proved that there is a 20% reduction in crime level where the signs are visible. Funding for the signs, leaflets etc has been provided by the Lottery and the Police and Crime Commissioner. There is already a scheme in Orford. If you would like to sign up follow the instructions on the leaflet. You will receive notifications from the Police. You are then able to respond if you saw anything of any relevance. If you have CCTV, this may be registered also. This is all good intelligence collection. There are 500 leaflets that may be placed in the newsletter, some stickers for members. There is a need to boost the number of members.

7.08pm the representative left the meeting.

MofP 2 commented that he was attending to listen to item 7.3.

MINUTES

1. Reports from Representatives

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

2. Apologies for absence:

Cllr Stoker, Cllr Dunlop, 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 295th Parish Council (PC) meeting held on the 11th February 2026 be accepted as a true record of the meeting.**

7. **Matters arising from the 295th Parish Council meeting held on the 11th February 2026.**

7.1 Affordable Housing – Cllr Wingrove confirmed that this item is ongoing. He is hoping to have a group of three councillors to work on this project. Cllr Stoker and Howard will be joining Cllr Wingrove.

7.2 Tree Warden – Cllr Ambury confirmed that he is a member of the Tree Warden Association and has completed his first training.

7.3 Use of funding for the Orford Flood Defence project – The Clerk read out a recent email from the Orford Flood Defence Group.

Cllr Thornton asked if all the landowners had been spoken to?

The MofP1 stated that the landowners have been approached, some of them are happy for the study and report to be completed. Funding is an issue; some residents have pledged some money. There are basically two pieces of work to be completed – firstly can the group undertake the study; secondly can it be funded. The Environment Agency are willing to repair the sea walls to the height of the 1953 floods. The new idea is to build a keep; this would be self-funding. The Alde & Ore Trust will support this feasibility study if the PC does. Any funding can then be placed in the Alde & Ore account, which can be ring fenced and receive gift aid.

Cllr Iliff arrived at 7.19pm.

Cllr Thornton suggested that the PC formally supports the feasibility study, and the possibility of some funding could be agreed at a later meeting.

The Councillors voted and 6 supported the feasibility study and 1 abstained.

ACTION: Clerk to send an email to the Orford Defence Group confirming the support for the feasibility study and suggesting that any possible funding would be confirmed at a later date.

MofP 2 left the meeting at 7.25pm.

7.4 Village Green Drainage – The Clerk reported that an email had been received from the Highways Team stating that the area of registered village green is maintained by the PC and therefore the drain is the responsibility of the PC to sort and clear. The maintenance that is carried out on a regular basis is the grass cutting.

It was agreed to enquire to the CIL team as to whether the funding may be used to pay for this work, otherwise the PC agreed to have the drainage cleared.

The Clerk explained that there is a resident whom may be able to assist us with some knowledge of the Highways, so a plan is to meet with him before committing to pay for the work on the drainage. This was agreed by all.

ACTION: Clerk to speak with the resident and to check whether CIL can be used to fund the work.

8. **Contributions by members of the public.**

None

9. **Finance**

9.1 Authorisation for payment sheet – There are five payments to authorise: New Orford Town Trust (office rent and 50% of the village voice cost) – £2183.50, East Suffolk Services (ground maintenance and grass cutting) - £3735.60, Melbek (website hosting) - £144.00, Unity Trust Bank (monthly charge) - £7, SALC (6 months payroll fee) - £82.80 - Total £6152.90.

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

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

9.2 To note the asset register – The Councillors noted and approved the asset register.

9.3 Internal Control Statement – The Clerk confirmed that a meeting had taken place with Cllr Stoker to look and complete the internal control statement. There was an item raised which was to ask a Cllr to look at the assets that the PC own on a monthly basis to check if they require maintenance. Cllr Howard agreed to undertake this for the PC, and the Clerk will pass on a list of assets for him to check.

10. Planning

DC/26/0386/FUL – Pettistree, Castle Green, Orford, IP12 2NF

Single storey rear extension together with associated minor internal alterations.

The PC had no objection to this application.

DC/26/0667/FUL – The Kings Head Inn, Front Street, Orford, IP12 2LW

Installation of an external oil tank on a concrete above-ground base and wooden screening.

The PC had no objection to this application.

DC/26/0675/LBC – The Kings Head Inn, Front Street, Orford, IP12 2LQ

Listed building consent – alterations to the flooring and floor covering in the ground floor rooms on the northern side of King's Head Public House.

The PC had no objection to this application.

Re-consultation

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

Proposed installation of solar panel array.

The PC had no objection to this application.

Other notifications:

11. Parish Council Business: -

- 1. Alde & Ore** – Cllr Wingrove reported that there is no update at this time. The new representative for the PC is to be Cllr Thornton.
ACTION: To place on the next agenda.
- 2. Village Feast** – The Clerk reported that a band had been booked, as has the outside bar and the hog roast. The date for the event is the 29th August.
- 3. Co-option of a Councillor** – The Clerk reported that there had been three applications for co-option, each application was read out to the Council. It was agreed by a majority vote of the full Council to co-opt Mr Kemp. Mr Kemp will be invited to sign the declaration of acceptance of office.
- 4. To adopt the IT Policy** – It was agreed by all present at the meeting of the full Council to adopt the IT Policy.

12. Correspondence

Orford School League of Friends – The Clerk reported that an email had been received from OSLOF requesting the use of the recreation ground for the Annual Easter Egg Hunt. This would take place on the morning of the 4th April. It was agreed by all to allow this event to take place on the recreation ground.

Orford Open Gardens – The Clerk read out an email from the Open Gardens Group asking if they could place the posters advertising the event around the village from the 16th April, the event is to be held on the 24th May. It was agreed by all present to allow this.

Cllr Ambury is to approach the Highways Team for a quote to put a footpath opposite the Jolly Sailor.

13. Items for next meeting:

As minutes state, Footpath opposite the Jolly Sailor.

14. Date of next meeting: 15th April 2026 7.00pm.

Meeting closed at 8.00pm