

**ORFORD & GEDGRAVE PARISH COUNCIL**  
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**Minutes of the 297<sup>th</sup> Meeting of Orford & Gedgrave Parish Council**  
**held on Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> April 2026 at 7.00pm in the New Room of the Town Hall.**

Present: Cllr Anne Macro (Chair)	Cllr Gary Wingrove
Cllr Hugh Kemp	Cllr Margaret Green
Cllr Mary Iliff	Cllr Jonnie Howard
Cllr Ian Thornton	Cllr Brian Corris
Cllr Sheila Stoker	

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

### **Opening remarks**

Cllr Macro welcomed the members of the public.

MofP1 wished to discuss the drainage in the village green in Quay Street. The Clerk had contacted him asking for some advice as he worked for SCC Highways for many years and has in the past arranged for the drain to be cleared. Currently SCC are denying responsibility for the drainage. Approximately 99% of the water that goes down the drain is from the roads. The MofP accompanied the Clerk and a Councillor at a meeting with a Highways Technician. He seemed to agree that the ownership of the drain was with SCC, the Clerk presented minutes of a meeting held in 2008 which states that SCC had agreed to clear debris from the drain. In an email received from SCC it states that the PC has ownership of the land and the drainage. They have no proof that the PC put the drainage in. There was also a comment stating that the SCC could enforce the PC to clear out the drains. If it were proven that the PC owned the land then this could be the case. The ownership of the land is in question. The drain does take highways water, therefore SCC should put in sufficient drainage to take the water.

Cllr Stoker stated that should the PC pay for the clearing of the drain, then we are setting a Precedence.

MofP1 advised the PC to speak again with someone at SCC and also involve the MP.

ACTION: Contact SCC and MP

7.10pm the representative left the meeting.

MofP 2 commented that he was the County Council Candidate for the new election and he was hear to listen.

## **MINUTES**

### **1. Reports from Representatives**

1. County Councillor Andrew Reid.  
An email received from Andrew Reid submitted his apologies and informed the PC that he would not be standing for re-election.  
The Parish Council wanted to note thanks to Andrew Reid for his support over the past years.
2. District Councillor Tim Wilson  
No report.

2. **Apologies for absence:**  
Cllr Dunlop, Cllr Ambury, 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 296<sup>th</sup> Parish Council (PC) meeting held on the 11<sup>th</sup> March 2026 be accepted as a true record of the meeting.**
7. **Matters arising from the 296<sup>th</sup> Parish Council meeting held on the 11<sup>th</sup> March 2026.**
  - 7.1 **Affordable Housing** – Cllr Wingrove confirmed that this item is ongoing, and further discussion would take place later.
  - 7.2 **Village Green Drainage** – This item was discussed earlier and an action point agreed
8. **Contributions by members of the public.**  
None
9. **Finance**
  - 9.1 **Authorisation for payment sheet** – There are five payments to authorise: Mrs M Beale (payment received in error) – £28.65, DB IT Support (Cllr assistance with emails) - £21.00, Orford Sports & Recreation Club (electricity costs for outside lights) - £80.66, Unity Trust Bank (monthly charge) - £7, SALC (annual subscription) - £324.88 - Total £462.19.  
Also, the staff wages of £1216.54 per month for April.  
It was agreed by all the Councillors present to approve the payments.
  - 9.2 **To note the End of Year Quarterly Accounts and the Bank Reconciliation** – The Councillors noted and approved the end of year accounts. There was a query regarding the amount of CIL funding currently available.
  - 9.3 **AGAR** – The Councillors were presented with a copy of the AGAR 2025-26 Form 3, the questions in Section 1 were approved. The figures in Section 2 were also agreed. The Clerk informed the Council that this information would be shared with the internal and external auditors.
10. **Planning**
  - DC/26/0802/LBC – The Kings Head Inn, Front Street, Orford, IP12 2LW**  
Listed building consent – alteration to the flooring and floor covering in the ground floor rooms on the northern side.  
The Parish Council supported this application.
  - DC/26/0917/CLE – Site of former Seaforth House, Front Street, Orford**  
Certificate of Lawful Use (Existing) – This application seeks confirmation that development authorised by planning permission DC/22/3527/FUL has been lawfully commenced by the completion of the approved access in accordance with Condition 11 of that permission and that the permission therefore remains extant and it will be ‘live’ after its potential expiry on 24<sup>th</sup> April 2026.  
Cllr Wingrove stated that the entrance to the site from Ferry Road has been completed, there is a dropped kerbed area.  
The full Council had no objection to this proposal.
  - DC/26/0310/FUL – Richmond Farmhouse, Gedgrave Road, Gedgrave, IP12 2BU**  
Extension of curtilage to the North.

Cllr Wingrove reported that this application is adding land from an arable field to the farmhouse land. It will be used for a nature area and trees.

The full Council had no objection to this proposal.

**DC/26/0929/FUL – Aspen House, Mallets Lane, Orford, IP12 2NA**

Single storey annexe to existing house (existing summerhouse removed).

Cllr Wingrove said that this building is quite large. It was suggested that the response should mirror the recent one for another proposal in Malletts Lane. There is a concern regarding the access and the construction access. This was agreed by all.

**Other notifications:**

**11. Parish Council Business: -**

- 1. Alde & Ore** – Cllr Thornton presented the Councillors with a written report from the meeting. The report stated:

“A 5 year plan to sustain and maintain the river walls and each Flood Cell (FC) during which time a target of £500,000 per annum of funding was hoped to be achieved.

- Throughout the next year identify weak and low areas in need of repair and/or strengthening in a way that would not transfer risk or impact on other areas.
- By September of develop a 5 year programme
- By November have a detailed plan of work
- 2027/2028 work to commence.

At the end of the meeting a vote was taken and the 5 year plan was supported unanimously by the representatives present.”

Cllr Thornton reported that the document circulated was confirmed as a true record of the meeting by the Vice-chair of the Alde & Ore.

Cllr Macro thanked Cllr Thornton for the report.

ACTION: To place on the next agenda.

- 2 Co-option of a Councillor** – The Clerk reported that there had been one application for co-option, the application was read out to the Council. It was agreed by a majority vote of the full Council to co-opt Mr Smith. Mr Smith will be invited to sign the declaration of acceptance of office.
- 3 Annual Parish Meeting** – The Clerk reminded the Councillors that the next PC meeting starts at 6pm with the APM, then would carry on at 7pm with the AGM where the Chair and Vice-Chair would stand down and then a vote would take place for a replacement.
- 4 Benches** – The Clerk reported that some of the benches on the recreation ground needed replacing. Especially the ones situated under the edge of the trees. Cllr Macro and Cllr Stoker suggested that these may be composite made and not wood, then they could be cleaned on a regular basis. Some costs of benches were presented to the Council, and it was agreed to order one bench from Coopers at a cost of £119.99, this was the cheapest quote. It was also agreed to look at replacing the wooden benches that are around the recreation ground. The Clerk said that the price of wooden benches ranges from £300 to £950.  
The funding for these benches is to come from the surplus of funds left from 2025-26 financial year.
- 5 Speed Sign** – The Clerk commented that a resident who lived in Chantry Meadow was concerned about the speeding traffic entering the village, and wondered if this was monitored and recorded on the SID. Currently, the SID does not have a data recorder and the cost of this would be around £1250. It was asked what benefit this could be, and if this could be submitted to the Police. As the Police have not previously been interested in the speeding traffic, it was agreed that this would be of no benefit.
- 6 Footpath opposite the Jolly Sailor** – Cllr Ambury submitted his apologies for the meeting.

ACTION: To add to the next agenda.

**12. Correspondence**

**Resident request bouncy castle on the recreation ground** – The Clerk reported that a request had been received for permission to place a bouncy castle on the recreation ground for a birthday party. It was agreed to allow the bouncy castle as long as the correct insurance was in place.

**Orford Museum** – The Clerk reported that a request had been received to place a banner outside the shop to advertise the Museums event. It was agreed by all to permit the banner on the village green outside the shop.

CLlr Corris asked if there was any progress with the Garage site.

CLlr Wingrove stated that the application is in the final stages of planning, and it is hoped to start work in September.

**13. Items for next meeting:**

As minutes state,

**14. Date of next meeting: 13<sup>th</sup> May 2026 6.00pm. (APM & AGM)**

**Meeting closed at 7.51pm**