

ORFORD & GEDGRAVE PARISH COUNCIL
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Minutes of the 299th Meeting of Orford & Gedgrave Parish Council
held on Wednesday 10th June 2026 at 7.00pm in the New Room of the Town Hall.

Present: Cllr Anne Macro (Chair)
Cllr Hugh Kemp
Cllr Mary Iliff
Cllr Valerie Dunlop
Cllr Sheila Stoker

Cllr Gary Wingrove
Cllr Margaret Green
Cllr Craig Ambury
Cllr Brian Corris

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

The member of the public (TL) had been asked to attend by the Clerk to report about the drainage in Quay Street. As a previous employee of the Highways Team his input was thought to be of help. TL reported that there was a pipe that ran from the existing manhole towards Creek Cottage, but this has been blocked up. It would seem that the cheapest option available would be to add a new manhole and run a new pipe into the ditch that runs along Quay Meadow. This would allow the water to seep away. The ditch may need to be cleared out but this would not be very expensive. The contractor's suggestion to remove a tree and then hire a large piece of equipment to cut through the roots in the pipe and then to follow the pipe to the end where they believe it joins the pond near the car park, is quoted to be in the region of £14,000.

TL said that if the PC required further assistance, he would be willing to meet with the Council and the contractor onsite.

It was agreed that the Clerk should send this suggestion to the contractor to gain a quote.

7.12pm Cllr Iliff arrived.

Opening remarks

MINUTES

1. Reports from Representatives

1. County Councillor Julia Ewart.

Julia Ewart reported that SCC is undergoing readjusting at this time. There are many items coming through which need some work. Julia is undertaking community work as well as committee work as she is on the SCC Scrutiny Committee. Outstanding highways issues is a concern for most of the villages in her area. She is to hold a meeting with the local Highways Engineer to discuss these issues further. Please could some photos of the signs that are broken be taken and sent through to Julia. She has a total budget of £15,000 to spend on signage in her area, so it would be a good idea to fix the signs. Transport is another issue, a bus to Woodbridge would be an advantage to the village. She has spoken with CATS about a bus that would run from Yoxford to Woodbridge passing through as many villages as possible. There would be a second bus that would run from Framlingham through to Sizewell Gap. There was a recent meeting in Saxmundham that spoke about the 850 home development that has been proposed. There is a need to cover the health needs etc of the families moving in. A new surgery in Saxmundham is needed. It is also proposed that there will be takeaway facilities built the other side of the A12. It has been suggested that the old Factory Shop becomes a

centre for Youth Provision. There are still many challenges regarding the new bin system. Some residents have not been provided with the new bins; some have not had the bins correctly emptied etc.

Cllr Stoker commented that the new development near Saxmundham mentions health as in a doctor's surgery, but what about the hospitals.

Julia reported that she is asking questions about the hospitals. There is a new leader of SCC, Micheal Hadwen and he is very good at listening to people. Additional solar farms may appear in the area. In the new policy it is possible for 9 houses to be built but there is no consideration for the water needs.

Cllr Dunlop reported that there is a bus from Woodbridge to Rendlesham quite regularly could this not come into Orford.

Julia said that there would be a need for the bus to coincide with the trains.

Cllr Dunlop also mentioned that some of the buses do not accept a bus pass.

Julia commented that she hoped to be involved with the Alde & Ore Estuary Partnership.

2. District Councillor Tim Wilson

Tim Wilson submitted a written report.

2. **Apologies for absence:**

Cllr Thornton, Cllr Smith & Cllr Howard

3. **Acceptance of Apologies**

Yes.

4. **Declarations of interest:**

Cllr Dunlop – resident of Quay Street.

5. **Applications for dispensation:**

None

6. **It was agreed by those that attended, that the minutes of the 298th Parish Council (PC) meeting held on the 13th May 2026 be accepted as a true record of the meeting.**

7. **Matters arising from the 298th Parish Council meeting held on the 13th May 2026.**

7.1 Affordable Housing – Cllr Wingrove confirmed that there is a need to identify plots of land for the houses. A conversation has been had with a landowner who is open to discussion about a plot of land. The next step is to speak with a housing association to move it forward. It is hoped that this will take place over the next two months.

Cllr Dunlop asked if this was a rural exception site.

Julia Ewart stated that she was having a meeting with Saffron Housing and the possibility of some housing in Orford could be mentioned.

Cllr Wingrove said that the number of proposed properties would be in the region of 6-8.

7.2 Village Green Drainage – Item previously covered.

7.3 Benches – Cllr Macro said that a composite bench was ordered but it was not fit for purpose and has been returned. The Clerk will obtain another quote and order a second bench.

7.4 Quay Street Footpath – Cllr Ambury reported that the steep slope beside the footpath in Quay Street has been reported to the Highways Engineer, no response has been received yet.

7.5 Footpath Opposite the Jolly Sailor – Cllr Ambury said that an email had been sent to the Highways Engineer and a meeting onsite has been requested.

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

None

9. Finance

9.1 Authorisation for payment sheet – There are six payments to authorise: Unity Trust Bank (monthly charge) – £7.00, Drain Doctor (second 50% payment) - £1332.00, Community Action Suffolk (insurance premium) - £914.25, M Backhouse (reimbursement for composite bench) - £119.99, M Backhouse (reimbursement for TENS licence) - £21.00, SALC (Internal Audit Service) - £410.40 - Total £2804.64.

Also, the staff wages of £1216.54 per month for June.

Income for June: No income

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

9.3 To note the Internal Audit Report – The Clerk informed the Council that the internal audit report had been received from SALC. The comments made are as follows: to amend the Standing Orders to remove any unnecessary brackets (this has been completed), to include the reasoning behind the budget figures within the minutes (this has been noted), to adopt a General Reserves Policy (this will be presented to the PC at the next meeting), check that the VAT is being claimed correctly (check with SALC), to increase the Fidelity Guarantee cover to greater than £50,000 (having already checked our cover is already £250,000).

Cllr Macro thanked the Clerk for all her work on the audit.

10. Planning

DC/26/1755/VOC – Old Smokehouse Rear of 87 Market Hill, Orford, IP12 2LH

Variation of Condition No 2 of DC/23/2084/FUL – Extensions to part completed rebuild/restoration of curtilage listed former smokehouse – footprint roughly as previously demolished structures – to add a garage to the rear of the site.

After some discussion the full Council had no objection to this proposal.

Other notifications:

11. Parish Council Business: -

- 1. Alde & Ore** – Cllr Thornton had submitted his apologies for this meeting.
- 2 To readopt the Complaints Procedure, Privacy Statement, Data Retention Policy** – It was agreed by all present to re-adopt the policies with no changes.

12. Correspondence

OSLOF – The Clerk read out an email from the OSLOF (Orford School League of Friends) Committee requesting the use of the recreation ground for a Summer Fayre on the 4th July. It was agreed by the Council to allow the use of the recreation ground for the Summer Fayre.

Cllr Ambury mentioned that the faded yellow lines in Quay Street have been reported to Suffolk Highways.

13. Items for next meeting:

As minutes state,

14. Date of next meeting: 8th July 2026 7pm

Meeting closed at 7.01pm