

ORFORD & GEDGRAVE PARISH COUNCIL
The Town Hall, Market Hill, Orford, Woodbridge, Suffolk. IP12 2NZ
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Minutes of the 300th Meeting of Orford & Gedgrave Parish Council
held on Wednesday 8th July 2026 at 7.00pm in the New Room of the Town Hall.

Present: Cllr Anne Macro (Chair)
Cllr Sheila Stoker
Cllr Mary Iliff
Cllr Ian Thornton

Cllr Gary Wingrove
Cllr Margaret Green
Cllr Jonnie Howard
Cllr Alex Smith

In Attendance 3 members of the public and the Clerk, Marie Backhouse.

Two members of the public wished to speak about the recreation ground and the tennis courts. They have requested that the multisport court has some 'pickleball lines' added. The Clerk explained that although the recreation ground was the responsibility of the PC, the tennis courts were run by a separate committee. Cllr Macro commented that the Recreation Ground Charity were aware of their request and would be in contact with them shortly.

The two members of the public left the meeting at 7.05pm.

The other member of the public (TL) wished to comment about the drainage work in Quay Street. He and the Clerk had met with a second contractor to discuss laying a new pipe from the existing manhole through to Quay Meadow and putting in a new ditch alongside the hedge. The Clerk reported that she had two quotes to complete the work, the first was £10-12000, and the second was £6,650. The Clerk is in possession of several lengths of piping plus connectors that were free of charge and may be used to complete part of the job, therefore the quote will be cheaper. The cost of the investigation work so far is £6,000. Cllr Thornton wondered if CIL funding could be used for this piece of work. Cllr Howard proposed that the PC chooses the cheaper contractor, this was seconded by Cllr Thornton and agreed by a majority. There was one objection to the work as not enough is known about it to make a judgment. The next step is for the item to be added to the NOTT agenda for approval of the use of Quay Meadow. Clerk to check the use of CIL funding for the work.

7.18pm TL left the meeting.

Opening remarks

MINUTES

1. Reports from Representatives

1. County Councillor Julia Ewart.
Julia Ewart submitted her apologies, however if there are any concerns regarding the waste collections, please contact her.
2. District Councillor Tim Wilson
Tim Wilson submitted his apologies.

2. Apologies for absence:

Cllr Kemp, Cllr Corris, Cllr Ambury, Julia Ewart 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 299th Parish Council (PC) meeting held on the 10th June 2026 be accepted as a true record of the meeting.

7. Matters arising from the 299th Parish Council meeting held on the 10th June 2026.

7.1 Affordable Housing – Cllr Wingrove reported that there was no update this month.

7.2 Village Green Drainage – Item previously covered.

7.3 Benches – Cllr Macro confirmed that a refund has been received for the inadequate bench, and a new one has been ordered from a different company.

7.4 Quay Street Footpath – Ongoing as Cllr Ambury submitted his apologies.

7.5 Footpath Opposite the Jolly Sailor – Ongoing as Cllr Ambury submitted his apologies.

8. Contributions by members of the public.

None

9. Finance

9.1 Authorisation for payment sheet – There are five payments to authorise: Unity Trust Bank (monthly charge) – £7.00, Drain Doctor (invoice 73818) - £4680.00, Network Assurance (Village feast road closure) - £150.00, NBB Recycled Furniture (new composite bench) - £642.00, DB IT Support (Cllr email address support) - £7.50 - Total £5486.50.

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

Income for June: Unity Trust Bank (deposit account interest) - £148.33, Unity Trust Bank (CIL reserve account) - £212.95, M Backhouse (refund from Composite Bench) - £199.99 – Total £481.27.

Current CIL funds are £17,761.24.

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

9.3 To note the Quarterly Accounts and the Bank reconciliation – Some comments were made about the reserve account. It was agreed if required that some of the reserve account could be transferred to the current account to pay for the drainage work in Quay Street. As there was no budget pot for this work it is being taken from the contingency which only had £1000 in, therefore this could be increased using the general reserve money.

10. Planning

DC/26/1985/FUL – 3 Stone Cottages, Gedgrave Road, Gedgrave, IP12 2BX

The de-conversion of 2 x 2-bedroom houses into a 4-bed single dwelling with associated alterations and external works.

After some discussion it was agreed by all to have no objection to this proposal.

DC/26/2022/FUL & 2023/LBC – The Kings Head Inn, Front Street, Orford, IP12 2LW

Restoration works to the Stables and Hayloft buildings and change of use of the Stables to provide 4 flexible retail and community use units.

After discussion it was agreed to have no objection to this proposal, however a comment should be submitted about the lack of parking and is there an intention to extend the size of the car park.

DC/26/1989/FUL – 1 Castle Terrace, Orford, IP12 2 ND

Extend existing west gable of annexe to provide canopy and provision of rooflight to existing rear roof slope.

After discussion it was agreed to have no objection to this proposal.

Other notifications:

11. Parish Council Business: -

1. **Alde & Ore** – Cllr Thornton had submitted his apologies for this meeting, but having read the report it appears that the ESWB and the EA have agreed in principal the way forward with the 5 year plan.
- 2 **To readopt the Disciplinary Procedure, Grievance Procedure, Volunteer Policy, Equal Opportunities Policy, Data Breach Policy, and the Memorial Bench Policy. To adopt the General Reserve Policy** – It was agreed by all present to re-adopt the policies with no changes and to adopt the new policy.
- 3 **Village Feast** – Cllr Macro asked if anyone is available to set up and pack away on the evening of the Village Feast. There was also the need to have an accredited company to undertake the traffic management of the road closure. A quote for £375 has been received for this. It was agreed by all to accept the quote so that the Village Feast may remain on the Market Hill.
- 4 **ESC Local Plan** – The Clerk informed the Council that there was a new consultation from ESC for the Local Plan. It would be good if all the Councils could complete the questionnaire that you have in your pack. If you are able to complete this and return it to the Clerk, she will arrange for it to get to the ESC offices.
- 5 **Resignation of a Councillor** – The Clerk read out an email from Valerie Dunlop which included her resignation from the Council with immediate effect.
The Council thanked Valerie for her contribution to the PC since her co-option in 2024.

12. Correspondence

Bench in Broad Street – The Clerk read out an email from the Orford And District Gardening Club who wish to place a commemorative bench in Broad Street. The Clerk stated that this would need to be placed on the existing site between the trees, the gardening club wished for the bench to be sited nearer to Quay Street. After some discussion it was agreed that the bench should remain in the same position.

13. Items for next meeting:

As minutes state,

14. Date of next meeting: 9th September 2026 7pm

Meeting closed at 8.11pm