ORFORD & GEDGRAVE PARISH COUNCIL
The Town Hall, Market Hill, Orford, Woodbridge, Suffolk. IP12 2NZ
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Minutes of the 301st Meeting of Orford & Gedgrave Parish Council
held on Wednesday 14th October 2026 at 7.00pm in the New Room of the Town Hall.

Present: Cllr Anne Macro (Chair)
Cllr Sheila Stoker
Cllr Mary Iliff
Cllr Craig Ambury
Cllr Hugh Kemp
Cllr Alex Smith
Cllr Margaret Green
Cllr Brian Corris
Cllr Ian Thornton

In Attendance 0 members of the public and the Clerk, Marie Backhouse.

Opening remarks

MINUTES

1. Reports from Representatives

1. County Councillor Julia Ewart.
   Julia Ewart submitted her apologies, and a written report will follow.

2. District Councillor Tim Wilson
   Tim Wilson submitted his apologies.

2. Apologies for absence:
Cllr Wingrove, 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 301st Parish Council (PC) meeting held on the 9th September 2026 be accepted as a true record of the meeting.

7. Matters arising from the 301st Parish Council meeting held on the 9th September 2026.
7.1 Affordable Housing – Cllr Wingrove submitted a written update. Following the Housing Needs Survey in 2025 and the subsequent site search for possible rural exception sites, we did land on one potential option. However, at that time the CAS Housing advisor retired, and East Suffolk Planning were rethinking their approach to Community led housing. We now have a new CAS Housing advisor, Ward Baker, who is new to the role and learning on the job! I spoke with him on 29th Sept and the recommendation is that we engage with a trusted housing association partner and get them to produce a Pre Application for discussion with East Suffolk, they would also initiate a further discussion

with the landowner. Next steps would be to have an exploratory conversation with probably Orwell Housing Association and Hastoe Housing Association.

7.2 Village Green Drainage – The Clerk reported that gulley grabbers had been ordered and had arrived. The Street Cleaner has agreed to look at removing silt from the initial drain in Quay Street. If this is kept clear, then the water should flow away from the houses.

7.3 Footpath Opposite the Jolly Sailor – Cllr Ambury stated that he has sent chasing emails to Charles Harrison about a quote to place a section of footpath on the green opposite the Jolly Sailor, still no response has been received.

7.4 Bonfire & Fireworks Event – The Clerk reported that the event would not be taking place this year as there was not a suitable site available.

7.5 20mph – The Clerk reported that there had not been an update from Cllr Ewart regarding the 20mph.

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 Oct) – £7.00, Wardsflex (gulley grabs) - £141.85, David Bracey Play Safety Inspections (Annual play equipment inspection) - £162.00, SALC (12 months payroll provision) - £194.40, Orford Sports & Recreation Club (electricity for lighting) - £59.11, Total £564.36.

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

Income for September: Unity Trust Bank (interest on deposit account) - £150.69, Unity Trust Bank (interest on CiL account) - £216.34, East Suffolk Council (precept 2nd half) - £19855.76 – Total £20222.79.

Current CIL funds are £17,761.24.

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

9.2 Draft Budget – The Clerk reported that there would be a meeting taking place to discuss the draft budget and if there is any project that the Councillors would like some funding towards, please let the Clerk know.

9.3 Quarterly Accounts – The Quarterly Accounts and Bank Reconciliations up to the end of September 2026 were presented to the full Council. These were noted and agreed by all.

10. Planning

DC/26/3081/FUL – Esmond house, Barons Meadow, Orford, IP12 2TY

Change of use from Day Centre Facility to single 2-bed bungalow.

It was agreed by all present to support this application.

The Parish Council has been in regular contact with Orwell Housing asking when this property would be converted.

Other notifications:

11. Parish Council Business: -

1. **Alde & Ore –** Cllr Thornton reported that the agreed 5 year plan is progressing and on track.
2. **To readopt the Data Protection Risk Assessment, Data Protection Statement, Subject Access Policy, Subject Access Request, and the Health & Safety Policy. –** It was agreed by all present to re-adopt the policies with no changes.
3. **Remembrance Sunday –** Cllr Smith volunteered to lay the wreath at the Church Service on the 8th November. It was agreed by all that the Clerk should purchase the wreath.
4. **Co-option of a Councillor –** The Clerk reported that there had been one application for co-option, this application was read out to the Council. It was agreed by the full

Council to co-opt Mr Swallow. Mr Swallow will be invited to sign the declaration of acceptance of office.

5 **Recreation Ground Play Equipment Inspection Report–** The Clerk reported that the Annual Report had been received. There were a few items to monitor, the seats on the seesaw have a slightly rough edge, the soil needs to be replaced where the feet go as there is a dip. The back of the foot pedals on the Air Walker need to be monitored as they are coming away. The Clerk also mentioned that the guy who completes the inspection is retiring. The Play Inspection Company had provided a quote to complete the inspection, this was £195, which is £33 more than is currently being paid. It was agreed by all to accept the quote.

6 **Christmas Trees –** It was agreed by all for Cllr Macro to source a Christmas Tree.

7 **Friends Garage Site –** Cllr Macro reported that Cllr Wingrove had written a brief summary of what was happening on the site at this time. It was agreed to ask Cllr Wingrove to write a summary for the next edition of the Village Voice.

12. Correspondence

Bench request – Cllr Corris asked what was happening regarding the request for a bench. The Clerk reported that the sites that had been suggested were NOTT areas, and would therefore be discussed at the next NOTT meeting.

13. Items for next meeting:

As minutes state, draft budget,

14. Date of next meeting: 11th November 2026 7pm

Meeting closed at 7.47pm