

**NEW ORFORD TOWN TRUST
REGISTERED CHARITY 1053729**

The Town Hall, Market Hill, ORFORD, Woodbridge, Suffolk IP12 2NZ

**Minutes of the 205th meeting of the New Orford Town Trust held on
Wednesday 15 February 2017, at 6.30pm in Orford Town Hall**

MINUTES

Present: Cllrs I Thornton (Chairman), D Brenchley, M Finney, M Golder, M Green, J Howard, M Iliff, R Mallett and M Smy. Clerk in attendance

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Cllrs A Macro (holiday) and P Smith (work commitment).

2. Declarations of interest

Cllr D Brenchley: allotment holder; Cllr M Finney: member of Orford Sailing Club, river user, Chairman of the Orford and District Inshore Fishermen's Association, Trustee of Orfordness Lighthouse Trust, Director of Cobra Mist Ltd; Cllr M Golder: relative lives in Bakers Lane cottage, supplier to Orford Country Market; Cllr M Green (allotment holder); Cllr J Howard: Commodore of Orford Sailing Club, plot holder; Cllr M Iliff: member of Orford Sailing Club; Cllr R Mallett: relative of an allotment holder; Cllr M Smy: allotment holder, plot holder, mooring holder.

3. Minutes of the 204th meeting held on 18 January 2017

These were agreed and signed as an accurate record.

4. Matters arising from the 204th meeting held on 18 January 2017

- The Clerk reported that she and the Quay Warden had met with representatives from the Environment Agency after informing them of a leak in the river wall during the recent surge. There was little they could do without knowing exactly where the leak occurred or how much water came through. It was suggested that next time there is a surge, the relevant area could be videoed and the location staked. In any case, now they are aware of it, it is likely that a representative will come and monitor it during the next surge.
- Desk-top-publishing software has been purchased so that Village Voice can be produced at the office.
- Cllr J Howard reported that he would be looking at the spoil heap adjacent to the bin area, at the weekend.
- Nothing further to report re Rindy Frost.
- It was reported that the Quay Warden had cleaned the slipway.
- Grass seed will be ordered from Walnes seeds to sow in the spring.
- Re oil spill in the car park: the Clerk reported that it is the intention of the insurers to deny policy liability. They will need NOTT to sign a Deed of Assignment to enable the insurers to transfer rights of recovery to the insurer. Ker-Way has been instructed to carry out the work, and should do this during the first week in March.
- Re NT leases, the Riverside Committee looked at the plan for the pontoon lease, and this has been send to NOTT solicitors.

5. Treasurer's report

Cheques and balances from 1 December 2016- 31 January 2017

These were accepted and signed by the Trustee.

6. Committee reports

Minutes of an **Estates/Highways** meeting held on 19 January 2017

The Committee had agreed that doing any work on the QSCP toilets was not a priority. Cllr J Howard reported that they are solid and have everything they need. The Highways Committee was looking into getting them thoroughly cleaned, possibly on a regular basis, and will discuss this further at their next meeting.

Minutes of a **Riverside** meeting held on 30 January 2017

- No reply had been received to date from Mr Merrin re 5-year lease term.

- Re deep water signs, it was agreed to order 4, and not 3 as previously agreed, with red writing on a white background. It was agreed to get a quote for these from Leiston Press.
- The Clerk reported that to date there had been only one response to the invitations sent out for the Quay users meeting, to be held on Monday 27 January.
- Re shingle on foreshore: it was emphasised that any additional stone put down should be smooth shingle and not crushed concrete etc. OSC had had some 20mm shingle put down, and Cllr J Howard will let the Clerk have details of how much this cost.
- Orfordness Memorial: no further progress
- Cllr M Smy reported that he was considering extending his existing shed which does not take up the whole of his plot. The Clerk will let him have a copy of the plan for his plot.

7. General Trust business

- Stony Ditch: following a letter written by the Chairman to Iain Mills (Crown Estate) in October, and a chasing letter in January 2017, a reply had been received, and was copied to all members of the Trustee. The letter refers to a settlement plan apparently agreed by NOTT in 1971. After discussion it was agreed that Cllr M Iliff would look into this in more detail before responding.
- Clerk's report on outstanding matters: already dealt with.
- Discussion re proposed MCZ: after the presentation by Natural England and Eastern IFCA at the last NOTT meeting, Cllr M Finney had been in touch with the Alde and Ore Association and had raised all the points that the Trustee had put forward. They had convened a meeting last year involving representatives from local stakeholders. Cllr M Finney had suggested that they might take the lead on the issue of the proposed MCZ, so that there could be a more 'joined up' approach. Natural England are carrying out more smelt surveys, and will make sure that other Parish Councils and stakeholders are aware of the proposal and consulted about this. Cllr M Smy commented that it was vital that every interested party should be consulted, and no one left out. Cllr M Finney reported that it is thought that the designation will go ahead, and that it is important that there is a co-ordinated voice to ensure that current activity on the river is not dismissed lightly. Cllr M Smy commented that Natural England had not seemed to have much information about how NOTT managed its area of the river, and it was agreed that Cllr I Thornton would liaise with the Clerk to put something together to send to them and to Defra, making sure to note what income was received and how the money was spent (ie that income from the river benefitted all NOTT's assets, and not just the riverside). There was some discussion about the Trustee's role in this: to represent the views of the parishioners of Orford; their duty as Trustees whose main aim should be to maintain the assets of the Charity; and that they should consider protecting the environment. The Chairman pointed out that there may be people in the village who might support the MCZ.

Cllr M Iliff wondered if Defra could impose restrictions on privately owned land, and queried if there would be any compensation if an MCZ compromised a livelihood. Cllr M Golder replied that she understood that restrictions could be put in place, and that she didn't think any compensation would be offered. Cllr M was concerned that the proposed MCZ was simply an exercise in joining up the gaps with the existing protected areas, and Cllr M Finney felt that there was a need to make sure that Natural England and Defra know that the river is currently well managed. The Clerk had written to Therese Coffey to get her views on the proposed MCZ and she had replied to say that as it was in her constituency, another minister would be making the decision about the designation.

8. Correspondence

The Clerk had had a request from a group of Morris Men who wished to come and dance on the Quay on Saturday 12 August 2017. This was agreed, as long as access is not compromised.

ACTION Clerk to inform Morris Men as above

9. Items for next meeting: Usual items

The meeting ended at 7.37pm.

10. Date of next meeting: Wednesday 15 March 2017, at 6.30pm.