

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

**Minutes of the 226th meeting of the New Orford Town Trust held on
Wednesday 20 March 2019 at 6.30pm in the New Room of
Orford Town Hall**

MINUTES

Present: Cllrs M Smy (Vice Chairman, chaired the meeting), D Brenchley, M Golder, J Howard, M Iliff, T Loveridge, A Macro, R Mallett. Clerk in attendance.

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Cllrs M Green (illness), J Robinson and I Thornton (holiday), and P Smith (family commitment).

2. Declarations of interest

Cllr D Brenchley: allotment holder and works with a fisherman; Cllr M Golder: relative lives in Bakers Lane cottage; Cllr M Green: allotment holder; Cllr J Howard: Commodore of Orford Sailing Club, plot holder; Cllr M Iliff: member of Orford Sailing Club; Cllr A Macro: allotment holder, supplier to Orford Country Market, Chairman of the Recreation Ground Charity, and married to a quay user (fisherman); Cllr R Mallett: relative of an allotment holder; Cllr M Smy: allotment holder, plot holder, mooring holder.

3. Minutes of the 225th meeting held on 20 February 2019

These were agreed and signed as an accurate record.

4. Matters arising from the 225th meeting held on 20 February 2019

- The Clerk reported that the hedge between Quay Meadow and Millennium Wood had not been cut by Suffolk Coastal Norse, and that it was now too late in the year to do this. The Clerk will contact Paul Tynan to ensure that this won't now be done.
- The Clerk reported that all the ivy had now been cleared away from the Town Hall shed.

5. Treasurer's report

- Cheques and balances from 1- February 2019
These were accepted and signed by the Trustee.

6. Committee reports

- Minutes of an **Estates/Highways** meeting held on 28 February 2019
 - Gedgrave Road allotment hedge cutting: it was reported that Elite Tree Services had been out to look at the part of the hedge between the Gedgrave Road and the allotments. They had suggested cutting the hedge right back to a height of 8ft on the road side (6ft on the allotment side), and taking out a small walnut tree. This would make it much easier for NOTT to look after. However, the Estates Committee does not have money in its budget to cover the expense (quote is for £1690 plus VAT). It was commented that it is not the right time of year to be cutting hedges because of the danger of destroying bird nests, so work should not be carried out until the autumn. Cllr M Golder proposed that the Estates Committee should proceed with the unbudgeted work later in the year. This was seconded by Cllr A Macro and agreed unanimously.
 - Second hand books in Orford Town Hall: the Clerk reported that Orford Country Market had been raising money for the Blossom Appeal through second hand books at the Market, where people give a donation for a second hand book. The Clerk had wondered if something like this might work in the Town Hall, which is open for some time most days (when the office is open or when an event or regular hire is taking place), and which might benefit the local community as the

mobile library service is not very frequent. The Trustee thought this was a good idea. It had been suggested that NOTT could join with the Country Market and raise money together for the same purpose (Blossom Appeal at the moment, though the Market changes the charity each year), but another member of the Trustee had suggested that money raised could go to NOTT, perhaps to the Property/Housing Fund. It was suggested that the amount of money raised from this was likely to be relatively small, and some members of the Trustee felt that people would be more likely to give to a charity which was not NOTT. After discussion a vote was taken: 7 votes for working with the Country Market to raise money for a different charity each year, and 1 vote for money to go to NOTT. The Clerk will order a bookcase to be fixed to the wall in the Town Hall foyer, to raise money for the Blossom Appeal this year.

- No **Riverside** meeting this month: the Clerk reported that she had had correspondence from a potential mooring holder who had paid a deposit last year. He had emailed in November to let NOTT know that he did not need the mooring after all, and asked if his money could be refunded. Email issues had meant that the Clerk had not received the email at the time. The Trustee agreed that the deposit should be refunded.

7. General Trust business

- Standing Orders: two amendments had been brought up for discussion. Cllr R Mallett proposed that these should be accepted. This was seconded by Cllr M Iliff and agreed unanimously.
- NOTT insurance for 2019-20: the Clerk reported that Scrutton Bland had come back with a quote for NOTT's insurance and Trustee's Liability insurance that was around £80 cheaper than last year, at £5,910.82. The Clerk was in the process of getting another quote but the other provider still had questions which the Clerk needed to answer. After discussion Cllr J Howard proposed that Scrutton Bland's quote should be accepted. This was seconded by Cllr A Macro and agreed unanimously.

In relation to the insurance the Clerk had suggested that she felt that a new valuation of the paintings should be sought as the current one is out of date. The Trustee agreed to this.

- Policies for re-adoption
 - CCTV Policy
 - Investment Policy
 - Designated Funds Policy
 - Complaints Procedure
 - Conflict of Interest Policy
 - Education Policy
 - Equal Opportunities Policy
 - Allocation of Plots PolicyAll the above policies were agreed unanimously by the Trustee.
- Housing list: the Clerk reported that after the article in Village Voice she had heard from several people wanting to put their names on the housing list. She had combined the list with names for the Bakers Lane cottages, and there are now 21 names in total. The Clerk felt that not all of those people would have a strong enough connection to be allocated a cottage in Bakers Lane (where a strong local connection is the main criteria), but she felt that 8 would be considered. All others did have a connection to Orford, though not as strong. It was agreed that the Clerk should speak with the Parish Clerk about how this information might be conveyed to SCDC or local social housing providers, so that a need for affordable rented accommodation in Orford could be shown.
- England Coast Path: after last month's meeting, Cllrs M Golder and J Howard, along with the Clerk, had met with Jonathan Clarke from Natural England about the proposed England Coast Path, part of which would be on NOTT land. Natural England is tasked with discussing the route with landowners etc and putting forward a preferred route. Publication of a report for the area between Bawdsey and Aldeburgh could be published in early 2020. The proposed route in Orford would come along the footpath in front of Quay House, go left up the road past the Old Warehouse, then right along the top of the

river wall, through to the Sailing Club and beyond. Mr Clarke had explained that any land on the seaward side of the path would act as 'spreading room' and that people would have access rights to the area. If any landowner has an objection to the route on their land, this would be assessed by an independent planning inspector who has to assess if the route is fair. The Clerk reported that Mr Clarke had commented that maintenance of the path would be carried out by Suffolk County Council, which would have money from Natural England for this purpose. In addition, any land or spreading room covered by the coastal path would benefit from lower occupier's liability. Users of the coastal path are expected to take primary responsibility for their own safety, and it would therefore be unlikely in normal circumstances that an occupier could be sued in relation to injury on land with coastal access rights. The Clerk will forward notes from the meeting to all members of the Trustee. There seems to be no reason to oppose the route being proposed on NOTT land.

8. Correspondence

- Letter from Real Orford Football Club: a letter had been received from the Secretary of Real Orford Football Club, informing the Trustee that the Club had now sadly folded due to lack of players in Orford. NOTT has in the past given money to the Club and now the Club was returning £771.76 as it had previously had grants from the Village Fund. The Club had suggested that the money could be put into NOTT's designated Housing/Property Fund, and hoped that if the club should re-form in the future, that it might have support from NOTT. The Trustee was pleased that the Football Club had returned money to NOTT. After discussion on whether the money should go to the Housing/property Fund, as requested, or whether it should be put back into the Village Fund from which it was originally donated, Cllr M Golder proposed that the money should go to the Housing/Property Fund as requested. This was seconded by Cllr A Macro and agreed unanimously.

Cllr M Smy commented that Suffolk FA was often looking for pitches to rent, and that the Parish Council might want to look into this.

9. Items for next meeting: no items were suggested

The meeting closed at 7.23pm.

10. Date of next meeting: Wednesday 17 April 2019 at 6.30pm