

**NEW ORFORD TOWN TRUST  
REGISTERED CHARITY 1053729**

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

**Minutes of the 233rd meeting of the New Orford Town Trust held on  
Wednesday 20 November 2019, at 6.30pm in the New Room of Orford Town Hall**

**MINUTES**

Present: Cllrs I Thornton (Chairman), C Ambury, S Backhouse, F Barnwell, M Green, J Howard, A Macro, R Mallett, P Smith. Treasurer and Clerk in attendance.

**1. Apologies for absence**

Apologies were received from Cllr S Backhouse (late arrival due to work commitment), and M Iliff (work commitment).

**2. Declarations of interest**

Cllr C Ambury: mooring holder, plot holder and river user; Cllr S Backhouse: has a relative who lives in Bakers Lane cottages, dinghy on the foreshore, river user; Cllr F Barnwell: member of Orford Sailing Club, mooring holder and river user, allotment holder; Cllr M Green: allotment holder, and Secretary and supplier to Orford Country Market; Cllr J Howard: member of Orford Sailing Club, plot holder, mooring holder and river user; Cllr A Macro: allotment holder, Manager and supplier to Orford Country Market, Chairman of the Recreation Ground Charity, Chairman of the Orford Good Neighbour Scheme (and in item 7 in particular), and married to a quay user (fisherman); Cllr R Mallett: relative of an allotment holder; Cllr P Smith: river user and member of Orford Sailing Club.

**3. Minutes of the 232nd meeting held on 16 October 2019**

These were agreed and signed as an accurate record.

**4. Matters arising from the 232nd meeting held on 16 October 2019**

- At a recent Riverside Committee meeting, the decision had been made to order a heavy duty 'tent' for Chantry, instead of building a wooden shed. The Clerk had placed the order and payment had been made, but the Clerk has now been informed that the model that had been ordered was now discontinued. The Clerk will email the Riverside Committee regarding alternatives.
- It was reported that the concrete base for Chantry has now been completed.
- The Clerk had contacted the Chairman of the Emergency Group which has a meeting the following day.
- The Clerk reported that she was in contact with loss adjusters regarding the incident on the river in August.

**5. Treasurer's report**

- Cheques and balances from 1-31 October 2019  
These were accepted and signed by the Trustee.

**6. Committee reports**

- **No Estates/Highways meeting this month**  
Town Hall cooker: the Clerk had circulated an email to members of the Trustee to let them know that the 20-year-old cooker in the Town Hall needed to be repaired at a cost of around £1400 plus VAT, with the possibility that additional repairs might be needed in the future. The Chairman had spoken with a contact at a catering equipment suppliers, who had recommended a possible replacement. The Chairman had contacted a supplier in Lowestoft who could supply and fit the new appliance and dispose of the old one, for £1806 plus VAT. The Trustee agreed that it would be a false economy to repair the old appliance, and Cllr J Howard proposed that the quote of £1806 should be accepted. This

was seconded by Cllr F Barnwell and agreed unanimously. The Trustee wished to pay for this with money from the Town Hall designated fund.

- The Clerk reported that there had been some leaks in the Town Hall over the past week. The leaks appear only to have happened when rain has been accompanied by strong Winds. Mr J Backhouse had been to take a look, and Trustees Cllrs S Backhouse and R Mallett had also attended. They had taken some photographs of the dormer windows and the Clerk circulated these to the Trustee. The photos show where condensation has run down, and there is dirt and mould, with paint flaking off the metal frames. Some of the wooden frames may be swollen. Externally there are a few slipped tiles on the roof. The Trustee agreed to ask Ben Scopes (general builder) to take a look initially, with the Estates Committee to discuss the situation further once he has been.

It was commented that the gutters on the Town Hall also need clearing.

- Minutes of a **Riverside** meeting held on 29 October 2019  
The Clerk reported that the Committee had agreed to order a substantial metal-framed shelter for Chantry instead of building a shed. The Clerk had placed the order, but had just found out that the one ordered had been discontinued. She will email the Riverside Committee to agree how to proceed.

It was commented that the corner of the Quay near the hoist, is regularly under water when it has rained. It was thought that something might be done to alleviate this problem, and Cllr J Howard agreed to take a look at this.

It was also commented that the light on the hoist is broken. The Clerk will look into this, and ask that the fishermen add this to their 'tick list' when they make regular inspections of the hoist.

Cllr P Smith asked if the subject of a defibrillator at the Quay had been discussed. It had not, and the Clerk will add this to the agenda of the next Riverside meeting.

## 7. **General Trust business**

- Christmas tree for the Town Hall: the Trustee agreed to order the usual 12-foot Christmas Tree from the usual supplier, for £65 plus VAT.
- AOEP report  
Cllr F Barnwell gave a report following a meeting of the Alde and Ore Estuary Partnership (AOEP) the previous week. The AOEP is to be dissolved and replaced with a new body, which it is proposed should comprise representatives from the 13 Parish Councils potentially affected by flooding as well as individuals representing Suffolk County Council, East Suffolk Council, Alde and Ore Association and the East Suffolk Internal Drainage Board (ESIDB). The ESIDB has assumed responsibility for the delivery of the Estuary Plan (for remedial work and improvements to the river walls through the length of the Alde/Ore). It is in complete charge of the project work, subject to Environment Agency licence and regulation. The intention is that the new body, which has a provisional title of the Alde and Ore Community Partnership, will engage with the ESIDB and local communities to ensure that the communities are kept fully informed of prospective works and progress and to ensure that there is full consultation in the event of any substantive changes to the Plan. More information on this should come through to Parish Councils in the New Year. The Alde and Ore Estuary Trust (AOET) which is a charity, will continue to raise funds for the works. The Chair of the new body will be determined by its members, and it is anticipated that some current members of the AOEP will be part of this new body. There are some steps to be taken before dissolution of the AOEP.

The Environment Agency has been specific about the order in which work needs to be carried out, and it is anticipated that work will begin at the top of the river, in Snape, in summer 2020. It is currently estimated that the works will cost in the region of £26million. In addition to charitable funds, government funding is being sought, and there

is understood to be a reasonable prospect of success. It is understood that a grant has been received by AOET from the Garfield Weston Foundation, and lottery funding may also be sought. It was suggested that it would be useful for someone from the AOET or IDB to come and talk to the Parish Council.

Cllr S Backhouse entered the meeting at 7.10pm.

It was suggested that the formation of such a community body was a good idea, but it was felt that more information was needed, and Cllr F Barnwell will contact some of those involved in driving things forward. A remit for the body has been proposed, but it will be up to it what it wants to do and how. Cllr F Barnwell will request that papers are available in time for distribution to the Parish Council in the packs before the January PC meeting. It was commented that the AOET would not be a member of the new body, but might attend meetings. Meeting dates are likely to be informed by work being carried out by the ESIDB, who need to carry out local consultation as the work is being carried out.

It was agreed that the PC needed to be proactive and take an interest in the work being carried out, especially as work to the river wall in Orford will not take place until phase 2. Some money has already been earmarked for Flood Cell 4 (which includes Orford) and it is hoped that some preliminary work at Orford can be undertaken in parallel with the start of the works up river.

- Village Voice distribution: it had been suggested that it might be a good idea to see if it was possible for Village Voice to be distributed with The Link each month, as this would mean that every household would receive a copy. Currently The Link is distributed by a number of people who each take responsibility for several roads in the village, and they have all been contacted to see if they would be willing to do this. The Clerk has heard back from around half the people involved, and the responses have all been positive. She will wait to hear back from others. Some copies of VV could still be placed in the usual collection points (shop, newspaper kiosk, pubs, doctors surgery and the butchers) for visitors or people from outside the village who want to read it. VV is also available on the PC/NOTT website.

## **8. Correspondence**

- Advice from Birketts re garage site development: after meeting with some of the individuals involved in the project to get planning permission for a larger village shop and petrol pumps at the old Friends Garage site, the Trustee had agreed to seek professional advice on whether it was able to support the venture financially. Advice has now been received from the Trust solicitors, Birketts. As a registered Charity, NOTT has to act within the parameters of its governing document, and guidelines set by the Charity Commission. Birketts advised that although the new shop and pumps will clearly be of considerable benefit to the community of Orford, it could not see that there was any charitable objective, and so NOTT would not be able to give any financial support. The Trustee asked the Clerk to respond to Mr Watkins to let him know the situation.

## **9. Items for next meeting:** no items were suggested.

The meeting closed at 7.33pm.

## **10. Date of next meeting:** Wednesday 22 January 2020, at 6.30pm