

**ORFORD & GEDGRAVE PARISH COUNCIL**  
**The Town Hall, Market Hill, Orford, Woodbridge, Suffolk. IP12 2NZ**  
**Tel: 01394 459172, E-mail: [orfordtownhall@btconnect.com](mailto:orfordtownhall@btconnect.com)**

**Draft Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> May 2022 at 7:00pm in Orford Town Hall**

There were 10 Parish Councillors present. Marie Backhouse – Parish Clerk and Judith Golder – Treasurer was in attendance. There were 9 members of the public present.

**1. Welcome by the Chairman**

Cllr A Macro welcomed all who attended and provided details regarding emergency exits.

**2. Apologies for Absence**

Apologies were accepted from Cllr J Howard, Mrs Butler, Mr Robinson, Corinne Lusher, and Rev Tulk.

**3. To Approve the draft minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 19<sup>th</sup> May 2021**

These were Approved and signed by the Chairman as a true record of this meeting.

**4. Matters arising from the Annual Parish Meeting held on 19<sup>th</sup> May 2021.**

None

**5. Report from MP Therese Coffey**

No report received.

**6. Report from Suffolk County Council**

A written report had been submitted and summarised by Andrew Reid (Full copy of the report available at the back of this document). The Chair thanked Andrew Reid.

Andrew Reid left at 7.11pm.

**7. Report from Suffolk Coastal District Council**

A written report had been submitted and summarised by Ray Herring. (Full copy of the report available at the back of this document). The Chair thanked Ray Herring.

**8. Reports from Chairman – Cllr Anne Macro (Parish Council)**

**Cllr Ian Thornton (NOTT)**

Cllr A Macro gave a verbal report. (Full copy of the report available at the back of this document).

Cllr I Thornton gave a verbal report. (Full copy of the report available at the back of this document)

**9. Committee Reports**

**Estates Committee** – Cllr Iliff had submitted a written report which was read out by Cllr Green. (Full copy of the report available at the back of this document)

**Highways Committee** – Cllr Howard had submitted a written report that Cllr Thornton read out. (Full copy of the report available at the back of this document).

**Riverside Committee** – Cllr Thornton read out a report (Full copy of the report available on the back of this document).

**10. Treasurers Report – Parish Council and NOTT Accounts**

A verbal report was given by Judith Golder (Treasurer). (Full copy of the report available at the back of this document). The Chair thanked Judith.

**11. Orford Primary School & Pre-School Report**

A written report was submitted by Mrs Butler. (Full copy of the report available at the back of this document)

**12. Church Report**

A written report was given by Giles Tulk and read out by Jacki Maslin. (Full copy of the report available at the back of this document). The Chair thanked Jacki Maslin.

**13. Friends of Saint Bartholomew's**

A written report was submitted by Mr Murley. (Full copy of the report available at the back of this document).

**14. Orford Methodist Church**

A verbal report was given by Stephen Caley. (Full copy of the report available at the back of this document). The Chair thanked Mr Caley.

**15. Orford Recreation Ground Trust Report**

A written report had been submitted by Diana Grayburn for the Tennis Club. (Full copy of the report available at the back of this document).

**16. Orford & District Surgery Charitable Trust**

A verbal report was given by Katherine Silver-Murphy. (Full copy of the report available at the back of this document). The Chair thanked Katherine Silver-Murphy.

**17. Orford Museum Report**

A verbal report was given by Elizabeth Spinney. (Full copy of the report available at the back of this document). The Chair thanked Elizabeth Spinney.

**18. Orford Sports & Social Club**

No report submitted.

**19. Orford Sailing Club**

A written report was submitted by David Robinson. (Full copy of the report available at the back of this document).

**20. Alde & Ore Community Partnership**

A verbal report was given by Tim Beach. (Full copy of the report available at the back of this document). The Chair thanked Tim Beach.

**21. Orford, Gedgrave & Sudbourne Park Good Neighbour Scheme.**

A written report was submitted by Corinne Lusher. (Full copy available at the back of this document).

**22. Village Recorder**

A verbal report was given by Nigel Maslin. The Chair thanked Nigel Maslin for his report.

**23. Questions from the floor**

None

**There being no further reports or questions asked, the Chairman thanked everyone for attending and formally closed the meeting at 8:03pm**

**Signed:....., Chairman**

**Date:.....**

In setting out its 2021 business plan for the next few years, the council's priorities are to:

- promote and support the health and wellbeing of all people in Suffolk
- strengthen the local economy
- protect and enhance the environment
- provide value for money for the Suffolk taxpayer.

The following are just some key highlights of the county council's work over the past year.

**March 2021** - 100,000 trees planted in just five months, since Suffolk County Council committed £228,000 to protect biodiversity. In January this year the council committed to planting a further 100,000 trees in 2022.

**March 2021** - work on Lowestoft's Gull Wing Bridge started. In March 2022 the first major steel section arrived. Substantively funded by the county council with support from the government, the project is on time for completion in late 2023. Once opened it will provide a massive boost to the local economy.

**May 2021** – trials started of demand-led electric bus services running from Framlingham via Wickham Market to the station at Campsea Ashe. In December 2021, a further route was added from Campsea Ashe through to Snape village and the Maltings

**September 2021** - four locations were announced by Suffolk County Council as “healing woods and spaces”. They will offer people better access to nature and provide a positive legacy to the pandemic.

**November 2021** - two Suffolk schemes received Government funding totalling more than £940,000. Enabling Self-Employment in Suffolk and the Suffolk Road to Net Zero business support programme are among 477 schemes across the country to receive backing from the Community Renewal Fund.

**November 2021** – the council announced that properties within its estate, including fire stations and libraries, will receive £12.8m investment to reduce carbon emission as the council continues to drive its ambition to be Net Zero by 2030.

**December 2021** – SCC Cabinet committed an extra £20 million over the next three years into further improving Suffolk's highway drainage systems and footpaths.

**December 2021** - the council endorsed far-reaching recommendations to improve Suffolk people's mental health and wellbeing, including the creation of a dedicated fund of £2.5m and the development of a cross-system group to support community wellbeing in Suffolk.

**January 2022** - the Council has agreed to join forces with construction firm Lovell Partnerships to form a property development alliance to build nearly 3,000 much-needed homes.

**February 2022** – it was announced Suffolk's LED replacement programme reached a new milestone, with over 20,000 streetlights upgraded with new, sustainable LEDs and counting as part of the project to replace all 43,400 county council streetlights. This upgrade supports Suffolk County Council's ambitions for becoming Net Zero by 2030.

**February 2022** - the budget for 2022/23 was approved. The focus remains on children's services, adult care and the environment. The council's budget has risen from £598.2m to £625.4m, with the additional money generated by a 1.99% increase in council tax, a further 1.00% from the Adult Care Precept, and an increase in grants received from the Government.

**March 2022** - the county council approved the business case for the proposed Freeport East now submitted to the Government for endorsement. Should the business case be approved £25m in seed-corn funding will be made available, An estimated 13,500 jobs will be created along with retained business rates of between £307M and £442M over 25 years.

# ANNUAL PARISH MEETING – 18<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2022

## PARISH COUNCIL CHAIRS REPORT

### Welcome by the Chairman

I would like to welcome members of the public and representatives to the Annual Parish Meeting. We do have a long agenda therefore I would appreciate it if all questions could be covered under item 23. Please note the fire exits are.....

### Chairs Report

Thank you for attending the Annual Parish Meeting this year. Firstly, I would like to thank the outgoing Councillors – Matthew Smy & Frances Barnwell. Then I would like to welcome two new Councillors – Nigel Addy and Karen King

We have also to report that our Groundsman, Anthony Golder, who was with us for some time has decided to resign. We thank him for all his hard work to keep the recreation ground neat and tidy.

Due to the pandemic meetings at the beginning of the year were still held remotely, but since May they have been held face-to-face. The council has held 10 normal monthly meetings. These meetings include a report from the County Councillor and the District Councillor, when they are available, also a Public Forum in which residents from time-to-time raise concerns or queries. Our agenda almost always includes planning applications and letters from residents with various concerns.

There are other routine items like financial reports and general Parish Council business. Some items have been discussed more than once, including Village Greens, parking, traffic management and the recreation ground.

Perhaps the Parish Council's biggest responsibility is to set a precept to meet its expenses which is then reflected in the Council Tax bill sent to residents in March. In 2021/22 it was agreed to keep the request the same as the previous year.

We have a group of three Councillors on a Traffic Management Committee who have spent a lot of time with Suffolk highways having discussions with regards to what and how we need to address the ever-increasing issues we have in the village with traffic flow, the huge number of cars coming into the village, especially at weekends and holiday times, and parking. East Suffolk Council is responsible for civil parking enforcement and a warden is present in the village on occasions. Further talks are continuing to increase the signage and yellow lines within the village. The Highways department has agreed to assist with the cost of this. The process is quite lengthy, but the village will be kept informed via notices in the Village Voice.

Community Speedwatch is well supported with a group of 10 volunteers. The group has a new camera, which was kindly purchased by the New Orford Town Trust. Many vehicles have been caught speeding, with the highest speed being 53mph.

Planning applications are presented at nearly every Parish Council meeting. There have been several instances of the parish being frustrated by East Suffolk Council planning procedures, whilst we comment on all plans that are presented to us, we have very little power over final decisions.

Looking forward to the coming year we are working hard to provide a variety of events to celebrate the Queens Platinum Jubilee, this will start with the torch relay into the village on the 30<sup>th</sup> May, the beacon lighting on the 2<sup>nd</sup> June and completing the celebrations with a street party on the afternoon of the 4<sup>th</sup> June. You will also note that an oak tree has been planted on the Castle knoll as part of the Queens Green Canopy. We hope that you will be able to attend these events. The Village Feast is also happening this year at the end of August, when a good evening will be enjoyed by all. We have live music, BBQ and a bar. Look out for further details in the Village Voice over the coming months.

That ends my report as Chairman, reports from the New Orford Town Trust, the treasurer to the Parish Council and Trust and various community groups will follow.

## **NOTT Chairman's Report to Annual Parish Meeting – 18 May 2022**

The last year has seen most things return to relative normality after covid first hit in March 2020.

During the financial year 2021-22 the Trustee met 10 times and there were 7 Committee Meetings covering Riverside, Estates, Highways and Finance and General Purposes.

At the end of the financial year ending 31 March 2022 NOTT made a surplus of just over £65,000 before depreciation.

At the Annual Parish Meeting in 2019 I reported that the Trustee had started a new Housing/Property Fund with the intention of putting money aside to help to provide and maintain domestic houses or land for housing for local people. After purchasing a bungalow in 2020 I am very pleased to report that, thanks to a large donation from an anonymous benefactor, NOTT was able to purchase a 3-bedroom house in Orford last July, and a local family is now living in it.

Between April 2021 and March 2022 the Trust gave just over £1700 in smaller donations to organisations with a local connection, and distributed over £6000 from the Village Fund. Money from this Fund was given to Orford School towards building work to improve the early years area, to the children's football club for equipment, and to the community larder. In addition, NOTT continues to fund the Good Neighbour Scheme, which is so valuable to the village.

Finally, my thanks go to all Trustees and Trust Staff for their support and work on behalf of the Trust over the past year.

Ian Thornton  
NOTT Chairman

### **ESTATES REPORT FOR YEAR ENDING 31 MARCH 2021 AND 2022**

#### **TOWN HALL**

The Town Hall income for 2021-2022 remained low but things are looking up for 2022 -2023. The Estates Committee is undergoing a maintenance programme for the Town Hall Windows.

#### **BAKERS LANE COTTAGES**

The jewel in the Trust's Crown. All six cottages remain occupied, though one of the tenants moved out in February 2022 and a local Orford person moved in. Because of the various large projects that have been undertaken over the past few years there has only been minor repair work needed on the cottages. We are hoping to completing the repair of the boundary fences in the coming months. We would like to thanks Mark Thacker, John Backhouse and Pat Magennis (Plumbing!) for attending to problems so quickly and efficiently.

#### **39 POTKINS LANE**

Because of a very generous donation, the NOTT was able to purchase a 3 bedroom house in Potkins Lane in July 2021. A young couple with their baby who have very strong Orford connections, and family nearby moved in November 2021.

QUAY MEADOW/MILLENIUM WOOD – please see attached

#### **ALLOTMENTS**

The growing season is upon us but because of the cold and early morning frosts some of the sowing had to be done later than usual but there is a hive of activity at both the Gedgrave and Bakers Lane Allotments. New allotment holders are very busy getting stuck in and keen to ask the older experts.

NOTT have a total of 55 allotments (44 at Gedgrave and 11 in Bakers Lane). There are no allotments available at the moment and have 4 on the waiting list. For those interested it is certainly a good idea to put your name down to ensure you secure one sooner rather than later.

The Estates Committee would like to extend its heartfelt thanks to both Ian Castle and Philip Tricker for all their work – words cannot express our gratitude.

Further thanks are due to all the members of the Estates Committee who give up their time freely with humour and who go far beyond the call of duty. Since the last AGM in 2021 we have said goodbye to Frances Barnwell and Craig Ambury (Craig has moved to riverside and our loss is their gain) we have welcomed 2 new committee members Karen King and Nigel Addy. Many thanks to Margaret Green, Jonnie Howard and Richard Mallett. As far as I know, not one member has claim expenses since 2011. However the real heroes are Kara, Marie and Hannah we thank them for their brilliance.

MARY ILIFF  
19<sup>th</sup> May, 2022

### **Highways Committee Report for the APM 2022**

The Highways Committee looks after only one Village Asset, namely the Quay Street Car Park, which is being used a great deal by visitors now that the pandemic is over.

During the Spring of 2021 the NOTT had the white parking lines laid out and painted, and they have already been a great success because the organised parking bays almost doubles the number of cars that can be safely parked there, as opposed to the haphazard method of parking beforehand.

In the Winter of 2021, we had one of the two ticket machines upgraded to accept Debit and Credit card payments, as opposed to the Cash-only Machine that was there before. So now we have one Card Machine and one Cash Machine, another great improvement.

We also had all the Potholes filled and made good with tarmac. So generally speaking, the Car Park is in a very good condition to cope with the increased numbers of visitors we expect this Spring and Summer.

Jonnie Howard

### **Quay Meadow 2021-22**

Quay Meadow continues to be a tiny oasis of countryside in the village for walking, sitting and picnicking. We hope it still feels remote, natural and not too much like an urban park. The meandering paths and not too tidy edges help create this effect. The paths are mown regularly, the front hedge is neatly cut and the NOTT has agreed to a biannual cutting and removal of the grass from the whole meadow which is proving successful in so far as the area looks cared for and pleases those who like to be tidy without compromising the wish to make an inviting 'wild' place.

There are a good variety of grasses amongst the cow parsley which is now in full flower (as I type). Although there don't seem to be that many migrant birds we have heard a couple of swifts, chiff chaffs, a pair of long tail tits with young, a sedge warbler and a garden warbler, these chirped happily with a robin, blackbirds and hedge sparrows. There were not as many butterflies as in previous years possibly because there is still a cold nip in the air and a robust wind never seems to be far away.

There are large areas of stinging nettles; this is because the stinging nettle is the most important native plant for wildlife in the UK supporting over 40 insects. They also act as protective barrier to the ditch running along the north east side of the meadow as well as being full of good nutrients:- iron, formic acid and natural histamine.

## **Millennium Wood**

The Himalayan Balsam is showing signs of returning and we are working hard to keep on top of it.

MARY ILIFF

19 May 2022

### **Annual Parish Meeting, 18 May 2022**

#### **Riverside report for the year 2021-22**

The past year was a marked improvement on the previous year when we had to close the slipway because of regulations relating to Covid. We gave a 20% discount on last year's renewals to reflect the closure, and are delighted that the end of restrictions means that river activity is back to normal.

Many of you will have noticed the hatching on the front of the Quay. This is to ensure the safety of pedestrians using the Quay and to make sure that the fishermen are able to unload their boats safely, and this seems to be working well.

The boatyard remains full and is a valuable addition to the services we offer at the Quay.

During the year the Quay Warden, Philip Attwood, told us of his intention to retire after 14 years. On behalf of river users and trustees past and present I would like to thank Philip for all his work over the years, and wish him well in his retirement. We have recruited a new Quay Warden who I am sure many of you will know. Matthew Smy has spent time on and around the river for most of his life and we are delighted that he will bring his experience and expertise to the role.

We are looking forward to a great season and hope the weather stays good to allow everyone to use and enjoy the river, whether by using their own boat, visiting the Ness, taking a river trip on one of the pleasure boats which operate from the Quay, taking the children crabbing, or enjoying a cup of tea and a sandwich whilst enjoying the view!

Ian Thornton, May 2022

## **TREASURERS REPORT**

### **ANNUAL PARISH MEETING – 18.5.22**

#### **OGPC**

The accounts for the year were approved by the Council at their April meeting. On paper they showed a deficit of £3007, however it must be recognised that fundraising of £2500 for the play dome and the pump area was reflected in the previous years income, therefore in reality only a £500 deficit for the year.

As well as the day-to-day business of the Parish Council notable events in 2021/22 included the installation of the play dome on the recreation ground and improvements to the village pump area, both of which were made possible by generous donations from villagers and local organisations. A new defibrillator was purchased to replace the one on the Fire Station, this being funded by a grant from NOTTs village fund. The Council continues to look at ways to manage traffic in the village and continues to set aside an annual amount for this purpose.

At 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022 the PC had just over £41k in cash reserves. It is considered prudent to hold the equivalent of one years precept (currently £29k) in hand so the Council stands on a firm financial footing moving forwards with well in excess of this amount in hand.

The accounts and supporting documentation will now be passed on to SALC for an internal audit, following by an external audit by PKF Littlejohn as required by Local Government legislation.

#### NOTT

The accounts presented to you tonight were approved by Trustees at their meeting last week, showing a surplus of £49,979 after depreciation of Fixed Assets. This represents a very pleasing result in what have been difficult circumstances. The Riverside continues to be the major income source for the Trust, and despite a Covid discount given to all mooring holders and launching licence holders it is pleasing to see that income levels remained above budget. The QSCP also contributes largely to Trust funds and has bounced back exceptionally well from the periods of lockdown in the previous year. Fees have increased to in excess of pre-Covid levels and are enhanced by the addition of a credit card facility early this year, which is proving to be very well used. Estates has increased its portfolio of rental properties with the addition of the property in Potkins Lane. Over the last couple of years substantial Government grants have been received to compensate for the inability to use the Town Hall, which again mean that the Estates arm of the Trust returned a healthy surplus.

So, a pleasing performance all round means that NOTT is again able to set aside adequate amounts to its designated funds to meet future major expenditure on its assets.

The accounts and supporting documentation will now be passed on to Scrutton Bland for audit, before subsequent filing with the Charity Commission.

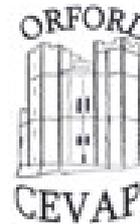
# Orford Church of England Voluntary Aided Primary School

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Executive Headteacher: Mrs Katie Butler



16<sup>th</sup> May 2022

Re: Report to NOTT from Orford CEVAP School

Our school year 2021-2022

We have been through COVID and had tricky times with staff and children absences but despite this we have achieved a lot within the school. We have gone back to SAT testing for years 2 and 6 and a school where the restrictions on attendance with COVID has now been greatly minimised. We are delighted that we are now able to welcome volunteers back into school – we have a regular number of weekly readers who listen to and give confidence to so many of our children which is fantastic – and we have had a working party to help clear an unused area of the grounds for the Prayer garden (see below). A huge thanks to all who help our school.

The children and staff have benefitted greatly from the collaboration with Bawdsey CEVCP School and as this is becoming formalised we are organising wider opportunities for everyone. We are looking forward to our joint Jubilee tea party with all of the children from Bawdsey coming over for the day to Orford and the games and activities planned for the afternoon, taken from those that were around at the time of the coronation. It will give opportunities for all to have fun, for the pupils to meet more children from their year groups and socialise, after so long of not being able to do this with different schools. In the longer term the events where the schools combine will allow the two small schools with small cohorts of children to know more people and have an easier transition to high school when they go. The year 3 and 4 children from both schools enjoyed a free trip to the PGL in the Autumn term and the small number of year 6's from Bawdsey are joining the year 5/6 trip from Orford on PGL in the Summer term. The combining of the two schools increases what we can offer all the children and makes events more viable together.

Staff have jointly planned a Science week too this year for the children and are planning lots more going forward. Staff have also been able to make links with their counterparts in the classes at Bawdsey school and use each other's ideas and share the workload for their curriculum areas and share in joint training. Mrs Scarce is now the Schools' Business Manager and is sharing her expertise with both schools and on joint projects, which has helped on both sites.

At Orford, with thanks in part to a generous grant from the New Orford Town Trust, we have secured all the funding needed for the new EYFS class to be created. We will be knocking through into the existing room from under used storage areas enabling us to increase the space so we have the size of room to make the nursery and the school more sustainable longer term. This will happen in the Summer holidays ready for the children in September; we have decorated the existing room already and the children are enjoying using it again. By gaining this additional space we have freed up a classroom which we hope to soon offer as mother and toddler group meeting room.

We are developing a Jubilee prayer garden in a quiet area on the school field; this has a reflection space, places for quiet contemplation and sensory areas for the children at playtimes. This idea started with the school council children wanting to develop this unused area in school.

Both Bawdsey and Orford Schools are two of the schools in our area that qualify for funding to hire an Academic Mentor for 30 hours per week, funded by the Department for Education. At Orford we have taken on 2 people working for 15 hours per week each; they will be working with small groups of children to boost their learning in all curriculum areas but especially numeracy and literacy.

The favourites of the children have continued to run through all the difficult times and are enjoyed on a weekly basis: the use of the teaching kitchen, gardening, sports clubs and activities and forest schools teaching. This is alongside the teachers leading clubs after school like ceramics, singing, swimming, recorder and puzzle clubs- we are so lucky staff do these extras for the children and make school even more enjoyable for them.

We look forward to the year ahead and thank the NOTT for their contribution to the EYFS classroom. We will send pictures when it completed or you are welcome for a grand tour!



Mrs K Butler

The Friends of St Bartholomew's Church Orford  
3 Quay Street  
Orford

#### Report to Parish Council - May 2022

The Friends of St Bartholomew's Church, Orford were established in the summer of 2021 to raise funds to maintain the fabric of St Bartholomew's to enable the church to support the community of Orford. It is a registered charity with Trustees who are residents of the village. The Chair is Richard Murley and the Secretary is Sally Walton. Three of the Trustees, Revd Giles Tulk, Sally Walton and Caroline Gill, are members of the Parochial Church Council.

The Friends intend to raise money through a combination of Friends' subscriptions, donations and legacies and fund-raising events. In the last year we have hosted two events: a garden party last August at the Great House, kindly hosted by Chris and Fiona Gerard, and a Quiz in February at the Town Hall. We have also had stalls at the Flower Show and the Christmas Bazaar and sold tea and cakes at the Teddy Bear Parachute Jump. So far we have raised around £16,000 after expenses which is available to support the church. We currently have 40 Friends who have generously supported the charity.

The intention is to use the bulk of the funds to support the PCC's project to improve the heating in the church which we understand is to take place later this summer. We are also asking the PCC to prepare a list of future projects to improve the fabric and facilities of the church so that we can plan a longer-term fundraising programme.

The next event will be the Open Gardens on 26<sup>th</sup> June where around twelve Orford gardens will be opened to the public and tea and cakes will be sold in the church. We are also working on further events later in the year.

We are always looking for more volunteers and helpers, so please contact Sally Walton [stbartholomewsfriends@gmail.com](mailto:stbartholomewsfriends@gmail.com) if you would like to help us.

## ORFORD METHODIST CHURCH

Report to the Orford Annual Parish Meeting – *18th May 2022*

Thank you for the opportunity to present this report.

2021 was, for most of the year, a busy year – getting back to normality. Thankfully all our members and friends returned to Sunday services, with an increase in numbers attending. So far to date 2022 is equally as busy

Unfortunately some of our Wednesday Lunch session people are no longer with us and in the light of this the Wednesday sessions continue as a repeat of the Monday sessions (as reported at last year's Annual Parish Meeting). On both days we serve a varied menu of exceedingly good food between the hours of 11am – 4pm and a reduced time during the winter months of 11am – 2pm. These Chapel Tea Room sessions prove extremely popular with regulars and visitors alike. Well worth a visit!

Sunday services are held at 10.30am with a congregation drawn from a wide area as far as Wickham Market, Framlingham, Leiston, Woodbridge and locally, and more recently a couple have started attending from Stowmarket. Occasional visits from friends as far away as Cheshire, Lincolnshire and London are looked forward to. Included within are 'family' are a few children who attend staying in church for the whole of the service with their activities – often sharing in the format of the worship.

We are pleased to record that the many festival services through the year have been well attended, especially last year's Harvest Thanksgiving, Remembrance Day service, Advent, Christmas and Epiphany. And this year, Mothering Sunday, Good Friday and Easter Day. We have on occasions opened the Tea Room on a Sunday morning giving visitors the opportunity to hear the service and enjoy refreshments without sitting in church!

Unfortunately our Minister Rev. Martin Dawes had to take early retirement last August due to poor health, however, we are pleased to be able to report that our incoming Minister will join us from 1<sup>st</sup> September, The Rev Saul Tadzaushe who comes to us from Zimbabwe He will have Pastoral charge of 6 Methodist churches – Woodbridge, Framlingham United Church, Knodishall, Kelsale, Peasenhall and here at Orford– so quite a wide area! His Welcome Service will be held on 1<sup>st</sup> September.

Continued support from our members and friends have enabled us to fulfil our commitment to the ministry (our share of the Circuit Assessment) and all related expenses to the building, also generously supporting various charities including (but not only) Children In Distress, Help for Heroes, The Leprosy Mission, and recently the Emergency Disaster Fund for Ukraine.

We continue to maintain the building (which celebrates 120 years next month, replacing the former chapel of 1857), and grounds - with the need to replace electric heaters and some minor works to be completed this year.

We respond to 'Our Calling' in that there is always a welcome to share with us services and events. A forward notice: The 33rd Annual Quay Service (hopefully) will take place on Sunday 7th August at 6pm supporting the Jubilee Sailing Trust (sailing for the disabled).

Finally a grand lunch will be held on Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> June at 12.45pm celebrating the Queens Platinum Jubilee.

Stephen Caley      Orford Methodist Church

## REPORT ON ORFORD TENNIS COURTS APRIL 2022

The tennis courts are used regularly on Tuesdays by the Ladies and on Saturdays and occasionally Wednesdays by the men. They are increasing in number every year with Jonathan Mullen organising their players at the weekend. There were quite a few bookings for pay and play last summer. I managed to arrange some but there is a huge problem now that we don't have anywhere for visitors to book and pay for courts. This means we lose much of the revenue we used to get when the garage and craft shop ran this for us.

The tennis tournaments for the Ladies and Mixed Doubles took place on 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> August last year and the cups were awarded at the Flower Show.

Both the courts were cleaned and treated with weed killer and moss inhibitor in March. It is very important that this treatment is carried out annually. We are currently getting estimates for the resurfacing of the multi-court. The surface of this court is very cracked and has some mini potholes in parts, so it will be more expensive to renovate than the main court was. Jonathan Mullen is working on the fundraising for this, and we hope to raise enough money to enable the work to start next February.

Nicky Ehlert has organised mini football for the school children on Tuesday evenings throughout the winter, using the lights to enable play in the dark months. This has been a great success and is continuing on the field during term time.

I hope that the school children will get tennis coaching during the summer term. Max, the coach from Saxmundham Tennis Club organised regular classes after school before the lock down, bringing all the equipment needed to play with and many of the children took advantage of this opportunity.

It's lovely to get the School more involved with the courts and hopefully this will continue to flourish.

Diana Grayburn  
Secretary to Orford Recreation Ground Committee

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Chairman's report for the Orford and Gedgrave Parish Council Annual Parish Meeting  
for the Orford and District Surgery Charitable Trust  
Meeting Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> May 2022

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The Charity was set up by Trustees in 1980 to secure and build a surgery building in Orford for the benefit of Orford & Gedgrave, Iken, Chillesford, Sudbourne and Butley parishes. The Trustees made arrangements for the day-to-day business of the Trust to be achieved by a management committee of representatives of the five parishes, all of whom are volunteers.

During this year much work has been undertaken to follow through the plan outlined at this meeting last year to ensure that the structure of this organisation is fit for purpose in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. To that end the work of two sub groups has been progressing,

The first, to change the Chapman House lease from a fully repairing lease to an internal repairing lease. This takes away the need for the doctors to look after the structure of the building, the maintenance of the car park and the grounds, has been led by Edward Greenwell, one of the original trustees and signatory to the first lease. This necessitates the completion of the Land Registry registration of the legal title of the surgery and a change of lease with the practice.

The second, to establish a robust structure for the Charity was led by John Bevan. Mary-Anne Gribbon worked with us to change the Orford and District Surgery Charitable Trust into a Charitable Incorporated Organisation and the charity was formally registered in its new name on 9<sup>th</sup> June 2021.

Instead of having a layer of Trustees and then a Management Committee, the two levels have flattened and simplified so that the CIO is now managed and run by ten Trustees. These are John Bevan, David Goldin, Edward Greenwell, Mary-Ann Gribbon, Steve Joels, Sue Johnston (Treasurer) Corinne Lusher (Secretary), Peter Smith, Mandi Syrett with me as Chair.

All of this work is to underpin the delivery of the original vision of supporting the health and care needs of the users of Chapman House surgery and to ensure a surgery remains in Orford for use by the community for the future.

The Trustees oversee two charitable elements:

1. The Surgery CIO which can fund the provision of medical equipment and facilities for the surgery
2. Esmond House Legacy Care Fund which can fund facilities, equipment and services for frail, older persons and disabled people resident in our five parishes to support them to live independently at home.

2021 was a continuation of unprecedented circumstances. Nobody could have foreseen the environment in which the medical profession operated and nobody could have foreseen the impact Covid 19 had on this community – let alone the impact nationally and internationally.

During the calendar year the full management committee met five times in January, February, March, July, and in October - all via Zoom except for the meeting in October. The sub-groups met as they needed.

During 2021 through the Surgery funds the committee has supported:

- Extra nursing hours
- Water cooler in the surgery
- Staff training in the practice
- Consultation for a terminally ill patient
- Professional fees for the change of the Trust to a CIO
- Doppler machine for the surgery

During 2021 we funded, from the Esmond House Care fund, pendant alarms and key safes for vulnerable people in the surgery's catchment area, sourced and supplied by the excellent Good Neighbour Scheme of Orford, Gedgrave and Sudbourne Hall.

We continue in our mission to support the doctors in their treatment of patients in Chapman House and I would like to thank the Trustees of the CIO for their hard work on behalf of the parishes. Finally, I'd like to thank the Doctors and their colleagues for all their efforts during another very difficult year and to assure them that they have our full and focussed support

Katherine Silver-Murphy, Chair Orford and District Surgery Charitable Incorporated Organisation

## Report from Orford Museum to the Orford & Gedgrave Annual Parish Meeting

### For Wednesday, 18 May 2022

Since I last reported to the Parish Meeting last year we have, after much negotiation, installed the village stocks in the Castle. They look wonderful there and seem to have found their natural home where we hope they will be able to stay for the foreseeable future. They are well protected with a Perspex cover and are an object of great interest to visitors to the Castle. As these are the property of the NOTT, I would urge trustees and members of the Parish Council to pay them a visit.

Apart from that success, last summer we unfortunately found ourselves without a Curator, an Administrator for the Friends of Orford Museum and an editor for our renowned Local History Bulletin. I appealed to the Chairman of Aldeburgh Museum for help and advice as he has wide

experience of reviving an ailing museum. The consequence of was that Stephen Mael, already working for Aldeburgh Museum, is now also working for us in the office as Curator for two days a week. He is locally born (in Iken) and his museum experience and local knowledge is proving invaluable. As the result of an appeal I put in Village Voice and The Link, Jack Cooke, also born in Iken, has joined us to edit the Bulletin and John Grayburn has taken on the job of administering the Friends. Clare Greenwell and Roy Wisdom have joined us as trustees of the museum. Jack is working hard on the next edition of the Bulletin and it should be available by the end of July. John is gradually re-enrolling members of the Friends and if any member of the Parish Council has not yet rejoined and wishes to do so, please get in touch with John at [johng@graylink.co.uk](mailto:johng@graylink.co.uk). As well as a free copy of the Local History Bulletin, you also get free entry to the castle and the museum (though I know this is not very appealing at the moment). In addition, we hope to hold a re-launch event for the Friends and the Bulletin at Butley Priory by kind permission of Sir Edward and Lady Greenwell later this summer. We are also hoping to revive many of the events that we used to be able to do in the past such as open days, exhibitions, talks and history walks.

Sue Snowdon took over from me as Chairman in October 2021. However, she has now found that as she is taking on increasing responsibilities at the shop, she really has not sufficient time to give to the museum and has resigned both as Chairman and as a Trustee. As of this moment, we have no Chairman but I hope this will be remedied in the very near future.

Elizabeth Spinney

Trustee

Orford Museum

[a.spinney43@btinternet.com](mailto:a.spinney43@btinternet.com)

## **ORFORD SAILING CLUB REPORT – MAY 2022**

Now that Covid restrictions are largely lifted and winter has passed, as a Club we look forward to a more normal summer sailing and enjoying the river at Orford. The cruising fleet will be looking to enjoy sailing both locally and further afield.

Last season we managed to keep our successful training programme running with a mix of taster sessions for locals and members alike, followed by full training courses which had several local children on them having come through the tasters.

The regattas, both junior and senior were well attended within careful Covid guidelines. Social events were a bit more of a challenge but the ones we were able to run were successful albeit some members were nervous of attending events indoors.

The Club appears to be in good fettle with the normal percentage of ins and outs regarding membership, so numbers are largely stable.

This year we have refurbished our dinghy park and we were happy to be able to assist the NOTT in their projects on the 'beach' and roadway.

I would like to publicly thank on behalf of Orford Sailing Club the retiring Quay Warden, Philip Attwood, for his help and support when needed. We look forward to working with the new Quay Warden, Matthew Smy, in the future.

Many thanks for the opportunity to report on behalf of Orford Sailing Club.

Kind regards,

David Robinson - Commodore

## **Orford and Gedgrave Parish Council Annual Parish Meeting 18 May 2022**

### **Report from the Alde and Ore Community Partnership (AOCP)**

2022 sees the tenth anniversary of the start of the work to develop an estuary wide plan to secure the area from flooding by renewing the river defence walls in a sustainable way.

Where has implementing the Alde and Ore Estuary Plan got to?

Many of you will have heard that the programme has been stalled, and this short report sets out the reasons for the pause, and some reasons to hope that the waiting might soon be at an end.

The overall work programme is presently costed at around £27m, covering both Upper and Lower parts of the Estuary. We need grant funding, and for technical reasons connected with how these grant applications work, we have divided the programme into Upper and Lower river works. Two years ago, an Outline Business Case (OBC) for the Upper River programme was funded by the Estuary Trust, prepared by the East Suffolk Internal Drainage Board (IDB), and sent to the Environment Agency - in April 2020. The Application is for significant Environment Agency funding (around £10m). There is very good news about the application, which has passed all the technical criteria, and seems likely to take advantage of significant increases in national levels of funding. But there has also been bad news.

In 2018, the Environment Agency started an investigation into potential breaches of the Waste Regulations in connection with clay stored at Iken, that had been an (optional) part of the plans for river wall strengthening. This became a criminal investigation, and as a result of the link between the waste investigation and the Upper River works programme, the Agency has been unable to complete its review of the Outline Business Case whilst the investigation proceeds – nor can it give *any indication at all* of how long the investigation will continue.

Naturally, the AOCP and its partners have been working at all levels to press the case for speeding up the investigation, or ‘uncoupling’ the investigation from the works programme and the Business Case, and have pulled all the strings and pressed all the levers available to us – and we are more than grateful to the local communities for all their help in making the case for progress. In addition, the IDB has been re-formatting and re-presenting the OBC itself to meet changes in the review process that have taken place while we have been marking time, and responding to earlier comments on the original application.

Now, we are not yet able to announce that the path to approval of the OBC is clear, it is hoped that progress is being made. This would enable the OBC to be formally considered, and at last we will get a decision on the level of grant funding that we may expect.

We appreciate all your support for this long term programme of essential work, and we very much hope that, like us, you will keep the faith and keep supporting the programme through your donations and your vocal encouragement. 2022 has not been the best of years so far, but we hope that we may have something to celebrate before too long.

The next meeting of the AOCB will be on Thursday 30 June at 6.30pm- please see web site on place and how to join (all members of the public welcome)

AOCB Honorary Secretary email: [aldeblackburn@aol.com](mailto:aldeblackburn@aol.com)

**Alde and Ore Community Partnership 13 May 2022**