

ORFORD & GEDGRAVE PARISH COUNCIL
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Minutes of the 200th meeting of Orford & Gedgrave Parish Council
held on Wednesday 13th July 2016 at 7.00pm in the New Room of the Town Hall

Present: Cllr Anne Macro (Chairman) Cllr Derick Brenchley
 Cllr Richard Mallett Cllr Michael Finney
 Cllr Ian Thornton Cllr Margaret Green
 Cllr Peter Smith Cllr Michelle Golder
 Cllr Matthew Smy

In Attendance, Marie Backhouse (Clerk).

Opening remarks

Public Forum

MINUTES

1. Reports from Representatives

1. County Councillor Andrew Reid.

A written report was submitted and he summarised.

2. District Councillor Ray Herring

Please see later in the minutes.

2. Apologies for absence:

Cllr M Iliff, Cllr J Howard and Cllr J Robinson

3. Declarations of interest:

Cllr M Finney – friend of the owner of Garden Cottage (planning)

Cllr I Thornton – neighbour of Garden Cottage (planning)

Cllr M Smy – Vice-chair of Sports & Social Club (car boot request)

Cllr M Golder – daughter of A Golder (staff update)

4. Applications for dispensation:

None

5. It was unanimously agreed that the minutes of the 199th Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 8th June 2016 be accepted as a true record.

6. Matters arising from the 199th Parish Council Meeting held on 8th June 2016.

Cllr M Finney thanked Cllr A Macro for the successful Street Party.

Cllr I Thornton asked if any more correspondence had been received from English Heritage.

Cllr A Macro replied that no more correspondence had been received.

Cllr I Thornton asked if we should inform neighbours if there is to be a skip on the highway near their property.

Cllr A Macro replied that we are not informed of the positioning of skips, only if the hirer wishes to tell us, therefore it is not our responsibility.

7. Finance

7.1 The Council received, noted and approved the cheques and balances from 1st June – 30th June 2016.

7.2 The Council noted and approved the quarterly accounts up to the end of June.

7.3 The Council approved the annual subscription of £100 to LCPAS, also a couple of courses for the Clerk and the Chairman to attend at a total cost of £70.

8. Planning

DC/16/2106/FUL – Esher Cottage, Mundays Lane, Orford

This was a request to insert a roof light, replace the porch and insert glass doors in the garage.

The Councillors had no objection to this proposal.

DC/16/2308/FUL – The Garden Cottage, 2 Ipswich Road, Orford

This was a request to convert the loft space to a bedroom and construction of new vehicular access.

Cllr A Macro summarised a letter from a neighbour of the property stating various points of objection.

Cllr M Finney commented that the majority of the changes to the property were at the back with only the vehicular access to the front.

Cllr M Golder commented that there does not seem to be a problem with the vehicular access.

Cllr P Smith said that we should consider the points of view of the community.

Both Cllr P Smith and Cllr M Smy were concerned about the impact of the balcony.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 7.35pm.

Melissa Billen, architectural designer for the Garden Cottage.

Lots of thought had been given to the sight line from the balcony, many measurements had been taken; the bathroom window is to be changed to a velux window this is to be duplicated in the kitchen; they do appreciate that the balcony may be an issue.

The Chairman opened the meeting at 7.40pm

It was agreed by all the Councillors to support the planning application but do understand that there may be an issue with the balcony.

9. Parish Council Business:-

(1) Car boot sales

Cllr A Macro read out an email from the Sports & Social Club requesting the use of the recreation ground to hold a car boot sale. Cllr A Macro commented that she has already spoken to the Committee at the Sports & Social Club about this and they have stated that it would not go ahead if the weather was bad.

It was agreed by all to allow one to go ahead and see how well it goes.

Clerk to contact the Sports & Social Club

(2) Elite Tree Services

Cllr R Mallett reported that a meeting had taken place with Nicholas Newton, SCDC Tree Officer; he had looked at the report and the trees, and agreed with everything that had been stated.

The Clerk reported that she had a visit from Mrs Tristem concerning the lime tree in Quay Street. She felt that the tree was hers and that the Parish Council should not remove any of the branches to clear her house without her being made aware of it.

The Councillors agreed that the tree was on the village green and was the property of the Parish Council. It was therefore agreed that Elite Tree Services should carry on with the schedule of work.

(3) Re-adopt the Suffolk Code of Conduct

Cllr P Smith proposed that we should adopt the Suffolk Code of Conduct and this was seconded by Cllr M Finney and agreed by all.

(4) Christmas Carols around a tree

Cllr A Macro reported that she had been approached by a member of the parish stating how much the Christmas Carols around the tree in Pump Street was enjoyed. A tree on the village green outside the shop or near the village pump would be the best place to hold this event. It was suggested that around the pump may be the preferred place as it would not make a muddy mess on the village green.

Cllr M Golder wondered if Pump Street would need to be closed to traffic.

It was agreed by all that this should be investigated further to see what the cost would be and whether the road would need to be closed.

(5) Village Voice/Link

Cllr A Macro commented that she had seen some very nice brochures/magazines that have been compiled by various town/parish councils. It would be nice to discuss the possibility of combining the Village Voice and the Link to make one magazine. Currently the NOTT and the Parish Council pay £64 per month for 6 months.

Cllr M Finney said that this had been suggested before, we need to be careful not to upset the people involved.

Cllr I Thornton suggested that we should look into the cost of this.

The Councillors had no objection to a meeting.

(6) Staff meeting update with J Cheney and A Golder

The Clerk reported that she and Cllr A Macro had met with J Cheney. He had no problems and had all the equipment he needed. Cllr A Macro informed Jon that his father had been seen helping him and this would not be covered by the Parish Council if he were to have an accident. If he does it, it is at his own risk.

The Clerk also had a meeting with A Golder, and he had no problems. He did request a 'floating' hour that could be available on a weekly basis if he required some extra time. The Councillors commented that this would need to be written in his contract stating how many 'floating' hours he could take each year. This was to be discussed at the next budget meeting.

1.2 District Councillor Ray Herring

Ray Herring gave a summary to the Councillors regarding the Devolution; there are several stages to this; it will support growth and infrastructure; there will be an elected Mayor; and there is an information evening at SCDC on the 21st July to give further details.

The new offices at Melton are on target to be completed and the move will take place in November. Where the old offices stand there are to be 60-70 new homes built, with one third of them being affordable housing.

There is hoping to be a SCDC and Waveney merger, this case will be published in 10 days' time. It will be put out for public consultation. This will provide us with savings in the future; there may be some reduction in staff.

The footway lighting is being shut down during part of the night, this is to save money.

Cllr P Smith asked why 25% of the 16 areas have pulled out of the devolution.

Ray Herring commented that this could be because of the leadership, or the reluctance to have a Mayor.

Cllr P Smith is to attend the information meeting at the SCDC offices on Thursday.

10. Correspondence

- **R Roberts – condition of High Street.**

Cllr A Macro read out a letter from R Roberts about the condition of High Street and the amount of shrubs growing through the railings from the Churchyard.

Cllr R Mallett commented that the Churchyard is looking particularly untidy at the moment.

Cllr M Smy said that is more of a concert venue than a community church.

Cllr A Macro also read out a letter from Mrs Cooper stating that she donates money for the grass to be cut in the churchyard.

Clerk to send an email to find out where the donation of £500 that the PC gives the Church is used each year.

- **R Roberts – information**

Cllr A Macro reported that we had received a letter from R Roberts regarding the change to the public transport, Connecting Communities.

A meeting has been arranged for the 14th September at 6.15pm to discuss this with other concerned parishioners, Andrew Reid and a member of Connecting Communities.

11. Items for next meeting:

- **Estuary Plan**
- **Devolution**

12. Date of next meeting: 14/09/16 at 7.30pm

Connecting Communities meeting at 6.15pm

Meeting closed at 8.45pm.

Signed _____ (Chairman) Date _____