

ORFORD & GEDGRAVE PARISH COUNCIL
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Minutes of the 201st meeting of Orford & Gedgrave Parish Council
held on Wednesday 14th September 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
Absent and no report sent.

2. Apologies for absence:

Cllr M Iliff, Cllr J Howard and Cllr J Robinson

3. Declarations of interest:

Cllr M Golder – supplier to Orford General Stores

4. Applications for dispensation:

None

5. It was unanimously agreed that the minutes of the 200th Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 13th July 2016 and the Planning Sub-Committee held on the 9th August 2016 be accepted as a true record.

Typo – need to add an ‘a’ to ‘are’ on the planning sub-committee minutes.

6. Matters arising from the 200th Parish Council Meeting held on 13th July 2016 and the Planning Sub-Committee held on the 9th August 2016.

7. Finance

7.1 The Council received, noted and approved the cheques and balances from 1st July – 31st August 2016.

7.2 BDO return

The Clerk reported that the external report had returned. This had one area to note, we had placed the defibrillator on as a cost of £1,000 but as this was a donation it should be shown as a cost of nil.

8. Planning

DC/16/3145/FUL – Crown & Castle Hotel, Market Hill, Orford

This was a request to 1, Proposed raised terrace with sail awning over forming a new covered seating area along with new entrance steps and disabled ramp; 2, New re-arranged parking area to allow for additional spaces; 3, proposed new external entrance doorway into existing kitchen area through the original blocked up doorway; and 4, proposed new folding doors within the existing window opening to allow access from existing restaurant onto new terrace area.

Cllr M Golder reported that currently the track near to the Castle is being used as an overflow car park.

Cllr I Thornton commented that all the work they wish to carry out is at the back of the Hotel.

Cllr A Macro said it appears to involve a large awning, which will cover an outside area.

Cllr M Finney asked if they had placed a bollard in the entrance to the parking area yet, as they had permission to do this.

Cllr P Smith suggested that we may ask them what they are intending to do regarding the parking.

The Councillors had no objection to this proposal.

DC/16/3492/FUL – 49 Church Street, Orford

This was a request to erect a side extension and internal alterations to existing kitchen and utility room.

Cllr A Macro commented that this is not seen from the road, as it is behind a large wall and gates.

The Councillors had no objection to this proposal.

DC/16/3390/FUL & 3391/LBC – The King's Head Inn, Front Street, Orford

This was a request for internal alterations involving the removal of partitions and new brick chimney stack to conceal extractor flue and terminal.

Cllr A Macro said that this is not seen from the road.

Cllr I Thornton commented that this will only be seen if you are in the Churchyard.

Cllr M Finney said that it was good that the chimney stack is in brick and it will look similar to the rest of the building.

The Councillors had no objection to this proposal.

DC/16/3534/FUL – 14 Raydon Lane, Orford

This was a request to erect a single storey two bay cart lodge with side store.

The Councillors had no objection to this proposal.

9. Parish Council Business:-

(1) Estuary Plan

Cllr M Finney reported that he had attended a meeting earlier today. Work will go ahead to raise the river walls at Snape Maltings. If the water goes over the river wall it will flood the buildings. Where the walls are built up, the areas to be then affected are Iken and Orford.

Lantern Marsh will be the overspill now. All this has been carefully looked at.

On the 1st November 2016 the AOEP are holding a meeting with the local farmers to discuss the enabling development.

The Environment Agency is currently working on the river walls and this work is going well.

The Council thanked Cllr M Finney for attending the meeting.

(2) Devolution

Cllr P Smith attended a meeting at Melton Hill. This is very important. In November a decision will be made as to whether to carry on with the devolution, and then in May a Mayor may be chosen.

Cambridge, Peterborough, Suffolk and Norfolk were all considering the Devolution, now only Suffolk and Norfolk. 12 Councils have currently agreed to the proposal, 4 have not, and one of those is Norwich.

The business rates and community will fund the devolution.

A written report from Cllr P Smith is attached.

The Council thanked Cllr P Smith for attending the meeting and completing the report.

(3) Quote for recreation ground lights

Cllr A Macro read out a couple of quotes for the replacement of the 3 lights on the recreation ground track. Bayfield's quoted £434.09 +VAT each (total cost £1,302.27 +VAT). Dixon's quoted the total cost at £1,700 +VAT.

Cllr I Thornton asked who fitted the last light above the gate.

Cllr A Macro replied Bayfield's completed that job.

All the Councillors agreed that Bayfield's quote should be accepted to replace the broken lights on the recreation ground track.

Clerk to contact Bayfield.

(4) Quote for hedge cutting around the tennis courts

Cllr A Macro read out a letter from D Paterson, Secretary of the Tennis Club, regarding the state of the hedge around the tennis courts; some of the hedge has grown through the fence, and it is impossible to find the stray tennis balls as the hedge is too dense.

Cllr A Macro reported that the Parish Council is responsible for the area around the tennis courts but not inside them. We have asked for a couple of quotes to tidy this area; Elite suggested cutting the top and the fence side of the hedge, this would cost £1,170; Suffolk Coastal Services suggested cutting back the whole area which would cost £650-750.

Cllr M Golder commented that Suffolk Coastal Services have in the past left it untidy around the village; we would need to check this before making payment.

Cllr A Macro said that the wood chippings from this could be spread around the bottom of the shrubs.

All the Council agreed to accept the quote from Suffolk Coastal Services.

Clerk to contact Chris Green

(5) Village Voice/Link

Cllr A Macro reported that the Clerk had contacted the Rendlesham Parish Council about the magazine that they produce. Heather Heelis had replied with some very interesting information. The cost to produce the magazine is £9,000 per year plus 12 hours a month of the Clerk's time.

Cllr A Macro said that the cost was much more than she had expected.

It was agreed by all that the Village Voice and the Link should remain the same.

(6) Registering the shop as a village asset

Cllr M Golder suggested that the idea of registering the village shop as community asset should be revisited. At the meeting that took place with Penny Teale in August 2015 lots of comments were made that needed updating. A local family had been interested in purchasing the shop but they had been turned down. At the moment Penny Teale still owns the building, but why?

Cllr A Macro asked if the shop was registered would it help to prevent the change of use.

Cllr P Smith replied yes, it gives the village 6 weeks to bid for it or show an interest and a further 6 months to raise the necessary funds. The shop needs to be economically viable or it does not work

Cllr M Finney commented that at the meeting with Penny we were given assurances and therefore we decided to suspend the application.

The Chair closed the meeting at 8.10pm to allow the current owner of the shop Sue Snowden to speak.

Sue Snowden commented that she has the shop on a 10 year lease, with the ability to buy the premises if she wishes.

Cllr D Brenchley asked Sue if she would like to have the shop registered as a community asset.

Sue replied that at the moment this is something she had not looked into, but may wish to in the future.

Cllr P Smith said that the registration of the village as a community asset is something we could look at in the future.

Sue suggested that it would be good to have the help of the community as she was not used to running a village shop.

Meeting re-opened at 8.15pm.

Cllr a Macro suggested that this is discussed again in three months' time, and we have regular communication with Sue to see how the shop is progressing.

(7) Flower Show

Cllr A Macro reported that since the last flower show event in August there had been several complaints about the cost of entrance.

Cllr A Macro read out a letter from Mr Grimsey who has been a patron of the Flower Show for several years and he was amazed to be asked to pay entrance to the show at least an hour before opening time; and he had also been told that the Parish Council had agreed to the cost.

Cllr I Thornton said that the gentleman on the gate was quite rude and vicious, his manner was not very pleasant.

Cllr M Golder commented that she had asked a member of the Flower Show committee who was on the gate, but no name was given.

Cllr M Smy said that he was asked to pay but he was actually working in the bar at the Hut and therefore refused.

Cllr A Macro said that she was also approached by a man on the gate to pay entrance but she informed them that she was doing the refreshments and would not be paying.

Cllr M Smy informed the Councillors that a lot of extra cost for the day is covered by the Sports & Social Club; but this year an invoice for £50 would be sent to the Flower Show Committee to cover the costs.

Cllr A Macro reported that the Flower Show had wished to fence off the additional entrances to the recreation ground, but she had informed them that this was a public place and therefore could not.

Cllr M Golder said that she had been told by many people that the manner of the people on the gate collecting the entrance fee was not pleasant.

Cllr M Finney suggested that a letter should be written regarding the charges and also asking what their intentions are for next year.

Cllr A Macro said that one idea would be to charge entrance to the marquee.

It was agreed by all the Councillors to send a letter to the Flower Show Committee.

Cllr P Smith to meet with the Clerk to draft a letter.

(8) Public toilets

Cllr A Macro reported that a complaint had been received about the condition of the toilets in Bakers Lane. This complaint had been passed to SCDC, who wrote to the complainant and explained that although they undertook the cleaning of the place it actually belonged to the Parish Council. This was investigated by the Clerk and the toilets in Bakers Lane do belong to SCDC. We are currently monitoring the condition of these, to ensure they are kept clean.

Cllr P Smith commented that both of the public toilet blocks in the village are in need of updating.

(9) Bushes/plants near the bus shelter on Munday's Lane

Cllr R Mallett reported that the bush/plant at the entrance to the recreation ground near the bus shelter needed to be removed. At the moment children are stepping out into the road to move away from it, and it is also hiding the Munday's Lane road sign.

It was agreed to ask N Smy to look at this and give us a quote for the removal.

10. Correspondence

• **Mrs A Bantoft**

Cllr A Macro read out a letter addressed to Cllr P Smith from Mrs Bantoft regarding the parking outside her house. At the moment people park at the end of her footpath to her house and, as she is a wheelchair user, she is unable to manoeuvre her chair onto the road.

Cllr P Smith said that the problem is, it is a public road.

Cllr I Thornton said that no parking signs would be needed.

Cllr M Finney suggested that we pass it to the Highways Department.

It was agreed by all to write a letter to Mrs Bantoft suggesting that she contact the Highway's Department.

Clerk to write a letter to Mrs Bantoft.

• **Guy Marshall**

Cllr A Macro read out a letter from Guy Marshall concerning the maintenance of the churchyard.

All agreed that the churchyard now looks much tidier.

11. Items for next meeting:

12. Date of next meeting: 12/10/16 at 7.00pm

Meeting closed at 8.45pm.

Signed _____ **(Chairman)** **Date** _____