

ORFORD & GEDGRAVE PARISH COUNCIL
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Minutes of the 203rd meeting of Orford & Gedgrave Parish Council
held on Wednesday 9th November 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 Peter Smith Cllr Margaret Green
 Cllr Matthew Smy Cllr Michelle Golder
 Cllr Jonnie Howard

In Attendance, Marie Backhouse (Clerk).

Opening remarks

Public Forum

There was 1 member of the public.

MINUTES

1. Reports from Representatives

1. County Councillor Andrew Reid.

A report was submitted to the Councillors.

Andrew Reid reported that decisions are pending in Norfolk regarding the devolution. Four councils in Norfolk have already rejected this. Suffolk County Council has a meeting on the 24th November.

The Secretary of State has also been involved in this discussion.

News has spread about the impending closure of Rock Barracks, with the last person leaving in 2027. The MOD will be closing it and putting it on the market for private development.

Sizewell C – the consultation process for stage 2 ends on the 3rd February 2017 which is soon. There will be lots of meetings and events taking place with EDF, SCDC, SC and the PC. It is important that the PC make their opinions known.

Andrew Reid asked how our response from SCC Highways was coming along. Cllr a Macro replied that we had not had any response to our latest email.

Andrew Reid asked that the Clerk put all the concerns into an email and send to him as he has a meeting with Highways Department.

Clerk to email Andrew Reid with any highways issues.

Cllr J Howard asked if Norfolk votes no to the devolution, may Suffolk do the same.

Andrew Reid said that Suffolk could say no to the devolution, although there is some support for it.

Cllr P Smith asked if there was to be a smaller deal with the devolution would this have an impact with fewer advantages.

Andrew Reid said that there would be fewer advantages but it is a great shame that everything revolves around boundaries.

Cllr M Finney wondered if Sizewell C would be holding anymore

information events.

Andrew Reid said that Sizewell C would be contacting us directly. It is important that we all work together to represent the villages. Roads, environment etc. should have full support.

Cllr M Smy asked what the SCC stance was on the prospect of turning the river to a marine conservation zone.

Cllr M Finney suggested that this may affect the use of the river.

Andrew Reid asked if Natural England may inform the NOTT that they may no longer have the moorings.

Cllr M Finney said that this may be the case.

Cllr P Smith reported that Natural England is worried about the traffic in the river.

Cllr A Macro thanked Andrew Reid for attending.

2. District Councillor Ray Herring
Absent and no report sent.

2. Apologies for absence:

Cllr J Robinson, Cllr M Iliff & Cllr I Thornton

3. Declarations of interest:

Cllr J Howard, Cllr M Finney, and Cllr P Smith – members of the sailing club – planning application.

Cllr M Golder – in camera item staffing – Mr A Golder; also supplier to Orford General Stores.

4. Applications for dispensation:

None

5. It was unanimously agreed that the minutes of the 202nd Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 12th October 2016 and the F & GP meeting held on the 21st October 2016 be accepted as a true record.

6. Matters arising from the 202nd Parish Council Meeting held on 12th October 2016 and the F & GP meeting held on the 21st October 2016.

The multiplay has had the higher decorative parts removed and taken away.

The Post Office is running smoothly again.

The lights on the recreation ground should be fitted the week beginning the 20th November.

7. Finance

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

8. Planning

DC/16/4139/LBC – Bell House, Quay Street, Orford

This was a request for the addition of a small conservation roof-light to rear roof to light day space.

Cllr J Howard said that this is not visible from the road.

The Councillors had no objection to this proposal.

DC/16/4143/FUL – Orford Castle, Castle Green, Orford

This was a request to install a car park charging machine.

Cllr P Smith commented that this will create more cars parking in the streets.

Cllr M Finney said that the Crown & Castle are to have a rising bollard fitted; people will then park in the castle car park. This will make parking interesting.

Cllr A Macro said that this will make the castle track even busier.

It was agreed to write a comment on the planning application reply to suggest that the parking charges are kept in line with those already in the village.

The Councillors had no objection to this proposal.

DC/16/4266/FUL – 14 Castle Lane, Orford

This was a request to replace and add cladding to the front elevation.

Cllr J Howard suggested that this is on keeping with what is already there.

The Councillors had no objection to this proposal.

DC/16/4336/FUL – Orford Sailing Club, Orford Quay, Orford

This was a request to demolish the existing pre-cast concrete garage and erect a 3.6m x 7m long shed.

It was reported that the enabling works for this have already been completed.

The Councillors had no objection to this proposal.

9. Parish Council Business:-

(7) Flower Show

Mike Redmund, Chairman of the Flower show Committee was invited to talk to the Council about the Flower Show.

Cllr A Macro asked if this item could be moved as Mike Redmund was willing to talk with the Councillors regarding the Flower Show.

Mike Redmund was invited to talk.

Mike Redmund reported that various meetings had taken place and he was formally asked to join as chair last month. There is still a lot that he has to discover and take on board.

Finances – It costs in the region of £7,000 a year to run the show. It is a non-profit organisation and currently there is £8,000 in the bank.

The money is roughly split into thirds, with a third being given from the patrons contributions; a third from the gate takings, which is around £2,300; and the final third from activities on the day.

Issues – Patrons paying to enter on the day; this could be changed that everyone will pay or the patrons are given a pass.

People have a right to walk onto the recreation ground but if they do how will the money be raised to fund the flower show.

Patrons – This has been described as a close shop, it could be thrown open to everyone, with the minimum amount to be £30 to become a patron; it could also be known as 'Friends of Orford Flower Show'.

Committee – Occasionally vacancies occur and these happen to be filled by people who are asked by current committee members. It could be that this is opened up to all and advertised. It is important however that all the key activities are covered.

General information – There is a meeting once a year, a chance for people to talk. There is a special ethos around the Flower show and we wish to keep this.

Cllr P Smith suggested that one problem was the gate people not being subtle; these people need to be suitable to that role.

Mike Redmund said that maybe the answer is to brief the gate people on how to treat the visitors.

Cllr A Macro commented that the gate people were rude when she was asked to pay to enter; and she informed them that she was helping with the refreshments, therefore would not be paying to enter.

Mike Redmund suggested that people may be given passes, which would make it easier for those on the gates.

Cllr A Macro commented that the schedules are given free of charge to the village and not charged for, but at the show people are charged.

Mike Redmund replied that these could be given free of charge.

Cllr M Golder suggested that the main issue within the village was the fact that local people are charged to enter the recreation ground.

Mike Redmund replied that by charging people to enter the Flower Show it is ensuring that the funding is available for the Show to continue.

Cllr M Golder commented that you could ask people for donations.

Mike Redmund said that they could ask for donations but then the committee would have to fund the shortfall.

Cllr A Macro asked if they had considered charging for entrance to the marquee.

Cllr D Brenchley said that some money is also made from the charge for the parking.

Cllr M Golder stated that local families will not attend if they are charged; maybe more 'Friends of Orford Flower Show' are needed.

Mike Redmund replied that the Show does need to be self-funded.

Cllr M Finney commented that generally the local people do not park on the recreation ground, they walk. If they did need to park, could we use the existing parking permit that is used on the Quay Street car park?

Cllr J Howard asked if more 'Friends' could be encouraged to join; friendlier people could man the gates and then the villagers could come for free.

Cllr P Smith commented that this would probably mean there would be a slight deficit.

Cllr D Brenchley informed them that the village fireworks are dependent on donations.

Cllr M Golder suggested that the route of donations should be given a chance.

Mike Redmund urged that we should all support the Flower Show.

Cllr M Golder asked if there were any current vacancies on the committee.

Mike Redmund replied that there is one space, but it needs to be filled by someone with some legal knowledge. At the moment there are 8 members.

Cllr P Smith said that there is a need for someone from the Flower Show committee to communicate with us and the rest of the village.

Cllr A Macro thanked the Flower Show for funding the Children's Christmas Party and thanked Mike Redmund for attending the meeting.

(1) Lime Tree, Quay Street

Cllr A Macro reported that she, Cllr R Mallett, the Clerk and Paul from Elite had a meeting on site of the Lime Tree in Quay Street. Mrs Tristem also attended some of the meeting.

Mrs Tristem would like the tree to be removed, but Elite recommends that it is pollard to a height of 2-5m. This would tidy the tree away from the roof of the neighbouring house and make it manageable to keep tidy.

The quote for this is £745+VAT.

Cllr R Mallett suggested that this would be a good idea and the tree will re-shoot again, but this can be easily trimmed.

Cllr J Howard proposed that we accept the quote and arrange for the work to be carried out; this was seconded by Cllr M Golder and agreed by all.

Clerk to contact Elite and accept the quote.

(2) Christmas Tree

Cllr A Macro said that the brass band has been booked for the carol singing around the tree on the village green outside the shop. Sue Snowden has kindly offered to plug in the lights for the tree. A couple of people have volunteered to erect the tree.

This is all to take place on the 19th December at 7.00pm and is being funded by local people and businesses.

There is also to be Afternoon Tea at the Recreation Hut on the 14th December at 2.00pm until 5.00pm.

Also a Children's Christmas Party on the 17th December at 2.30pm until 5.30pm.

(3) Telephone banking/internet banking

Cllr A Macro reported that this was ongoing and they needed to make an appointment with the online banking manager, who is unavailable at the moment.

(4) Community Asset Register – Orford General Store

Cllr M Smy suggested that we should register the shop.

Cllr M Golder removed from the discussion.

There was a long discussion which resulted in the outcome being 'if the shop became unviable it would be changed into a house'.

Cllr M Smy said that Ms Teale wanted to leave the village but why is she holding onto the building.

A comment was that the recent problem with the Post Office shows how people depend on the shop.

Cllr A Macro suggested that the approach could be to meet with Sue Snowden.

It was agreed by all that Cllr M Finney and Cllr M Smy attend an informal meeting with Sue Snowden.

Cllr M Finney said that we need to have a reason behind applying to register.

Cllr P Smith suggested that it was important for the Council to support the shop.

(5) Beacon of Light – tribute to WW1 Battles' Over 11/11/18

The Clerk reported that we had received an email from Bruno Peek who organised the Queen's Birthday beacons. They wish to light beacons around the country to commemorate the end of the First World War.

Cllr R Mallett volunteered to light the beacon.

It was agreed by all to light the beacon on the 11th November 2018.

Clerk to contact Bruno Peek.

(6) Approval of Risk Assessment

The risk assessments included mowing, strimming, bonfire lighting, litter controller and lone working.

Cllr M Smy suggested that on the refuelling of the equipment we should also include dermatitis as a hazard.

The risk assessments were proposed by Cllr R Mallett, seconded by Cllr M Smy and agreed by all.

10. Correspondence

Cllr A Macro reported that a quote had been received from Darren Worne to level the track on the recreation ground. This would be a cost of £300.

It was agreed by all to accept this quote and arrange for the track to be levelled and to thank Darren Worne for recognising the use of the track by the Sports & Social Club.

11. Items for next meeting:

12. Date of next meeting: 11/01/17 at 7.00pm

Meeting closed at 8.39pm.

Signed _____ (Chairman) Date _____