

ORFORD & GEDGRAVE PARISH COUNCIL
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Minutes of the 210th meeting of Orford & Gedgrave Parish Council
held on Wednesday 12th July 2017 at 7.00pm in the New Room of the Town Hall

Present: Cllr Anne Macro
Cllr Richard Mallett
Cllr Peter Smith
Cllr Ian Thornton
Cllr Mike Finney

Cllr Derick Brenchley
Cllr Mary Iliff
Cllr Matthew Smy
Cllr Michelle Golder
Cllr Margaret Green

In Attendance, Marie Backhouse (Clerk).

Opening remarks

Public Forum

There was 0 members of the public.

MINUTES

1. Reports from Representatives

1. County Councillor Andrew Reid.

A report was circulated to all Councillors.

Andrew Reid summarised his report. The current Chief Executive is leaving the Suffolk County Council to move to a post with more responsibility.

There is a new Park & Ride launched; also there is to be a better planned bus route for Rendlesham.

There is also a new Highways Senior Leadership Team, this will involve the team at Saxmundham moving to Halesworth.

If you wish to find out information about the Highways, road closures, etc, it can be found at Suffolk.roadworks.org website.

Andrew Reid informed the Councillors that he and some other Council representatives would be visiting the School over the next couple of weeks.

Cllr M Finney commented that the NOTT had given a grant of about £6,000 to help support the school with some refurbishment.

Cllr M Golder said that the Office had been trying to make contact with the Highways Department concerning the state of the hedges and grass verges that surround the roads. She informed Andrew Reid that it was very difficult to arrange a meeting or visit.

Andrew Reid suggested that this may be because of the new arrangements.

Clerk to forward emails to Andrew Reid concerning the road verges etc.

2. District Councillor Ray Herring

Ray Herring apologised for not attending the APM.

The SCDC finances are sound. The Armed Forces Day which was held at Felixstowe was a success; this was sponsored by the SCDC.

There is still a continuing pressure to build more homes in SCD area.

Civil parking enforcement is to be taken on by the district councils. This will help to enforce the double yellow lines, and does involve a cost.

The local leisure centres are to be improved. Work is underway in Woodbridge, with Leiston and Felixstowe following.

Better broadband connection is to have money available in a grants pot to enable communities to put in an alternative solution.

There is encouragement for all Council Tax bills to be paid by direct debit. SCDC are taking trying to eliminate fly tipping. This does happen occasionally and should be reported if seen. There are also rules that may be enforced concerning dog fouling.

Cllr M Finney asked if there was any news about Sizewell.

Ray Herring replied that at the moment all was quiet.

Andrew Reid commented that the phase three consultation had been postponed until the back end of next year.

Cllr M Finney asked if the sale of the old Council Offices was of a cash benefit to SCDC.

Ray Herring said that the new offices had been purchased and the excess cash had been placed in reserves.

2. Apologies for absence:

Cllr J Howard, Cllr J Robinson, Cllr M Iliff & Cllr A Macro

3. Declarations of interest:

None

4. Applications for dispensation:

None

5. It was unanimously agreed that the minutes of the 209th Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 14th June 2017.

6. Matters arising from the 209th Parish Council Meeting held on 14th June 2017.

Cllr M Golder reported that the village pump area had been started but the area only has about 3 inches of soil before there is a layer of bricks. It was suggested that the soil be removed and a layer of shingle placed down with planters on the top. There is still some money in the donation pot to fund this.

This was agreed by all the Councillors.

Cllr M Finney commented that Kiwi had cut through the BT cable when replacing the fence posts on the recreation ground. Kiwi did call at every house affected by this and reported what had happened.

Cllr M Golder informed the Councillors that Kiwi would be back to replace the fence posts along Munday Lane when BT had confirmed the location of the cable. Kiwi did not wish to cut through another section of cable.

Cllr I Thornton commented about the number of signs around the village advertising the ice cream cart. He had counted at least 11 boards, 6 of which are still left out when they were not trading. There are also a table and chairs on the village green next to the ice cream trailer; no permission has been granted for this. Regardless has only 2 signs and the Riverside Tea Rooms have only 2 signs.

Cllr M Smy commented that there are a lot of signs on the quay, some of which may not be necessary.

Clerk to email the Ice Cream seller.

Cllr M Finney said that there is a brown sign advertising an information point. Where is the information point?

Cllr M Green commented that there are maps down the quay.

Cllr P Smith suggested that we should have a policy for the number of signs, a-boards etc.

Clerk to google a signs policy.

7. Finance

7.1 The Council received, noted and approved the cheques and balances from 1st June – 30th June 2017.

Cllr D Brenchley asked what the £45 which was paid into our account in Framlingham was relating to.

The Clerk replied that she would find out what the £45 was regarding.

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

8. Planning

- **DC/17/2219/FUL & 2220/LBC – Merchant House, Broad Street, Orford**

This was a request for new pitched roof dormers to replace an existing dormer and roof light.

The Council had no objection to this proposal.

- **DC/17/2500/FUL – 10 Peacocks Pyghtle, Orford**

This was a request for a single storey rear/side extension.

Cllr I Thornton reported that this was a single storey wrap around, there are many house in Peacocks Pyghtle with extensions.

The Council had no objection to this proposal.

- **DC/17/2678/TPO – Car Park of Castle Close, Munday Lane, Orford**

This was a request to fell one copper beech – in decline and overcrowded by adjacent tree; to remove a lower limb from adjacent lime tree.

Cllr R Mallett reported that he had been to have a look at this and could see no problem with the work that was to be carried out.

The Council had no objection to this proposal.

- **DC/17/2637/TCA – Ruffles Cottage, 64 Quay Street, Orford**

T1 – Oak – this was a request to reduce the crown spread by approximately 1 metre to shape.

T2 & T3 – Plum – this was a request to coppice and allow to regenerate to contain it to a more manageable size due to the amount of bird lime being deposited in the rear garden and patio area.

The Council had no objection to this proposal.

Other notifications

- **2 Unicorns, Pump Street, Orford** – Planning permission has been permitted.

9. Parish Council Business:-

(1) Street Cleaner – holiday cover, road signs

Cllr M Golder reported that the Clerk and she had a meeting with Jon Cheney to discuss holiday cover for the street cleaning. We wondered if John Cheney senior would be interested in undertaking this role while Jon was on holiday. As John is self-employed he could invoice us for payment. Jon said he would ask his father and reply to us.

It was also agreed that when it was a quiet time in the village he should spend some time cleaning road signs when there are no bins to empty.

(2) Re-adoption of the Suffolk Code of Conduct

Cllr M Finney proposed that the Suffolk Code of Conduct should be adopted; this was seconded by Cllr I Thornton and agreed by all.

(3) Adoption of; Disciplinary Procedure, Grievance Procedure, Volunteer Policy, Memorial Bench Policy and Equal Opportunities Policy

After some discussion, Cllr M Finney proposed that we adopt all the policies; this was seconded by Cllr P Smith and agreed by all.

(4) Trees - update

Cllr M Golder reported that a tree had been removed down Quay Street due to Health & Safety as it was very wobbly and could fall down at any point. It had been commented that a lot of the trees that have been removed are not being replaced. We only have £1,000 in our tree budget and some of that has already been spent on removing the Quay Street tree.

In the schedule we received from Elite last year, the roadside of the recreation ground on Mundays Lane was mentioned, as it would need the crowns lifted to a height of 5 metres, which at the time would cost £750 + VAT.

Cllr M Golder asked the other Councillors whether a suggestion of sponsoring a tree would be a good idea. The cost of the trees is about £45 and we need at least 7-8 in the village.

Cllr R Mallett asked why the tree in Quay Street had been removed.

Cllr I Thornton asked where the trees need to be replaced.

Cllr R Mallett reported that we can not necessarily replace like for like as if the trees are diseased this may be passed on.

Clerk to ask Elite to visit and give a quote for the Mundays Lane trees and the cost to replace trees.

Cllr M Golder asked the Councillors if we should place a notice in the Village voice asking if anyone would wish to sponsor a tree.

Cllr M Finney suggested that Cobra Mist would be willing to sponsor a tree.

Cllr I Thornton said that the NOTT would also sponsor one, and maybe we could ask the Orford Business Association.

Cllr M Golder reported that the village green in Front Street was becoming overgrown from plants/shrubs around Martley. This has been previously cut back by Suffolk Coastal Norse.

It was suggested that a polite letter be written to the home owners of Martley asking if they wished to organise and pay for this work or whether the PC should organise it.

Clerk to write a letter to the homeowner of Martley.

Cllr M Golder informed the Councillors that she would be purchasing a highlighter pen for every Councillor, this will enable them to highlight any issue or query they may have with the minutes, before they attend the meeting. This will improve efficiency and ensure the meetings take less time.

10. Correspondence

- **Barclays Bank**

Cllr M Golder read out a letter from Barclays Bank informing us of the closure of the branch in Saxmundham.

- **Ian & Suzanne Ballentine**

Cllr M Golder read out an email from the Kings Head concerning the village feast. They wish to not close the square but to hold the village feast in the same place at the Suffolk Day, (which was on the village green in Front Street and beside the Kings Head.

Cllr M Finney said that the market square has been closed off before and is not difficult to organise. Has Cllr A Macro organised the closure?

The Clerk replied that Cllr A Macro had not organised this.

Cllr M Finney said that he would organise the road closure and speak to Guy Marshall concerning the BBQ.

Cllr I Thornton said that he would be willing to assist Cllr M Finney with putting out tables and chairs.

Clerk to reply to the Kings Head.

- **Alex Smith**

Cllr M Golder read out an email from Alex Smith offering to provide a quote for any handyman work that may arise on the PC. He stated that he is able to complete most types of handyman jobs at a reasonable cost.

It was agreed by all to reply to the email thanking him and stating that we would bear him in mind in the future.

Clerk to reply to Alex Smith

- **Derek Forbes**

Cllr M Golder read out part of an email from Derek Forbes which stated that a tennis club does not exist.

Cllr M Smy reported that the tennis courts were originally paid for by a grant.

Cllr M Golder commented that when A Golder was employed by the Recreation Ground Charity he used to complete the grounds maintenance in the tennis courts, but when he changed to be employed by the PC he was informed by the PC that he should not complete that work on behalf of the PC.

Cllr I Thornton reported that the tennis group pay money into a separate bank account.

Cllr M Finney asked if the PC receives any of this income.

Cllr M Golder replied that the tennis group is part of the Recreation Ground Charity.

Cllr D Brenchley reported that the PC is custodian trustees of the Recreation Ground Charity although we have no say in what happens on the recreation ground.

Cllr I Thornton stated that if the Recreation Ground Charity closes then it will all be returned to the PC.

Cllr M Golder commented that the tennis group money would have to be spent on the tennis courts.

Cllr M Finney asked who paid for the nets.

Cllr M Smy reported that there is a multisport surface in one of the courts, and at one point the tennis group wished to change this to a tennis court only, but they were not given permission to change it.

Cllr I Thornton commented that we have been told that the cost to resurface the tennis courts is a cost of £15,000.

Cllr P Smith asked if the tennis group are part of another organisation. Is there a constitution? We could ask the tennis group some questions about the agreements. Some people have their own keys to the tennis courts.

Cllr I Thornton suggested that we speak to Laura at the garage to see how the tennis courts are booked.

Cllr M Golder said that thanks should go Cllr A Macro for organising the refreshments at the Fun Day and raising some money towards the cost of the recreation ground track.

11. Items for next meeting:

**12. Date of next meeting: 13/09/17 at 7.00pm
Connecting Communities Transport Meeting 14/08/17 (Monday) at 6.30pm**

Meeting closed at 9.00pm.

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