

ORFORD & GEDGRAVE PARISH COUNCIL

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**Minutes of the 225th meeting of Orford & Gedgrave Parish Council
held on Wednesday 13th February 2019 at 7.00pm in the New Room of the Town Hall**

Present: Cllr Michelle Golder
Cllr Richard Mallett
Cllr Matthew Smy
Cllr Peter Smith
Cllr Mary Iliff

Cllr Anne Macro
Cllr Terence Loveridge
Cllr Derick Brenchley
Cllr Margaret Green

In Attendance, Marie Backhouse (Clerk)

Opening remarks

Public Forum

There was 1 member of the public.

A member of the public wanted to comment about the Draft Local Plan which the consultation ends for on the 25/2/19. The site North of Mill Close has been suggested as an area for possible development. The Parish council previously stated that there is a need for 3 affordable houses within the village, no more medium or high-end houses. In the 1950's the AONB was set up to preserve the landscape etc of this area. The proposed field has several features, it was the site of an old mill, space used for community firework display. The 3 affordable houses could be built elsewhere.

The Chair thanked the member of the public for his comments.

MINUTES

1. Reports from Representatives

1. County Councillor Andrew Reid.

A report was circulated to the Councillors.

Andrew Reid reported that there is a requirement for more specialist education spaces, at least another 300 by 2020. There is some highways activity going on in the village, which is good to report, and they are using the latest thermal patching technology. GCSE & A-level results show improvements. Sizewell C Stage 3 consultation is coming to an end, everyone is urged to give feedback.

Cllr Smith asked if there was any mitigation for tourism.

Ray Herring said that there were no specific proposals for loss of revenue, this will have very little impact on Orford.

Andrew Reid said that another consultation that requires feedback is the Scottish Power Renewables. If the PC sends in feedback could Andrew Reid and Ray Herring be copied in as well.

Cllr Smy said that there will be a great impact on the A12, can it take all the additional traffic.

Andrew Reid replied that there are plans to build 2 bypasses, there will be up to 750 movements of lorries each day.

Cllr Smy said that there are a lot of people who will be working there as well.

Andrew Reid said that they will be hoping to house those people locally.

The Chair thanked Andrew Reid for attending, he left at 7.24pm.

2. District Councillor Ray Herring

Ray Herring commented that Sizewell and Scottish Power Renewable had been covered already. The road infrastructure is not able to cope, the A12 and A14 will be quite difficult to manoeuvre. There is to be a 2.5% increase in Council Tax. The Enabling Budget is still available to support Parish Councils with projects. Help has been offered to the CAB. SCDC are holding a celebration event on the 15th March which the Chair and Clerk will be invited to. Some of the wards will change, Ray Herring will lose Butley and Eyke, but gain Rendlesham. The Community Enabling Grant has given £500 towards the recreation ground lights, £1000 was also offered to assist with the initiative for the Garage, this is not required now, so it will be passed over to assist with the recreation ground lights.

The Local Plan helps to protect parishes, the housing allocations mostly affect the towns, some growth in a parish is important. Orford has a range of services which are supported by growth. Many young people wish to buy houses in this area.

Cllr Iliff asked if we could place restrictions on the proposed houses to ensure they do not become second homes.

Ray Herring replied that you can not place restrictions on the free market.

Cllr Iliff asked if restrictions could be placed on the land, this does happen elsewhere.

Ray Herring replied that there is no ability to place restrictions on housing at the moment. If you start to place restrictions the developers will be reluctant to build them.

Cllr Smith commented that for the developers to build in the first place there must be a profit in it.

Ray Herring said that if there was a way of preventing houses being taken as second homes SCDC would have done it.

Cllr Smy asked if there was a loop hole in the business tax which meant they did not have to pay.

Ray Herring said that SCDC prefer second home owners to pay Council Tax. If there is a large planning application that the Parish Council comments on, would it be possible to send a copy to Ray Herring also.

Cllr Smith said that the plan in the village is to have 10 houses by 2027, this has been extended to 2036. There is a possibility of the number of houses being increased to 11 on the Garage site, plus 4 at Mill Broadway, this takes the number to 25 houses. Orford does not have the infrastructure for all of this.

Ray Herring said that SCC are under pressure to improve the roads; any developer would need to deal with the sewage problem as well. Ray Herring suggested that we place the points of the lack of infrastructure in our response to the Local Plan. It is important for some growth in villages to support the school, shop, pubs etc.

The Chairman thanked Ray Herring and he left at 8.02pm.

2. **Apologies for absence:**

Cllr I Thornton, Cllr J Robinson and Cllr J Howard.

3. **Declarations of interest:**

None

4. **Applications for dispensation:**

None

5. **It was unanimously agreed that the minutes of the 224th Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 9th January 2019**

6. **Matters arising from the 224th Parish Council Meeting held on 9th January 2019.**

None

7. Finance

7.1 The Council received, noted and approved the cheques and balances from 1st January – 31st January 2019.

8. Planning

DC/19/0031/TCA – Great House, church Street, Orford

This was a request for T1 Oak – crown lift, removing lowest limb, and reduce back limbs above to reduce shading and to balance tree. T2 Ash – remove lowest bough because of excess shading. T3 Walnut – remove LH and RH lowest limbs, excess shading. T4 Catalpa – remove LH lowest bough over orchard and RH lowest bough over road and remove deadwood.

The Councillors had no objection to this proposal.

DC/19/0222/FUL – Quay House, Quay Street, Orford

This is a request for a proposed pitch roof to the porch.

The Councillors had no objections to this proposal.

DC/19/0228/FUL – Quay House Cottage, Quay Street, Orford

This is a request for proposed alterations and increase in size of existing balcony with new glass balustrade.

The Councillors had no objection to this proposal.

Other notifications:

None

9. Parish Council Business: -

(1) Policies – Village Green Policy, Signs Policy, Gritting Policy.

Cllr Mallett proposed that the Village Green Policy, Signs Policy and the Gritting Policy are adopted by the Parish Council, this was seconded by Cllr Smith and agreed by all.

(2) Suffolk Coastal Local Plan

Cllr Smith reported that the Parish Council first sent a response in about the Local Plan in 2014, another was sent in 2017; it stated that we required no more upper/high end houses. The Councillors agreed that 10 houses should be built on the field beside Mill Close, and the need for 3-5 affordable houses; this is still the same view of the Parish Council as last time, therefore there is no need to send in another response. Affordable houses could be infill, built on land that we purchase.

It was agreed by all not to send another response regarding the Local Plan.

(3) Fuel for the mowers etc

Cllr Golder commented that now we have no garage we must consider where we are to purchase the fuel from for the lawn mower and strimmer.

It was suggested that the Parish Council ask the NOTT to use their bank card and the Parish Council reimburse the cost. Clerk to ask NOTT.

Cllr Golder said that she would be willing to purchase the fuel and be reimbursed. The Councillors agreed this as a solution.

Cllr Golder asked if we could consider the purchase of a new mower, it was agreed by all that some quotes for a new mower should be considered.

(4) Village Greens

Cllr Golder reported that we had received some information regarding the registering of the Castle Knoll and Track as Village Greens. There is no guarantee that we can swap the area outside Bart's Hall and the Knoll. We need to gather 10 'Statements of Truth' from people stating that the Knoll and the Track have been used for 'Lawful Sports and Pastimes'.

Cllr Iliff suggested that we register the two areas separately.
Clerk to email 'Statement of Truth' forms to Councillors.

(5) AOEP

Cllr Smith said that the AOEP had held two meetings. The funding for the defences has increased to about £25 million. The government will assist with £10.5 million. The Andren Legacy of £300,000 will be used for the defences in Orford. It has been agreed to continue with some flood prevention and to place the Enabling Development on hold.

(6) Community Asset Register

Cllr Golder commented that the Parish Council had received confirmation that the Garage has been registered as a community asset. Questions had been sent to Rachel Smith asking what this actually means for the village, and we are awaiting a response.

(7) East Anglia One/Two Offshore Windfarm

Cllr Golder reported that we had received a lot of paperwork concerning the two wind farms. Did the Parish Council have any comments to make?

The Councillors main concern was the infrastructure, the A12 and A14 are very congested now, and they will only become worse.

(8) Fido bin on Castle Green

Cllr Golder said that the Fido Bin on the Castle Green is in a state of disrepair. The Clerk asked if this was the responsibility of English Heritage or SCDC and the answer was no, it is the Parish Council that must pay to have it replaced.

All agreed to order a new Fido Bin for the Castle Green.

10. Correspondence

• **Member of the community**

Cllr Golder reported that a letter had been received regarding the sign on the wall advising drivers that there is no pedestrian footpath. It was asked if the colour could be changed as it was upsetting a resident. SCC Highways had agreed that a signpost could be placed on the side of the road, this would be at a cost of £500-600.

Cllr Smith suggested that we change the colour of the sign, keeping it in the same place and ask the resident to pay as offered in the letter.

Cllr Loveridge said that the sign should be red with a white border, white letters, this would be in keeping with the Highway Code recommendations.

This was agreed by all.

Clerk to write to the two residents stating the decision of the Council.

• **Orford General Store**

Cllr Golder read out a letter from Orford General Store, which stated that the condition of the Village Green would improve with the better weather and they are in the process of finding better storage area for some of the supplies.

After some discussion it was agreed to reply to the letter, stating that the village green would be re-seeded and fenced off allowing the grass time to grow. It was also suggested that a smaller gazebo could be purchased to allow easier access for the trollies across the hard standing; also, a contribution towards the grass seed.

Clerk to write to Orford General Store.

• **Corinthians**

Cllr Golder read out a letter received from the new owners of Corinthians. The disruption along Ferry Road will be kept to a minimum, some of the residents will be written to ahead of the building work.

• **Red Cross**

Cllr Golder read out a letter from the Red Cross asking for assistance with holding buckets to raise money. Unfortunately, all the supermarkets where the events would be taking place are not in this area.

Cllr Golder said that the Clerk had been completing the necessary forms for the Village Feast, the Road Closure and the Temporary Events Notice would cost £71.
The cost was agreed by all the Councillors.

Cllr Golder reported that she was still in contact with O2 regarding the mobile phone signal.

Cllr Loveridge suggested that we could contact the media if we did not have any response.
Cllr Golder agreed that contacting the media may be an option.

Cllr Golder asked if there were 2 representatives who could attend the Planning Committee meeting regarding the dwelling in the Great House grounds.
It was agreed the Cllr Iliff and Cllr Smith attend on behalf of the Parish Council

11. Items for next meeting:
None

12. Date of next meeting: 13/03/19 at 7.00pm

Meeting closed at 21.00.

Signed _____ (Chairman) Date _____