

**ORFORD & GEDGRAVE PARISH COUNCIL**  
**The Town Hall, Market Hill, Orford, Woodbridge, Suffolk. IP12 2NZ**  
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**Minutes of the 234<sup>th</sup> meeting of Orford & Gedgrave Parish Council**  
**held on Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> January 2020 at 7.00pm in the New Room of the Town Hall**

Present: Cllr Anne Macro  
Cllr Richard Mallett  
Cllr Peter Smith  
Cllr Jonnie Howard  
Cllr Margaret Green

Cllr Ian Thornton  
Cllr Frances Barnwell  
Cllr Craig Ambury  
Cllr Scott Backhouse

In Attendance, Marie Backhouse (Clerk), and 2 members of the public.

**Opening remarks**

**MINUTES**

**1. Reports from Representatives**

1. County Councillor Andrew Reid.  
Apologies sent and written report received.
2. District Councillor Ray Herring  
Absent and no report received.

**2. Apologies for absence:**  
Cllr M Iliff & Cllr G Wingrove

**3. Declarations of interest:**  
None

**4. Applications for dispensation:**  
None

**5. It was unanimously agreed that the minutes of the 233<sup>rd</sup> Parish Council meeting held on the 11<sup>th</sup> November 2019 be accepted as a true record.**

**6. Matters arising from the 233<sup>rd</sup> Parish Council meeting held on the 11<sup>th</sup> November 2019.**

Councillor training has been booked for 7pm on the 1<sup>st</sup> April 2020, this is open to all Councillors. The painting of Figg's Shelter has been completed.

Cllr Backhouse arrived at 7.05pm

**7. Contributions by members of the public.**

A resident reported that she wished to see some of the grass verges in the village left to grow longer to encourage wildlife. Currently all the village greens are cut which is not good for encouraging wildlife. Ideally, she would like to see areas on Quay Street and outside the shop left with longer grass.

Cllr P Smith replied that he has sought advice on this and will be informing the Council later in the meeting.

Another resident asked if the PC would be sending a representative to the '2020 SNS Conference on the Verge of Success', 29/02/20 at Wherstead Park This would be very important in raising the clarification of what the longer verges can achieve.

Cllr Smith commented that there are several, around 106 verges that are supported and preserved in this area.

The resident commented that this is good for the wildlife and can save money, if the verges are left to grow longer.

Cllr Macro thanked the members of the public for their comments.

Members of the public left at 7.10pm

## **8. Finance**

8.1 The Council received, noted and approved the cheques and balances from 1<sup>st</sup> November – 31<sup>st</sup> December 2019.

8.2 The Council all agreed to continue using the BACS payment scheme from Unity Trust Bank.

8.3 The Council received, noted and approved the Quarterly Accounts up to the end December 2019.

8.4 The Council all agreed to continue to use SALC as our internal auditor.

Cllr P Smith commented that he had met with the Treasurer to look at the finances as per the Internal Control document. Everything is in order and the Treasurer is in regular contact with him.

## **9. Planning**

None

### **Other notifications:**

None

## **10. Parish Council Business: -**

### **(1) Adoption of Financial Regulations, Publication Scheme and Financial Risk Assessment.**

All Councillors received an email with the Policies on. They noted these and all agreed to adopt the Policies mentioned above.

### **(2) Dates of this year's meetings.**

Cllr A Macro commented that there is a list of the dates included in the paperwork. These dates were agreed by all the Councillors.

### **(3) Grass Verges**

Cllr Smith said that he had been in contact with the Head of Natural Environment. They will offer support and advice concerning the longer grass verges. We would need to have a group of community volunteers called verge wardens; each area would have a white post to show it is a designated area. There are some identified problems with this, littering, dogs, car fumes etc.

Cllr Thornton suggested that we ask for a visit from the support group and see if we have suitable areas within the village.

Cllr Smith agreed that he would seek some advice before the next PC meeting. This was agreed by all the Councillors.

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### **(4) AOEP**

Cllr Barnwell reported that there is to be a new group consisting of representatives from the PC's, ESC, and SCC. The first meeting of this group is the 30/01/20, at 6.30pm, this is a public meeting at Orford Town Hall.

The Councillors all agreed that Cllr Barnwell should continue to be the representative for the PC.

Cllr Barnwell commented that it would be important for the new group (AOCP) to liaise with the IDB. The new group will vote for a Chair but yet, there is no mention of a Secretary. During the surge tide of 2013, water seeped through the river wall near to the Sailing Club, it is essential that this has a proper survey to see how it may be repaired, but this problem has not been addressed.

Cllr Macro thanked Cllr Barnwell for her continued work with this.

**Clerk to email our representatives name to A Andrews, also ask if there is a meeting ahead of the public meeting for the representatives to meet.**

#### **(5) Skateboard ramp.**

The Clerk reported that she had received some quotes for a skateboard ramp on the recreation ground. There are a variety of sizes and styles which range from £11,000 - £20,000.

Cllr Thornton said that this item may only be used by around 8 children.

Cllr Backhouse asked if the multisport court could be used for skateboarding, but Health and Safety would be an issue as they would want to build a ramp etc.

Cllr Thornton asked who owns the tennis courts?

Cllr Macro said that the ownership of the courts is still uncertain.

Cllr Howard suggested a youth club, which was considered some time ago; but the problem appears to be finding someone to take on the running of it.

It was agreed by all to ask some advice from Woodbridge Town Council re the skateboard park.

#### **(6) Maintenance - assets**

Cllr Smith reported that this was a result from the internal control statement that he is undertaking. A question asked if the assets were regularly maintained and checked.

Cllr Howard suggested that he would have a list of the assets and walk around to check that they are all there and that they are in a good condition.

**Clerk to pass an up to date asset list to Cllr Howard.**

#### **(7) Village Diary**

Cllr Macro suggested that the village has a diary, this is to try and alleviate the problem of having two events on at the same time, e.g the Carol service on the village green and the service in the Church. The Kings Head have kindly offered to hold a village diary in the Craft shop.

Cllr Thornton commented that the Town Hall office should hold the diary, and a events diary should be placed on the website, with a copy of the calendar to be placed in the noticeboard. It was agreed to also place a note in the Village Voice stating the arrangements for the diary, and who may be contacted to add events to it.

#### **(8) VE Day, Suffolk Day and Village Feast.**

Cllr Macro asked the Councillors whether we should run a street party for the VE Day. After some discussion it was agreed that a tea party should be held in the Town Hall, and that the PC may ask the NOTT for a village events donation to help cover the cost.

**Clerk to ask NOTT for a village events contribution and the use of the Town Hall on the 8<sup>th</sup> May 2020.**

It was agreed to discuss all the events at the following meeting.

#### **(9) Dragon's Teeth**

Cllr Macro said that there are several dragon's teeth on the Knoll near the Castle that need replacing, also there are some up at the Recreation Ground that need to be replaced. The Clerk reported that the Groundsman had mentioned that he was able to replace some, if we sourced the materials.

It was suggested that we may use old telegraph poles.

**Clerk to find costs of round poles and telegraph poles, also talk to the Groundsman re completing the work.**

**11. Correspondence**

- **Royal British Legion**

Cllr Macro read out a letter from the RBL regarding the annual contribution to the wreath.

It was agreed by all to contribute £75.

- **Orford & District Surgery Charitable Trust**

Cllr Macro reported that an email had been received to inform the PC that there is a vacancy on the committee. There are a couple of interested people, but would the PC like to send a representative.

It was agreed by all the Cllr Smith should be the representative on the Orford & District Surgery Charitable Trust.

Cllr Macro said that she had been asked by the Treasurer to gain approval for the annual payment to the Church. The annual payment is £600.

The annual payment to the Church of £600 was agreed by all.

Cllr Macro said that an email had been received today from the Flower show Committee requesting approval for the demolition of the existing storage shed and replacement by a metal storage container. As there are already 2 containers in place, the Council agreed that another would not be a problem and it would tidy up the area behind the recreation ground hut.

**Clerk to contact the Flower show Committee.**

**12. Items for next meeting:**

- **VE Celebrations**
- **Defib - age of**

**13. Date of next meeting: 12/02/20**

**Meeting closed at 20.38.**

**Signed** \_\_\_\_\_ **(Chairman)**      **Date** \_\_\_\_\_