

ORFORD & GEDGRAVE PARISH COUNCIL
The Town Hall, Market Hill, Orford, Woodbridge, Suffolk. IP12 2NZ
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Minutes of the 242nd virtual meeting of Orford & Gedgrave Parish Council
held on Wednesday 9th September 2020 at 7.00pm.

Present: Cllr Anne Macro
Cllr Richard Mallett
Cllr Peter Smith
Cllr Craig Ambury
Cllr Ian Thornton
Cllr Mary Iliff
Cllr Scott Backhouse
Cllr Gary Wingrove

In Attendance, Marie Backhouse (Clerk), and 0 members of the public.

Opening remarks

MINUTES

1. Reports from Representatives

1. County Councillor Andrew Reid.
Please see report under section 11.

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

2. Apologies for absence:

Cllr J Howard & Cllr F Barnwell.

3. Acceptance of Apologies

The Councillors all agreed to accept the apologies.
Cllr Macro commented that anyone not attending a meeting must contact the Clerk to inform her of their absence. The six-month rule of not attending any meetings is still in force, and could result in the dismissal of a Councillor if they do not attend any meetings, this includes any NOTT meetings as well.

4. Declarations of interest:

None

5. Applications for dispensation:

None

6. It was unanimously agreed that the minutes of the 241st Parish Council meeting held on the 12th August 2020 should be accepted as a true record.

7. Matters arising from the 241st Parish Council meeting held on the 12th August 2020.

None

8. Contributions by members of the public.

None

9. Finance

9.1 The Council received, noted, and approved the cheques and balances from 1st August – 31st August 2020.

10. **Planning**

DC/20/3095/FUL – 97 Castle Lane, Orford, IP12 2LY

Permission requested for a single storey extension to rear plus conversion of outhouse to Garden room.

The Councillors had no objection to this proposal.

Other notifications:

Mill Close – Cllr Smith reported that there is no update on this development at the moment.

Current changes to the planning system – Cllr Howard & Cllr Wingrove had read through the paper work sent from NALC regarding the proposed changes to the planning system. The Clerk read through an email from Cllr Howard with his suggestions to a response.

‘Basically, the Government wants to build 1 million new homes every year, and also wants to streamline the process to facilitate this. The main alterations are to the Housing Applications and the proposed changes are under 4 headings....

1. Change the method of assessing local housing needs
2. Secure first homes (or affordable homes) through contributions from developers
3. Temporarily lift Small Site thresholds
4. Extend current permissions to Major Developments

In my opinion I generally approve of the need to streamline the process, and this seems quite a sensible way of doing this, so I am not going to suggest that we oppose this consultation paper.’

Cllr Wingrove agreed with Cllr Howards comments and added that this new proposal is not very relevant for a small village such as ours.

It was agreed by all the Council to respond to the planning consultation using Cllr Howards comments.

11. **Parish Council Business: -**

(1) Quiet Lanes update

Cllr Macro commented that Cllr Barnwell is investigating the Quiet Lanes Scheme and this should be carried over to the next meeting for an update.

(2) Community Speedwatch update

The Clerk reported that she had received an email from Sargent Steve Wright commenting that he had not received the applications from Orford, these were posted on the 14th Aug first class and signed for. Another email has been received today to state that the applications have now been delivered to him in Lowestoft and he will be sorting through them shortly.

(3) Emergency Group

Cllr Macro reported that a ‘zoom’ meeting has been arranged for the 23rd September 7pm. An update will be provided to the Councillors at the next PC meeting.

(4) Market Square

Cllr Macro commented that some time ago it was mentioned that the parking on the Market Square should be short term, up to two hours. Now East Suffolk Council are organising the parking enforcement, should it be suggested to them?

Cllr Thornton said that this would have an impact on the people who work at the Bakery, Shop etc.

Cllr Wingrove asked if the parking would remain to be free.

Cllr Macro replied that the parking would be free, but this would allow more people visiting the shop and the bakery to park legally.

Cllr Thornton said this would cause a problem for those working at the shop etc, they would have to find somewhere else to park their cars.

Cllr Wingrove commented that it would be difficult to enforce if it was not a paying car park.

It was agreed by all not to take any further action.

(5) Shop Frontage

Cllr Macro reported that she had been in contact with the Manager of the shop, regarding the number of items on the village green and outside the shop. The Clerk had asked for a risk assessment for the front of the shop, as it was clearly a trip hazard. Cllr Smith suggested that a meeting takes place between Cllr Macro, Cllr Smith and the shop owner and manager to discuss the shop frontage. The number of items outside the shop does allow for more people within the shop, considering the Covid-19 restrictions at the moment. A solution or compromise should be sought. Throwing fruit onto the village green should be stopped, as it encourages vermin and it creates a slip hazard.

Cllr Thornton commented that the shop has been very helpful during the Covid-19 situation, it has supported many residents with food deliveries etc.

Cllr Smith said that the shop was granted permission for a temporary gazebo outside the shop in May 2017. This was to be used in the hot weather or when it was raining. The gazebo has not been removed for some time.

Cllr Thornton commented that the Parish Council needs to be consistent in their approach to people trading in the village.

Cllr Smith proposed that a meeting should be held with Cllr Macro, Cllr Smith, the Shop owner and manager; this was seconded by Cllr Thornton and agreed by all.

Andrew Reid joined the meeting at 7.20pm

(6) MacMillan Coffee Morning

Cllr Macro commented that the Kings Head are organising a coffee morning on the 25th Sept 202 between 10-12 to raise money for MacMillan cancer. There are to be tables on the village green outside the shop where tea/coffee and cake will be served. All the Councillors agreed with the Coffee Morning and use of the village green.

(7) Pump Street

Cllr Macro said that she had spoken to a builder, who is working in the village at the moment, regarding the area around the pump in Pump Street. When this was previously discussed there was a suggestion to pave it with Suffolk Red Bricks. The builder is going to give us a quote to do this.

(8) Recreation Ground

Cllr Macro wished to thank John Backhouse, Hannah Backhouse, Nathan Smy and family, David Golder, Raydon Hall Farm and all others that assisted with the removal of the old wooden fencing at the recreation ground. The new metal fencing is now in place, and the hand sanitisers have been placed on wooden posts. There are some advice signs re Covid to be replaced, but this should happen tomorrow.

Whilst on the recreation ground, the dragon's teeth near the play area need replacing, some are broken and fallen over. To replace these with metal posts would cost around £1500, it was suggested that wooden sleepers cut in half could be used. This would be much cheaper, and a group of volunteers could fit them. It was agreed to get a quote for the sleepers.

Andrew Reid offered to assist us with a donation towards the cost of this.

Cllr Macro thanked him for his offer.

Cllr Macro reported that the funding for the new Climbing Dome is progressing, we are awaiting a response from Ray Herring, ESC Community Partnership and Adnams. We already have £2,000 from the Flower Show, £1,500 from Andrew Reid and £500 from

the Sports & Social Club.

1.1 County Councillor Andrew Reid

The Covid updates are still being circulated to all parishes, this is only happening 3 times a week at the moment. These may become more frequent with the upsurge of people testing positive for Covid. A report will be circulated to the Council later, a couple of points that need to be mentioned are:

The third bridge crossing in Lowestoft has now got the go-ahead to be built. It will start in 2021 and be completed by 2023. This will give a great economic boost to Lowestoft.

School Transport – SCC have been working hard to sort 12,000 pupils with transport. Due to the current situation, they have held back from offering spare seats but this may change after October.

1,000 miles of road has just been re-surfaced, which has improved 25% of the counties road system.

The shooting in Kesgrave was a terrible incident and our thoughts are with the family of the lad, somebody has been arrested in connection with this.

Sizewell C – the cabinet report is to be completed shortly, there are many issues that SCC and ESC are not happy with. Urge people to make a comment or send in their opinion on Sizewell C.

Cllr Macro thanked Andrew Reid for the offers of funding and for attending.

Andrew Reid left at 7.37pm.

(9) Re-adoption of the Data Protection & Information Management Policy

All the Councillors agreed to re-adopt the Data Protection & Information Management Policy.

(10) Re-adoption of the Standing Orders

All the Councillors agreed to re-adopt the Standing Orders. There is one amendment that has been recommended by SALC, and this was all agreed.

(11) To adopt the Accessibility Statement

The Clerk reported that there is a new piece of legislation for websites, they all need to be accessible for anyone with a disability. The government states that this needs to happen by the 22nd Sept, and a statement should be placed on the website that states where you should go to if you have any issues accessing documents on the site.

All the Councillors agreed to adopt the Accessibility Statement.

12. Correspondence

Natural England – Coastal Path from Bawdsey to Aldeburgh – The Clerk reported that Cllr Barnwell has offered to research this and to send a draft response to all Councillors for approval. It was agreed by the Council for Cllr Barnwell to complete a draft response on behalf of the Parish Council and to circulate to all Councillors for comments and approval.

13. Items for next meeting:

Mill Close, Speedwatch, Quiet Lanes, Shop Frontage, Dragon's Teeth.

14. Date of next meeting: 14 October 2020 7pm.

Meeting closed at 7.45pm.

Signed _____ (Chairman) Date _____