

ORFORD & GEDGRAVE PARISH COUNCIL
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Minutes of the 247th virtual meeting of Orford & Gedgrave Parish Council
held on Wednesday 10th March 2021 at 7.00pm.

Present: Cllr Anne Macro
Cllr Richard Mallett
Cllr Peter Smith
Cllr Craig Ambury
Cllr Scott Backhouse

Cllr Jonnie Howard
Cllr Ian Thornton
Cllr Frances Barnwell
Cllr Gary Wingrove

In Attendance, Marie Backhouse (Clerk), Judith Golder (Treasurer) and 1 members of the public.

Opening remarks

MINUTES

1. Reports from Representatives

1. County Councillor Andrew Reid.

Written report submitted.

Andrew Reid commented that the pandemic is continuing to improve.

There is a launch of the new Automated Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) between SCC and the Police. This is designed to target high end speeders. Community Speedwatch is being encouraged to work alongside this. ANPR is also being used in recycling centres, to make the booking system run smoothly. There is a launch of two infrastructure projects one in Lowestoft and one in Great Yarmouth. Water is being carefully pumped inland thanks to an innovative project being led locally by Suffolk County Council, Felixstowe Hydrocycle Ltd, the Environment Agency and University of East Anglia. This is taking place near Felixstowe and will produce fresh water. Following approval of its annual budget, Suffolk County Council is increasing its planned spending once again in 2021/22 to £597.9million, some £41million (7.4%) more than 2020/21. As part of this, the council will be spending £15.3million to address its ongoing Covid-19 costs, arising from the continuing local response to the pandemic. There are no proposed reductions in council services or personnel in 2021/22. It was announced that Suffolk Highways allocated an extra £2m to support the fight against flooding and improve the drainage on the roads.

2. District Councillor Ray Herring

No report received.

3. Chris Bowden – Navigus – Neighbourhood Plan

Chris Bowden introduced himself to the Councillors, his company has been involved in Neighbourhood Plans since 2011, completing 80+ plans. This is a land use plan, which looks at building and development on site; this is also part of the wider Local Plan. The plan would hold weight relating to the planning applications within the village. ESC will determine the planning applications, but it will take the Neighbourhood Plan into consideration. It is important to look at the policies within the Local Plan, many villages make the mistake of re-writing a policy that already exists. It is important also, to look at issues within the village, traffic and parking is not a Neighbourhood plan issue, but a new car park could be. There is lots of scrutiny involved in producing a Neighbourhood Plan. The process takes about a year from

the initial draft plan being produced to it being approved.

Cllr Howard asked if OGPC should undertake to complete a Neighbourhood Plan. Chris Bowden commented that he is not sure of the full extent of the issues within the village. The Local Plan and the AONB restrictions allow a small amount of growth within the village. The issues within the village should be thought about carefully.

Cllr Howard commented that there are a lot of conversions within the village, a property is purchased and then altered. There is also some infill of properties. Chris Bowden said that there appears to be a lot of second homes in the area, which is small scale work. The AONB gives some protection to the village.

Andrew Reid arrived 7.18pm.

Cllr Smith asked if the proposed cost for a Neighbourhood Plan is in the region of £10,000 and takes around two years to complete.

Chris Bowden replied that the time to complete the plan may vary. ESC will pay for the referendum. The cost depends on the size of the document. Funds are available to assist with this, of up to £10,000. The PC may also apply for funding towards the Housing Needs Survey.

Cllr Macro thanked Chris Bowden for attending.

Chris Bowden left at 7.20pm.

Refer to Item 1.1 for Andrew Reid's report.

Andrew Reid left at 7.26pm.

2. Apologies for absence:

Cllr Smy, Cllr Barnwell, and Cllr Iliff.

3. Acceptance of Apologies

The Councillors all agreed to accept the apologies.

4. Declarations of interest:

Cllr Wingrove – Relative of resident querying speeding on Raydon Lane.

Cllr Howard – Neighbour of the planning application site.

5. Applications for dispensation:

Cllr Wingrove to allow discussion on Raydon Lane.

6. It was agreed that the minutes of the 246th Parish Council (PC) meeting held on the 10th February 2021 be accepted as a true record.

7. Matters arising from the 246th PC meeting on the 10th February 2021.

7.1 Quiet Lanes – Cllr Barnwell sent an email to the Clerk stating 'the PC indicated that it would want a public meeting in person if possible. If we continue now, we will need to hold the open parish meeting by 30 July, which hopefully will be possible, but a Zoom meeting will be acceptable if for any reason we are still in Lockdown. Snape PC Chair has offered to come and speak to the PC if that would be helpful.

7.2 Climbing Dome – Cllr Macro reported that the Clerk had organised the refund of the donations for the Climbing Dome, but since this has happened a member of the village has kindly offered £5,000 towards the project. The total cost for the dome is £6,950 + VAT. Andrew Reid has been contacted and he has re-allocated his funding to another cause. The Sports and Social Club may be able to offer the £500 as before, the Flower Show funding has now been transferred to the Pump area. The outstanding amount the PC would need to find is £1,500 at the most.

The Treasurer commented that if the PC was lucky enough to be given such a significant donation then they should find the rest of the money from the reserves.

All agreed to purchase the Climbing Dome.

ACTION: Clerk to contact Caloo to progress with the purchase.

7.3 Pump Area – Cllr Smith reported that the Flower show and a resident of Pump Street have agreed to cover the cost of tidying the Pump Area. Long lasting bricks are to be placed on the site, and the Gardening Club are to upkeep the planters.

Cllr Macro commented that Adnams had been approached for a grant towards the pump area and the result from the application would not be known until April. If successful it is suggested that the money purchases some new planters for the site.

It was agreed to continue to have the Pump Area tidied if the donations are given.

ACTION: Cllr smith to give the go ahead for the work, and to keep the PC updated of progress.

7.4 Recreation Ground – Cllr Macro reported that the dragon’s teeth had been placed at the recreation ground to replace the broken ones. A solution to put around the bottom of the wood to prevent this being damaged by the strimmer is being sought. The wooden post on the see-saw is to be replaced this weekend.

7.5 Traffic Management – Cllr Smith reported that he had spoken with two local landowners regarding the possibility of renting a piece of ground to place a car park on; both decided this would be inappropriate due to the possible leakage of oil etc from the vehicles which would contaminate the land.

Further information on Item 11.5.

7.6 Ice-cream and Fish & Chip Tenders – The Clerk reported that she has sent three tenders out for the ice cream sites, with one confirming they would not be tendering. No Fish & chip Tenders were sent out. Discussion to take place in the In Camera section of the meeting.

7.7 Correspondence from member of the public re the residents parking in Quay Street – Cllr smith reported that a response from the PC had been sent.

8. Contributions by members of the public.

None

9. Finance

9.1 The Council received and approved the ‘payments for approval’. The payments for approval are Mark Thacker – £30, James Russell – £90, Total £120.00.

The wages total for the month is £1134.12; also, the grass cutting from Norse is £203.94.

The payments were approved by all the Councillors.

10. Planning

DC/21/0692/FUL & 0693/LBC – Bell House, Quay Street, Orford, IP12 2NU

Infilling existing rear recessed porch, minor internal and external alterations to aid circulation and room definition all as set out in the enclosed design and access statement and heritage statement online. Alterations to modern parts of existing grade 2 listed building, including raising of internal door between kitchen and dining room, replacement of modern beams and change of modern fenestration in the kitchen, relocation of external French doors with side lights, landscaping works, alterations to pergola.

It was agreed by all the Cllr Wingrove should look at the planning application and send a suitable response to the Clerk for submission to ESC.

Other notifications:

11. Parish Council Business: -

(1) AOCB

The Clerk reported that Cllr Barnwell had sent an email ahead of the meeting and this stated that there have been no developments, but the EA is due to provide an update in the course of this month.

ACTION: Cllr Barnwell to update the Council at the next meeting.

(2) Strimmer (Groundsman’s equipment)

Cllr Macro reported that when the strimmer and lawnmower had been taken to have the annual service, it was mentioned that the strimmer needs quite a bit of work done, a new clutch being part of it. It is estimated the cost of this to be £150. The Clerk has been doing some research into a new strimmer and has looked at a particular Stihl strimmer, that has a engine control on the handle, at the moment the cost of this is £315.00 + VAT.

The Councillors all agreed to purchase the new strimmer.

ACTION: Clerk to organise the invoice and payment of the new strimmer.

(3) The Garage Site

Cllr Smith reported that negotiations are continuing regarding the commercial site at the garage site.

ACTION: Cllr Smith to continue to update the PC on the progress.

(4) Grass cutting

The Clerk commented that the grass cutting of the village green and the recreation ground costs are quite high. Would it be sensible to get a quote for a cutting service to do the work as and when required?

All agreed to gain some quotes for the grass cutting, also to clarify what Village Greens are cut.

ACTION: Clerk to ask Norse where the village green areas are that they cut. Cllr Macro to organise a couple of quotes for cutting the sites.

(5) Traffic Management

Cllr Smith reported that following on from the meeting with SCC and Andrew Reid an estimate of the costs has been received; this amount is £15,837.47. The work quoted for includes some painting of yellow lines. The changes of the timings on the yellow lines also needs to be quoted for. A detailed breakdown of the costs has been requested.

Cllr Thornton mentioned that the car park had been measured, and the bottom section, if it were to be white lined, would give 54 car spaces, 2 coach spaces and 13 spaces for the sailing club. If the white lining was completed it would enable more spaces for cars. If the enforcement encouraged more people to park in the car park, maybe the NOTT could contribute towards the new signage with the parking limits on.

Cllr Smith reported that new signage directing cars to the car park could be sited at the entrance to the village. This would increase the amount of traffic in Quay Street.

Cllr Thornton commented that the NOTT could contribute to the cost of these signs as well as they would be receiving more income from the car park.

Cllr Smith commented that he had spoken with the parking enforcement officer who has agreed to attend the village during bank holidays and weekends.

ACTION: Cllr Smith to write a report for the Village Voice warning the residents of the visits from the parking enforcement officers.

(6) Annual Parish Meeting

Cllr Macro reported that the date for the APM is the 19th May 2021. It will be possible to have this virtually or a small meeting of 30 people. This could be held as a hybrid meeting with some meeting face to face and some online.

ACTION: Clerk to monitor the information from SALC.

12. Correspondence

Resident – a tabletop sale on the village green near the shop

The Clerk reported that a resident had enquired whether a single table could be placed on the village green to sell jigsaws for donations to the Church. After some discussion it was agreed to suggest the tabletop sale in the Church yard. If the PC allowed the tabletop sale on the village green, it may set a precedent for others.

ACTION: Clerk to contact the resident and state the PC's response.

Resident – traffic speed on Raydon Lane

The Clerk read out an email from a resident of Raydon Lane. There have been many speeding vehicles on the lane past her house, this is a dangerous area due to the Rectory Road junction and many people walking or cycling along the lane. It mentioned the need to move the speed signs or introduce a 20mph limit.

Cllr Thornton said that 20mph would not be viable in the village.

Cllr Ambury asked if the speed sign was moved would this make a difference?

Cllr Thornton commented that if Raydon Lane was to become a Quiet Lane would this signage help to slow traffic down.

It was agreed by all to wait until the Quiet Lanes scheme had approved Raydon Lane and see what impact that had on the speeding traffic.

ACTION: Clerk to respond to the resident of Raydon Lane.

Member of the Public – Climate and Ecological Emergency Bill

The Clerk read out an email from a member of the public reading the support for the CEE.

After some discussion it was agreed not to support this.

ACTION: Clerk to notify the member of the public the Councillors decision.

Deben Peninsula – road signage

The Clerk read out an email from the Deben Peninsula regarding the need for some directional signs to show where the surgery is within the village. It is hoped to place one on the corner of the Front Street and Ferry Road and the other on the junction of Ferry Road and Rectory Road.

It was agreed by all to support the signage.

ACTION: Cllr smith to talk to the GP Trust about the signage.

13. Items for next meeting:

Village Feast

14. Date of next meeting: 14 April 2021 7pm.

Meeting closed at 8.36pm.

Signed _____ (Chairman) Date _____