

ORFORD & GEDGRAVE PARISH COUNCIL
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Minutes of the 255th meeting of Orford & Gedgrave Parish Council
held on Wednesday 12th January 2022 at 7.00pm in the New Room of the Town Hall.

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

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

Opening remarks

MINUTES

1. Reports from Representatives

1. County Councillor Andrew Reid.

Andrew Reid had a few items to verbally report on from his written report which had been circulated to all the Councillors. The budget for SCC is to rise from £595m to £625m. There is to be additional funding from the Government. A 2.99% rise in Council Tax is to be approved. This will mean an increase of 62p per week on a Band B property. The Director of Public Health is to do a report on mental health, funding will be going towards this. There is a pilot scheme of an electric bus between Framlingham, Wickham Market and Campsea Ashe. This has been increased to include Snape Maltings also. The bus is called Katch.

7.06pm Cllr Iliff arrives.

Suffolk Fire & Rescue Service are to be provided with additional equipment, to enable them do undertake their job more safely. A lot of the SCC owned streetlights will be changed to LED.

Cllr Howard commented that the footpath that runs along the river wall is very muddy at the moment.

Andrew Reid advised the Council to send an email to SCC Customer Service which would be then passed to the Public Rights of Way Team, but copy Andrew in to the email so that he may chase if a response is not received.

The traffic management is progressing, with a copy of the public notice being placed in the local newspaper shortly.

Cllr Smith said that he had seen this email, and it is good that it is a step closer to having the lines on the roads updated.

Andrew Reid left the meeting at 7.11pm.

2. District Councillor Ray Herring

Apologies sent and no report received.

2. **Apologies for absence:**
District Cllr Ray Herring
3. **Acceptance of Apologies**
The Councillors all agreed to accept the apology.
4. **Declarations of interest:**
Cllr Thornton – Neighbour of Greenbanks
5. **Applications for dispensation:**
None
6. **It was agreed that the minutes of the 254th Parish Council (PC) meeting held on the 10th November 2021 and the F&GP Meeting held on 1st December 2021 be accepted as a true record of the meeting.**
7. **Matters arising from the 254th Parish Council meeting held on the 10th November 2021, and the F&GP meeting held on the 1st December 2021.**
 - 7.1 Internal Control Statement – Cllr Smith said that this was not undertaken as he had been unwell, a date was set for the 21st January 2022 with the Clerk and the Treasurer.
 - 7.2 Festival of Suffolk/Queens Platinum Jubilee – Cllr Macro reported that she had organised for the metal pole to be removed, but still needed to talk with Mr Rumsey regarding a new beacon.
ACTION: to place on future agendas.
 - 7.3 Hedges – Cllr Macro commented that she had not been able to contact the previous gardener of the house on Castle Lane/Pump Street.
ACTION: Cllr Backhouse to send the contact number of the gardener to Cllr Macro.
 - 7.4 Recreation Ground Zip Wire – The Clerk reported that she had received a second quote for the tightening of the Zip Wire. Eastern Play Services have taken a look at the zip wire and it needs a replacement spring as well as the tightening, this will cost £357.75 +VAT. They are willing to teach the Groundsman how to tighten the Zip Wire which would save the PC a call out fee of £120. The first quote was for £415+VAT.
Cllr Thornton commented that to teach the Groundsman to tighten the zip wire would be a big responsibility for him, and therefore we should continue to employ a company to tighten it. This was agreed by all the Councillors.
It was agreed to accept the quote for the repair and tighten of the zip wire from Eastern Play Services at a cost of £357.75 +VAT.
ACTION: Clerk to notify Eastern Play Services to proceed with the work.

The Treasurer asked if there had been an update from the Ice Cream provider regarding the contract agreement.
Cllr Macro responded that she had been to the Ice Cream owners house three times, but there is no response.
ACTION: Cllr Thornton offered to obtain the Ice Cream providers mobile phone number, so that they may be contacted and the issue discussed.
8. **Contributions by members of the public.**
None
9. **Finance**
 - 9.1 The Treasurer informed the Councillors that there was only one payment to Norse for grass cutting for April 21 – Nov 21 - £1590+VAT. Total £1590+VAT. Also, the staff wages of £1134.12.
The payments were agreed by all.
 - 9.2 Quarterly Accounts – The Councillors noted and agreed the quarterly accounts to the end of December 21.
 - 9.3 Budget 2022-23 – The Treasurer commented that the Budget had been based on a precept of £29,000. Expenses are basically the same as this year, but would include a possible 3%

pay increase as the staff did not have a pay increase this financial year. There is some money in the Traffic Management pot for the possible increase of parking restrictions in the village. Cllr Smith said that people in the village are enquiring about further parking restrictions, but the PC would approach SCC for funding assistance with this, Cllr Iliff proposed that the Budget for 2022-23 is accepted by the Council, this was seconded by Cllr Thornton and agreed by all.

9.4 Precept request for 2022-23 – Cllr Macro proposed that the PC requests a precept of £29,000, this was seconded by Cllr Smith and agreed by all.

9.5 Internal Auditor – The Clerk suggested that the PC continue to ask SALC to undertake the internal audit for 2021-22; this was agreed by all the Councillors.

10. **Planning**

DC/21/5448/FUL – Greenbanks, 30 Ipswich Road, Orford, IP12 2LT

Erection of a 1.8m weatherboard fence along the front and part side of property. Purpose of which is to replace pre-existing hedging which was in poor state and caused obstruction to the pathway. New fence erected to provide privacy to property and conceal unsightly gas tank from road vision.

After some discussion a vote was taken – 1 in support, 3 against and 5 abstentions.

The Parish Council objected to this proposal.

ACTION: Clerk to notify ESC of the PC's decision.

Other notifications:

11. **Parish Council Business: -**

(1) Friends Garage Update

Cllr Smith produced a document for the Councillors information, this would be placed in the next edition of the Village Voice. Cllr Smith, Cllr Macro and Cllr Wingrove have attended meetings with the developer, CIC group and the land owner to discuss the progress of the garage site. The size of the commercial space is to increase. There is to be 1 x 2 bedroom and 1 x 2/3-bedroom property as affordable housing. The idea of electric charging points has been mentioned and it was suggested that they move to the Quay Street car park site rather than the restricted parking on the new site. The roadways on site have been approved by SCC Highways. It is hoped to have the formal planning application by February, and there will be a formal public meeting for all the residents to attend.

Cllr Howard asked if fundraising was required to obtain the shop as a community asset.

Cllr Smith said that the CIC group will be doing a lot of fundraising. There is a community fund linked to the development North of Mill Close which may be in the region of £375,000, if the PC are fortunate to obtain this funding it will enable the purchase of one or maybe the two affordable houses.

(2) Co-option of two Councillors – Cllr Macro read out emails/letters from 5 prospective applicants. It was agreed that the Councillors should undertake a private vote and the Clerk provide the results. The Clerk reported that the two new Councillors would be Nigel Addy and Karen King. They would be invited to the next PC meeting where they will sign the Declaration of Office form.

ACTION: Clerk to contact the applicants and pass on the decision of the Councillors.

(3) Queens Green Canopy – The Clerk reported that the Cherry Tree has been removed outside the shop. The Clerk asked the tree surgeon whether the Oak Tree from ESC could be planted there; unfortunately, there is only 2 foot of soil and then there is a layer of bricks, this would not allow the tree to produce a good root hold. He suggested that the Oak Tree be placed on the Knoll and a similar flowering Cherry be placed outside the shop.

The Councillors agreed with this suggestion.

ACTION: Clerk to clarify with the Tree Officer that the site of the knoll is suitable for the Oak Tree.

(4) Re-adoption of policies – The Councillors agreed to re-adopt the Financial Regulations, Grants Policy, Publication Scheme and the Financial Risk Assessment.

12. Correspondence

Recreation Ground – Cllr Macro commented that an email had been received from the Recreation Ground Committee regarding the placement of a ‘Fire Assembly Point’ on the main poles of the zip wire.

After some discussion, a vote was taken – 1 against, 8 in support and 1 abstention.

ACTION: Clerk to notify the Recreation Ground Committee of the agreement to allow the sign to be placed on the far end pole of the zip-wire.

13. Items for next meeting:

Festival of Suffolk, Queens Platinum Jubilee,

14. Date of next meeting: 9 February 2022 7pm.

Meeting closed at 8.00pm.

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