

ORFORD & GEDGRAVE PARISH COUNCIL
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Minutes of the 269th meeting of Orford & Gedgrave Parish Council
held on Wednesday 14th June 2023 at 7.00pm in the New Room of the Town Hall.

Present: Cllr Anne Macro
Cllr Margaret Green
Cllr Richard Mallett
Cllr Ian Thornton
Cllr Mary Iliff
Cllr Nigel Addy
Cllr Karen King
Cllr Craig Ambury

In Attendance 1 members of the public.

Opening remarks

MINUTES

1. Reports from Representatives

1. County Councillor Andrew Reid.

Andrew Reid submitted a full written report to the PC and gave a brief outline of it. This report covers events in May. SCC has been able to assist with the funding for the Library Service to ensure this remains. SCC has been given £8m by the government, for active travel. This will provide more cycle lanes, and crossing points for pedestrians. Woodbridge Town Centre has been given significant money for pedestrian and cycle improvements. Trading standards has intercepted a shipment of E-Scooters as these were illegal and dangerous. Air Quality Management Strategy is focusing on Ipswich to reduce the levels of the carbon dioxide. Roads - £10m of additional funding has been given to fix residential roads.

Cllr King and Andrew Reid left the room at 7.08pm.

10. Telent Technology Services Ltd

A member of the public said that the proposed mobile phone mast was to replace the mast which has been out of action for a while on the Orfordness.

The mast is to be situated down from the farm towards the river wall in amongst some trees. It is predominantly EE and O2 but others providers will be invited to join.

Cllr Addy commented that it looks like the one around the Broome.

The member of public commented that the company could be asked to have a mast that looks like a tree, but they are not that attractive.

Cllr Green asked if it can be seen from the River wall.

The member of the public commented that it may be seen from the river wall, but it does not affect any views from other properties.

The full Parish Council did not have any objections to the proposal for a mobile phone mast.

ACTION: Clerk to email Telent Technology Services Ltd notifying them of the Councils decision.

Member of the Public left at 7.14pm

Cllr King re-entered the room at 7.14pm

2. District Councillor Tim Wilson
Tim Wilson submitted a written report.
2. **Apologies for absence:**
Cllr Wingrove and Cllr Howard.
3. **Acceptance of Apologies**
The Councillors all agreed to accept the apologies.
4. **Declarations of interest:**
Cllr King – Mobile Phone Mast
5. **Applications for dispensation:**
None
6. **It was agreed that the minutes of the 268th Parish Council (PC) meeting held on the 17th May 2023 be accepted as a true record of the meeting.**
7. **Matters arising from the 268th Parish Council meeting held on the 17th May 2023.**
 - 7.1 **8 Town farm Estate** – Cllr Macro reported that there are ongoing emails, the PC will be informed of future developments concerning Flagship and 8 Town Farm Estate.
ACTION: To place on the next agenda.
 - 7.2 **Friends Garage Update** – Cllr Addy said he was not aware of any updates.
ACTION: To place on the next agenda
 - 7.3 **Alde & Ore** – The Clerk reported that there is a public meeting to take place on the 29th June at 6.30pm in the Town Hall, this is relating to the upper end of the river.
ACTION: To place on the next agenda.
 - 7.4 **Trees** – The Clerk reported that she and Cllr Mallett are meeting with a Tree Surgeon on Friday morning. A list of suitable tree replacements for the areas in the village have been received from Falcon Saunders, Cllr Mallett has kindly agreed to find some prices for the trees and bring to the next meeting.
ACTION: Update from the meeting with the Tree Surgeon. Cllr Mallett to provide some quotes for the trees.
 - 7.5 **Broad Street** – The Clerk reported that emails had been sent to the Highways Drainage team, and the response stated....
“You also confirm the parish is not the actual landowner and presumably given the nature of the piece of land this has not been sold or changed hands since there was a requirement to register such transactions so there would be no record on Land Registry. Although as the problem does not appear to be causing flooding of the highway we have no grounds to take enforcement action against the landowner even if we knew who that was.
The Highways Act gives rights to carry out maintenance or improvement works on third party land for the purposes of draining the highway and given the nature of the piece of land the Highways Authority will almost certainly have done some maintenance in the past. The Act also makes it clear that carrying out works on third party land for the purpose of draining the public highway doesn't infer the highway authority takes on any duty or responsibility for future maintenance of the drain.”
Cllr Macro commented that although the Parish Council pays for the area of Village Green to have the grass cut, and the area is a registered village green does not mean that the PC owns it.
The Clerk also read out a section from the Solicitors which states.....
“Of course, this remains in the hands of Suffolk Highways for now, but I shall be grateful if you could also keep an eye on progress and let me know as soon as there is an update.”
After some discussion it was agreed that the PC should not respond until there was further updates from SCC Highways.
 - 7.6 **Email Addresses** – The Clerk received an email from SALC stating that the change for the email addresses was not mandatory but advised. The Clerk also read out a section from the ICO about email addresses. After some discussion it was agreed that the PC would remain with the email addresses that they currently have.

7.7 **Moles** – The Clerk reported that a quote for the clearing of the moles on the recreation ground had been received from Norse. This would be £247+VAT. Having discussed at the last PC meeting the Clerk had spoken with the current Mole Catcher and he had agreed to continue to catch the moles on Quay Street and the Knoll.

It was agreed by all to accept the quote from Norse to clear the moles.

ACTION: Clerk to notify the Norse of the agreement of the quote.

8. Contributions by members of the public.

Please see above.

9. Finance

9.1 **Authorisation for payment sheet** – There are three payments to authorise M Backhouse (reimbursement for the TENS licence for the Village Feast) - £21.00, M Backhouse (reimbursement for the Road Closure for the Village Feast) - £50, Tree Climber Tree Care (Tree work on the Recreation Ground) £220.00, Total £291.00.

Also, the staff wages of £949.

It was agreed by all to approve the payments.

9.2 **Internal Audit Report** – The Clerk reported that the Internal Audit report had been received from SALC and the necessary documents have been forwarded to PKF Littlejohn for the External Audit. The Internal Audit report had a comment relating to the procedure for the budget and precept decision. The Clerk commented that the minutes from the meeting where the budget is discussed, and the precept agreed should be more concise and detailed.

All the Councillors had a copy of the Internal Audit Report for their consideration.

It was agreed by all that the minutes should have more detail for the budget discussion.

ACTION: Clerk to ensure that the minutes for the budget meeting are more detailed.

10. Planning

Telent Technology Services Ltd – pre planning application consultation for the 25m Swann lattice mast with crow's nest headframe, palisade fenced compound and associated supporting apparatus on Raydon Hall, Orford, IP12 2BT.

This item was discussed at the beginning of the meeting.

ACTION: Clerk to send the comments of the PC to the company.

DC/23/2085/LBC & 2084/FUL – Old Smokehouse, Rear of 87 Market Hill, Orford, IP12 2LH

Extensions to part completed rebuild/restoration of curtilage listed former Smokehouse – footprint roughly as previously demolished structures.

It was agreed by the full Council not to object to this application.

ACTION: Clerk to send PC's comments to ESC.

Other notifications:

11. Parish Council Business: -

1. Parish Council Representative on outside bodies - SALC

Cllr Macro said that Cllr Wingrove wished to hand over this role to another Councillor as he is also a member of the AOC. Would anyone like to take on this role?

Cllr King agreed to become the SALC representative for the PC.

2. Co-option of a Councillor

The Clerk reported that no applications has been received.

3. Re-adoption of the Complaints Procedure, Privacy Statement, Data Retention Policy

The Clerk reported that there are no changes to these documents.

It was agreed by all to re-adopt these policies.

12. Correspondence

North Falls Offshore Windfarm – Carry over to the next meeting as Cllr Wingrove is absent.

20's Plenty – Cllr Macro commented that the information was circulated to all. Cllr Macro and the Clerk will be attending a webinar and will report back to the PC.

Posters – Cllr Macro said that a request from the Village Events Committee had been received, as they wish to place the posters for the event around the village as soon as possible. It was agreed by the Council that the posters may be placed around the village from the 1st October.

Cllr Thornton commented 'I have no objection to a Formal Ball being held in the town hall but I do not believe it is something that the Village Event Committee should be organising because it is targeted at a certain section of the community and is cost prohibitive for the vast majority of parishioners.

Also, if the Village Events Committee are to organise profit making events, they should be an autonomous body and have their own bank account. It's one thing for the PC to hold the funds from donations made by parishioners at the Coronation party in the square, but something completely different for the PC to hold the money from profit making events. The PC would be wise to completely alienate themselves from the Village Events Committee.'

Cllr Green and Cllr Iliff also commented that the Autumn Ball is not an inclusive event for the village because of the cost of the tickets.

Cllr Iliff said that she was concerned that the village was inundated with events and that now the Coronation was over there was no need for a PC sponsored events committee also this would put more work on the Clerk and Cllr Macro, which was not the intention of the Village Events Committee.

Cllr Macro reported that she would feed the comments back to the Committee.

13. Items for next meeting:

Items included in the minutes,

14. Date of next meeting: 12th July 2023

Meeting closed at 8.03pm.

