

**NEW ORFORD TOWN TRUST
REGISTERED CHARITY 1053729**

The Town Hall, Market Hill, ORFORD, Woodbridge, Suffolk IP12 2NZ

**Minutes of the 285th meeting held on
Wednesday 17 September 2025, at 7.00pm, in the New Room of Orford Town Hall**

MINUTES

Present: Cllrs I Thornton (Chairman), V Dunlop, M Green, J Howard, M Iliff, S Stoker and G Wingrove.
Clerk in attendance.

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Cllrs N Addy, C Ambury, A Macro, S Moss and the Treasurer.

2. Acceptance of Apologies

The above apologies were received from the Trustee.

3. Declarations of interest

Cllr M Green: allotment holder, supplier to Orford Country Market; Cllr J Howard: member of Orford Sailing Club, plot holder, mooring holder and river user; Cllr M Iliff: member of Orford Sailing Club; Cllr S Stoker: allotment holder; Cllr I Thornton: river user; Cllr G Wingrove: married to an allotment holder.

4. Minutes of the 284th meeting held on 16 July 2025

These were agreed and signed as an accurate record.

5. Matters arising from the 284th meeting held on 16 July 2025

There were no matters arising.

6. Treasurer's report

- Cheques and balances from 1 July to 31 August 2025: these were not available.

7. Committee reports

- No Estates/Highways meeting
- No Riverside meeting

8. General Trust business

- Progress with Village Fund purchases for Orford School: the Clerk reported that Mr Backhouse had finished work to the decking outside the teaching kitchen, and that Mr Benstead had finished the work to repair the boiler room door. Some of the damage to the bottom of the door had been caused by uncleared drains causing leaves to build up and hold water, rotting the bottom of the door. The Clerk had asked the school to try and keep the area clear to ensure that the door does not rot again. The contractor who had agreed to remove the toilet has not managed to do so yet, so the Clerk will try to find another contractor.
- Update on City Fibre contractors digging on NOTT land: after unauthorised digging had been started (and then stopped) in July the Clerk has ascertained from City Fibre's Wayleave Surveyor that no further works will be carried out on NOTT land near the river wall.
- Trustee's report: the Clerk had circulated a draft to members of the Trustee and this was agreed with one amendment to the list of trustees.

- Report from Cllr G Wingrove re flood defences: a document had been circulated to members of the Trustee. This is regarding details of a proposal by a group of concerned people in Orford to investigate the feasibility of constructing new flood banks on the southern and northern sides of the village which would join up with the existing river bank. At the moment it seems that funds earmarked for flood defences for the whole estuary will only be enough to cover works at Snape, but not the wider area, and there are groups in Orford and Aldeburgh looking to put together possible plans to protect their areas. Preliminary works to investigate possibilities and collate data for Orford are costed at £5,500 and NOTT was asked if it would support the proposal and possibly contribute to its cost. Once a viable plan is established a proposal would be presented to the Environment Agency/Internal Drainage Board. The Trustee is aware that part of the river wall is on land owned by NOTT, but it was felt that works to protect Orford as a whole was more suited to be dealt with by the Parish Council. It was commented that Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) money available to the Parish Council might be able to be used towards funding the feasibility costs.

After lengthy discussion Cllr S Stoker proposed that NOTT should support these initial proposals to look at the feasibility of future works, and should contribute 10% of the costs of £5,500. In addition, that the Parish Council should discuss if it could use CIL money to contribute to the cost. This was seconded by Cllr J Howard and agreed with 5 votes for, 1 against and 1 abstention.

- Bench outside the Town Hall: Cllr S Stoker asked what was happening about the damaged bench. The Clerk reported that the current one was made some years ago and that she had been unable to find a suitable replacement. It will be on the agenda of the next Estates meeting.

9. Correspondence

- Any progress re electric charging points in Quay Street car park: the Clerk reported that Electroad had come forward with a proposal re charging points in the car park, which would see them funding the charging points, with NOTT getting 5% of the profits from charging as income. After discussion about whether the Trustee felt that charging points were needed at this time, there was 1 vote in favour, 5 against and 1 abstention.
- Letter/emails of thanks for donations from: Brave Futures, Suffolk Accident Rescue Service, RNLI, Fire Fighters Charity, East Anglian Children's Hospice, Citizens Advice Bureau, for church flag, Orford Recreation Ground Charity: all noted.
- Email from Eezybike: Eezybike had emailed the Clerk after they had been informed of NOTT's decision at the last meeting not to have bike pods in the Quay Street car park. They asked that if they paid for parking spaces (thus generating some income from the spaces used) if the Trustee might reconsider. The Clerk was asked to find out exactly how much space the pod(s) would take up so that the Trustee can ascertain how many spaces would be taken up. The Trustee can then consider.

10. Items for next meeting: Village Fund applications

The meeting ended at 7.53pm.

11. Date of next meeting: Wednesday 8 October at 7pm (please note change from usual date)