

ORFORD & GEDGRAVE PARISH COUNCIL
The Town Hall, Market Hill, ORFORD, Woodbridge, Suffolk IP12 2NZ
Telephone: 01394 459172

**Minutes of the 155th meeting of Orford and Gedgrave Parish Council held on
Wednesday 18 January 2012 at 7.00pm in the New Room of the Town Hall**

MINUTES

7.00pm Public forum

Mrs J Jones attended the meeting to meet Councillors informally.

Present: Cllrs A Macro (Chairman), Z Backhouse, M Green, R Mallett, J Oakes, M Pearce, H Pilkington, V Ransome, J Robinson, R Roberts, and County Councillor Andrew Reid

Cllr H Pilkington addressed the Council and informed them that Marcus Vergette is proposing to put the Time and Tide Bell in the estuary by Pig Pail Sluice, just beyond the parish boundary. Cllr H Pilkington felt that this would mostly affect river users by noise pollution. He felt that Orford Sailing Club, Aldeburgh Yacht Club and NOTT members should be aware of this proposal, and we have no knowledge of how they will access this location. Next Tuesday Cllr H Pilkington will attend Sudbourne Parish Council's meeting, where they will be discussing the Bell.

The Chairman welcomed Andrew Reid and invited him to present his report (written report already distributed). He highlighted that up to the end of December 2011 the County Council has completed the budget process, and will debate in early February 2012 how to bridge the £50 million deficit. 3500 people, including members of the public, were involved in the budget consultation. Savings come from a new initiative to share the properties available to the local authority and public services.

Andrew Reid emphasised the Better Broadband initiative. At a national level the most suitable provider is being sought. It was reported that the Wilford Division is to meet with the broadband team. Andrew Reid has arranged for 6 Parish Councils to meet as well, and asked the Parish Council if it would be interested in attending. The Parish Council would, and suggested that Orford Business Association should also be asked to attend. Andrew Reid is awaiting a definite date, and will advise the office of the details.

The Chairman thanked Andrew Reid for his report, and opened the floor to questions. Cllr H Pilkington commented that better broadband was absolutely essential, and that Orford has a particularly poor mobile reception, which has an impact on businesses and visitors. Andrew Reid commented that this could be discussed by the better broadband team

Mrs J Jones left the meeting.

- 1. Apologies for absence**
Apologies were received from Cllrs A Cornford and M Iliff due to work commitments.
- 2. Declarations of interest**
There were no declarations of interest.
- 3. Minutes of the 154th Parish Council meeting held on 14 December 2011**
These were agreed and signed as an accurate record.
- 4. Matters arising from the 154th Parish Council meeting held on 14 December 2011**

Cllr A Macro asked the Clerk to see if there had been any progress with the affordable housing.

ACTION Clerk to obtain a definitive footpath map and arrange a meeting of the village greens sub-committee

5. Treasurer's report

Cheques and balances from 1-31 December 2011

The above were agreed by the Parish Council.

6. Planning report

Planning applications

C11/2603 The Gables, Rectory Road, Orford IP12 2NN

Erection of cart shed style double garage

The Parish Council agreed not to support this application as it is an inappropriate building for an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, and is of a Sussex and not Suffolk design. The Parish Council also believed it to be poorly sited.

C11/2777 Quay House Cottage, Quay Street, Orford IP12 2NU

Increase size of existing dormer window (revised scheme)

The Parish Council agreed to ask for clarification, as it is not possible to identify from the plans how much the application differs from the previous one.

Tree works

C11/00159/TCA Daphne House, Daphne Road, Orford IP12 2NH

Pruning to various Holm Oaks at Daphne House; pruning of yews and removal of sycamore from hedgeline on south side of Daphne Road opposite: Parish Council has no objections

Planning notifications

C11/1391 Gedgrave Hall Farm, Gedgrave Road, Gedgrave

Installation of photovoltaic panels on the southern slope of two farm buildings: PERMISSION GRANTED

7. Village Greens

Minutes from a meeting of the Village Greens sub-committee held on 10 January 2012

Approval sought for proposed timetable for de-registration of Broad Street village green

The following timetable for de-registration was agreed by the Parish Council:

Clerk to obtain forms for application	Completed
Village Greens sub-committee to agree timetable	10 January 2012
Submit timetable to Parish Council for agreement	18 January 2012
Submit timetable to Solicitor for agreement	19 January 2012
Preparation of forms for approval by solicitor	March 2012
Approval of completed forms by Parish Council	April 2012
Submission of forms and fee (to be done by new Parish Clerk)	April 2012

8. SCC Heritage Consultation

Jane Allen had kindly provided the Parish Council with her views on the proposals, which would involve additional travelling for anyone in this area who wished to consult documents.

ACTION Clerk and Cllr R Roberts to complete the reply on behalf of the Parish Council

9. General Parish Council business

Cllr H Pilkington reported that the river wall, from where it was repaired to the Quay, is in a very poor state.

ACTION Clerk to write to the Environment Agency about the poor state of the footpath for walkers

10. Correspondence

- Suffolk Preservation Society: **ACTION Clerk to write to advise them of the remaining overhead electricity poles in Orford**
- Letter from Malcolm King (Suffolk County Council Highways department) re possibility of yellow lines in Quay Street, from car park to Quay (enclosed)
- Draft letter of reply to the above letter for discussion: the reply was agreed with small alterations: **ACTION Clerk to send amended letter as above**
- Letter from Mr Rugge-Price re traffic dangers from the Quay Street car park to the Quay: Cllr R Roberts commented that it would be difficult to prevent the custom of Orford residents visiting the river and sitting in their cars for short periods. **ACTION Clerk to acknowledge Mr Rugge-Price's letter and send a copy to Malcolm King**
- Letter from East Anglian Offshore Wind re public information day on Lowestoft: Cllrs A Macro and J Oakes may attend. **ACTION Clerk to inform Mr R Hipwell of the meeting**
- E-mail from Orwell Housing explaining that their original planning application for internal alterations to Esmond House had been withdrawn as new plans were being drawn up. These will be submitted to planning in due course.
- Email from Health Smart offering free health checks for people aged between 40 and 74. It was agreed that Orford Town Hall could be used as a venue, and it was reported that Sudbourne Parish Council might be interested in working with Orford PC on this. It was agreed that the Clerk should talk this over with the surgery before proceeding. **ACTION Clerk to contact surgery as above**
- Letter of thanks from Peter Hamilton-Jones re donation to Royal British Legion

11. Dates of future meetings

12. Items for next meeting

No items were suggested.

13. Date of next meeting: Wednesday 23 February 2012

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IN CAMERA

Present: Cllrs A Macro (Chairman), Z Backhouse, M Green, R Mallett, J Oakes, M Pearce, H Pilkington, V Ransome, J Robinson, R Roberts

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Cllrs A Cornford and M Iliff due to work commitments.

2. Declarations of interest

There were no declarations of interest.

**3. Minutes of an Extraordinary meeting of the Parish Council held on 30 November 2011
Minutes of the 154th Parish Council (in camera) meeting held on 14 December 2011
Minutes of meetings of the Finance and General Purposes Committee held on:
16 December 2011
30 December 2011
12 January 2012**

All the above minutes were agreed and signed as an accurate record.

4. Report re progress with appointment of Parish Clerk

Recommendation of Finance and General Purposes Committee re the above

Now that the Councillors present had met Mrs Jones the proposal is to offer her the position of Parish Clerk, for 10 hours per week, at £??? per hour.

Cllr H Pilkington queried whether the the present Clerk and Assistant Clerk had been involved in discussions on how to split work. Cllr M Pearce replied that they had not. It was reported that the Parish Clerk would work on Mondays and Fridays, and the Trust Clerk on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays. It is proposed that the Finance and General Purposes Committee will meet with the Assistant Clerk if the appointment of Mrs Jones is confirmed.

A memo from the Clerk was circulated advising that there would be legal problems with a complete split of the jobs (with each Clerk being unable to carry out any work whatsoever for the other organisation). Cllr M Pearce replied that a clause had been added to both contracts to cover the legalities.

Cllr H Pilkington commented that it appeared that discussions had taken place without consulting the Clerk or Assistant Clerk, and Cllr M Pearce replied that this was correct. Cllr H Pilkington queried whether there would be separate computers/telephone numbers. He asked if the Assistant Clerk had applied for the Parish Council vacancy, and Cllr M Pearce confirmed that she had, but was not qualified.

Cllr A Macro proposed that Mrs Jones should be offered the position of Parish Clerk for 10 hours per week, covering for the Trust Clerk when required: 9 votes for with one abstention. Cllr H Pilkington abstained on the grounds that he does not have any knowledge of the

applicant, and considers this split to be a complex situation.

5. Budget for 2012/13

Acceptance of quote from SCDC for village green and recreation ground grass cutting: the Parish Council agreed to accept this quote, which has no increase in charges.

Recommendation of Finance and General Purposes Committee to keep the precept at £22,855
This was agreed unanimously, as was the draft budget for 2012/13.

Cllr H Pilkington commented that it would be preferable to employ local businesses rather than large companies like Suffolk Coastal Services, even if charges were considerably higher.

The meeting closed at 8.20pm.