

ORFORD & GEDGRAVE PARISH COUNCIL
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Minutes of the 175th meeting of Orford & Gedgrave Parish Council
held on Wednesday 12th February 2013 at 7.00pm in the New Room of the Town Hall

Present: Cllr Anne Macro (Chairman) Cllr James Robinson
 Cllr Margaret Green Cllr Peter Smith
 Cllr Vicki Ransome Cllr Julie Thacker
 Cllr Richard Mallett Cllr Mary Iliff
 Cllr Michael Pearce

In Attendance, Marie Backhouse (Clerk), Martin Atkinson and Grant Lahoar (representatives from the National Trust).

Opening remarks

Public Forum

No contributions from members of the public.

MINUTES

1. Reports from Representatives

1. County Councillor Andrew Reid.

A report was handed out at meeting and Andrew Reid summarised this. Please see attached copy.

7.05 Cllr H Pilkington arrives

7.08 Andrew Reid leaves – Cllr A Macro thanked him for attending,

Martin Atkinson – National Trust General Manager

Martin Atkinson felt that in the light of things that have happened recently on the Orfordness, he should make himself familiar with some of the Councillors and their views. He is willing to be contacted if there are any queries, also he would like a list of dates for the Village Voice deadlines so that they may put in a monthly report.

Clerk to arrange a list of deadline dates and forward to Martin Atkinson.

2. Apologies for absence:

Cllr Richard Roberts and Cllr John Oakes.

3. Declarations of interest:

Cllr M Pearce and Cllr M Iliff – Neighbours of Cedar House, Broad Street.

Cllr R Mallett – Currently working at Saham Cottage, Quay Street.

4. Applications for dispensation:

None

5. It was unanimously agreed that the minutes held on Wednesday 15th January 2014 be accepted as a true record.

6. Matters arising from the 174th Parish Council meeting held on 15th January 2014.

None

7. Finance

7.1 The Council received, noted and approved the cheques and balances from 1st January – 31st January 2014.

Cllr A Macro informed the Council that 3 reminders have been sent to the Moving Place regarding the outstanding amount of £245. It was agreed the Cllr A Macro should visit them on a Wednesday evening at the Castle to discuss this matter.

8. Planning

DC/14/0206/FUL – Lighthouse, Orfordness, Orford

This was permission to construct a temporary stabilisation of the beach crest in front of the Lighthouse achieved by placing 50M long barrier comprising of 1 Ton bags with heat welded overlap of HSP17 (Geo-synthetic sheet).

Cllr H Pilkington reported that this is only a temporary measure to save the Lighthouse, there is a query as to where the gravel is coming from; and it would be interesting to have the view of the National Trust on this matter.

Martin Atkinson replies that the National Trust had no objections to this temporary measure.

Cllr H Pilkington felt that it was important for the correct approval to be given if they were not using their own gravel, it is about 40 tons; also the diagram does not show the precise place for this barrier to be placed.

Cllr J Robinson has been informed that there is a team of people available to assist with this. Cllr M Pearce commented that Mr gold is using shingle from his own land, and this will be returned when this exercise is finished.

Cllr J Robinson asked Grant Lahoar if he was aware of the situation at the Lighthouse.

Grant Lahoar replied that he had not been there today, but it was thought that the sea was working its way behind the Lighthouse to the white buildings.

After some discussion it was agreed that the Council should have no objection to the temporary measure.

DC/14/0238/LBC & 0236/FUL – The Lodge, Doctors Lane, Orford,

This was permission for alterations and extensions to the existing dwelling and addition of railings, fencing and wall. Cllr H Pilkington commented that these are small changes. The Council had no objections to this proposal.

Other Notifications

DC/13/3039/DRC – Cedar House, Broad Street, Orford

Conditions 3 & 6 of planning permission C/13/0932 have been discharged.

DC/13/3714/DRC – Saham Cottage, Quay Street, Orford,

Condition 4 of DC/13/2598/LBC has been discharged.

DC/13/3252/FUL – Lavender Cottage & Culmore, Crown Lane, Orford

Permission has been granted for the erection of a single storey side extension, also alterations to and replacement of windows and rendering overall.

9. Parish Council Business:-

(1) Village sign update.

Cllr A Macro has been in contact with Mark Rumsey who informs her that everything has been cut out and is about to be filed, he has a post to place it on; this then has to be painted by Maria Brenchley. Cllr A Macro said she would like this completed by the end of March; also she has spoken to Darren Worne, and he hopes to complete the work down Quay Street as soon as there is some fine weather.

(2) Ice-cream lease at the Castle.

Cllr A Macro reported that Cheryl who runs the ice-cream business has encountered a few problems down Quay Street and wishes to release the plot at the Castle. This would of course affect the income to the Parish Council but it could be advertised.

Clerk to write to Cheryl Jennings, and to seek new seller.

(3) AOEP

Cllr H Pilkington reported that everyone should have received the minutes of the last meeting. The last meeting concentrated on the breaching of the river walls in December; also the neighbouring development which is permission to build houses on land that would otherwise not be fit for development.

Cllr H Pilkington is handing over the role of Parish Council representative to Cllr P Smith. Cllr H Pilkington commented that the Parish Council need to watch this development carefully. Cllr P Smith asked if it would involve upper end housing. Cllr H Pilkington replied yes, there would be no social housing.

10. Correspondence

- **MAGPAS – Request for donation**

Cllr A Macro read out a letter requesting a donation from MAGPAS – it was agreed to pass this on to the NOTT.

- **P.N.Hamilton-Jones – Thanks for the donation**

Cllr A Macro read out a letter thanking the Parish Council for the donation to the Royal British Legion.

- **Quiet Lanes**

Cllr A Macro read out a poster concerning a meeting at Bromeswell Village Hall for the promotion of Quiet Lanes in Suffolk. The meeting is on the 1st March, and Cllr A Macro commented that she would attend if possible.

- **Cllr J Oakes – letter of resignation.**

Cllr A Macro read out a letter of resignation from Cllr J Oakes. The Councillors thanked Cllr J Oakes for his help to the Parish Council.

Clerk to arrange a letter and contact SCDC.

10. Items for next meeting

- **Village Newsletter – Cllr M Pearce**
- **Neighbourhood Plans – Cllr H Pilkington**

11. Date of next meeting: 12/03/14 (TBC)

Meeting closed at 7.42pm.

Signed _____ **(Chairman)**

Date _____

Orford and Gedgrave Parish Council

SCC News Update – February 2014

Cabinet approves proposed budget savings and council tax freeze for 2014/15

The cabinet gave its approval to the budget proposals for the new financial year, at its meeting in January. The savings proposals are the first part of a four-year plan designed to fill an estimated budget gap of £156 million, equivalent to 30% of the council's current annual budget (excluding schools). This on top of more than £90 million saved since April 2011. The proposals include savings of: £8.2 million in landfill taxes next year thanks to the new Energy from Waste site, which is scheduled to open next year; £9 million from administrative costs following the end of the Customer Services Direct contract; £10million from the Adult and Community Services budget – including a greater focus on early prevention and closer working with the NHS; £6.7 million from the children and young people's budget – including a review of children's centre services, to ensure they can best meet the needs of young families, and £4 million from the capital budget. All four years, between now and 2017 will also see a complete freeze in SCC's portion of council tax. Final approval of the budget is in the hands of the full council, who will debate it at their next meeting on 13th February 2014.

We are determined to meet the budget challenge head-on: managing the county's money extremely carefully; seeking new and better ways of providing the services people need, while helping with residents' cost of living by keeping council tax down.

SCC Shortlisted for Most Improved Council award

The county council has made it through to the final shortlist in the Most Improved Council category for the 2014 Local Government Chronicle Awards. In being shortlisted – for the second year in a row - we have been recognised for being at the cutting edge of the national broadband project, in the vanguard of moves to share office accommodation with other public sector organisations, helping secure the City Deal for Greater Ipswich, as well as managing the multi-million-pound energy from waste project towards its completion. The other councils on the shortlist are all from eastern England – Norwich City Council, Luton Borough Council and Thurrock Council. Overall, 640 entries were submitted for 19 different awards this year. Winners will be announced on 12th March 2014.

We are focused on finding better, more effective and efficient ways of providing the services people need, within increasingly tight budgets. Being shortlisted for this award is national recognition for our innovative approach and on-going push for improvement.

Child Adoption

SCC is urging people interested in adopting to come forward, with 30 children in Suffolk currently looking for a permanent adoptive family. This New Year push is aimed at addressing the desperate need for more people to come forward and provide 'forever families'. The council is especially on the look-out for families for sibling groups, older children and children with disabilities. Applications are welcomed from all sections of the community, to offer a child, or sibling group, a loving and supportive family for life. Anyone interested in finding out more about adoption can call Suffolk Adoption Agency on 01473 265595, or visit www.suffolk.gov.uk/care-and-support/fostering-and-adoption/adoption

Anyone able to adopt, is giving a young person a far better chance of a happy and fulfilling life that would otherwise be the case, and we urge anyone interested to come forward.

Nominations coming in for first 'Raising the Bar' awards set to celebrate ambition, hard work and excellence.

Over 180 excellent teachers, dedicated support staff, committed school governors and hard-working young people have already been nominated for an award to recognise their efforts.

The Raising the Bar Awards, launched by SCC, will celebrate success and endeavour as a way of sharing best practice. Raising the Bar judges want to hear about brilliant school governors, efforts made by members of the community to ensure young people get the best education possible, or the determination of a young person to learn. Nominations can be made to 12 categories in total with the winners being announced in March this year. The awards are open to all publicly-funded

educational establishments and nominations can be made by anyone – teachers, support staff, governors, parents, pupils, community members – and can be self nominations or nominations of others. Such has been the response to the awards already, that the deadline for nominations has now been extended to Friday 28th February. To make a nomination or to find out more about the criteria for each of the award categories, visit www.rtbawards.co.uk

Raising attainment levels is our number one priority. These awards are a great way of acknowledging the excellent work put in by those involved in education.

GCSE results move Suffolk up five places in league table

Last month's publication of the national league tables for schools, based on the most recent GCSE results, saw Suffolk move up to 137th out of 151 local authority areas. This is a five-place improvement on last year. It also means Suffolk is climbing nearer to the national average. 54.6% of Suffolk pupils gained five or more GCSEs graded between A* to C, putting Suffolk 6.4% off the national average of 61%. This compares with the previous year's results, when Suffolk was 8.5% off the national average of 59%. As Lisa Chambers, SCC's cabinet member for education said: "The results are a reflection of the hard work put in by young people and all those individuals in the Suffolk education system who have been relentless in pursuit of improved standards in the county. I do however recognise that there is still work to be done to get Suffolk further up the league tables and performing above the national average. Crucially, the pace of improvement needs to increase. It's what our young people deserve from their education and it's what we are all determined to achieve."

Raising attainment levels in education is our number one priority. Every step along that road is worth acknowledging, along with the hard work put in by pupils and their schools. However, there is much still to do and we will continue our work to push Suffolk up the league tables.

Adult work clubs set to open in the spring

Clubs aimed at supporting unemployed residents back into work are being set up in the east of Suffolk.

SCC has been working with the East Suffolk Partnership (ESP), to develop a Work Club programme for unemployed adults in the Suffolk Coastal and Waveney District Council areas. The ESP has made £65,000 available to SCC to contract a provider to deliver the clubs in Lowestoft, Beccles, Leiston-Saxmundham, Woodbridge and Felixstowe. After this initial funding, the aim will be for the clubs to be self-sustaining. The focus will be on the 25-plus age group but all those who are unemployed will be welcome. The core service will be initial job-search and application support, making use of links with the National Careers Service, training providers, the Voluntary and Community Sector, Job Centre Plus and other agencies for more in-depth assistance. The clubs will also feature strong links to local business so that employers are engaged in supporting the project as well. It is hoped that the clubs will be up and running in April 2014.

This new investment is welcome news. We are happy to be involved in any such practical support that we can give to help those who are seeking a way back into work.

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