

ORFORD & GEDGRAVE PARISH COUNCIL
The Town Hall, Market Hill, Orford, Woodbridge, Suffolk. IP 12 2NZ
Tel: 01394 459172

E-mail: orfordtownhall@tiscali.co.uk

Minutes of the 183rd meeting of Orford & Gedgrave Parish Council
held on Wednesday 12th November 2014 at 7.00pm in the New Room of the Town Hall

Present: Cllr Anne Macro (Chairman)	Cllr Derick Brenchley
Cllr Peter Smith	Cllr Michael Finney
Cllr Vicki Ransome	Cllr Julie Thacker
Cllr Mary Iliff	Cllr Richard Roberts
Cllr Margaret Green	Cllr James Robinson

In Attendance, Marie Backhouse (Clerk), also 2 members of the public – D Forbes and R Mellor.

Opening remarks

Public Forum

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and invited questions from members of the public.

R.Mellor wondered when we may have a report from the Police as we used to have regular reports. The Clerk passed a current report from this evenings meeting to R Mellor.

D Forbes noticed on the agenda the item relating to the shop and as he lives next door to the shop, he felt it was relevant to him; he was also curious at having read a report in the Village Voice about the shop, it does not have anything to do with the Parish Council; therefore he is waiting to hear the discussion and he wished to know who had requested that it be placed on the agenda.

Cllr A Macro replied that a parishioner requested it was put on the agenda, but was unsure what was to be discussed; also the Post Office was on the agenda because we had received some correspondence.

D Forbes felt it was good news that the Post Office was to be open 7 days a week but security was an issue to be concerned about but apparently Penny Teale said the layout of the shop was set to the plans from the Post Office; modern security in the Post Offices is now better than before.

R Mellor questioned whether it was appropriate for an item a parishioner requested to go on the agenda, could anything be requested? Cllr A Macro replied that it was because of the information in the Village voice. R Mellor felt it was not an issue for the Parish Council as they have no control over it. Cllr P Smith commented that Penny Teale had asked Cllr A Macro to discuss the plans for the shop, and she wishes to discuss this with the Parish Council.

Meeting opened at 7.06pm.

MINUTES

1. Reports from Representatives

1. County Councillor Andrew Reid.

Andrew Reid was not present, but a written report was distributed.

3. Suffolk Constabulary

The Suffolk Constabulary were not present , but a written report was distributed.

2. Apologies for absence:

Cllr Michael Pearce

3. Declarations of interest:

None

4. Applications for dispensation:

None

5. It was unanimously agreed that the minutes held on Wednesday 8th October 2014 be accepted as a true record.

6. Matters arising from the 182nd Parish Council meeting held on 10th September 2014.

None

7. Finance

7.1 The Council received, noted and approved the cheques and balances from 1st October – 31st October 2014. Cllr A Macro explained that the Treasurer would be willing to answer any questions relating to the finances.

8. Planning

DC/14/3062/FUL – 12 Raydon Lane, Orford

This was a proposal to erect a single storey barn with workshop and study place. Cllr A Macro commented that the Clerk and herself had visited the site, SCDC seemed happy with everything; and lots of research has taken place. Cllr R Roberts said it seems to be OK. The Councillors had no objections to this.

DC/14/3294/TCA – 24 High Street, Orford

This was a proposal to 30% crown reduce and shape a eucalyptus and reduce 30-40% of regrowth of previous pollards. The Council had no objection to this.

DC/14/3079/LBC & 3078/FUL – 85 Market Hill, Orford

This was a proposal to demolish rear and side extensions and porch; erect a single storey rear and two storey side extension and new porch; take up and relay roof; alter two rear windows and insert casement into top storey window; internal alterations and improvements; new garden shed/store and new stops at the side. This application varies details under 13/2793/FUL and 13/2794/LBC.

Cllr V Ransome commented that this is not going to affect anyone's light. Cllr A Macro said the side extension is a double storey instead of a single.

The Council had no objections to this proposal.

DC/14/3248/VOC – The Lodge, Doctors Lane, Orford

This was a proposal for alterations and extensions to existing dwelling and addition of railings, fencing and walls.

Cllr R Roberts said that some work is well underway at this property. The Clerk reported that there is to be a change of glass in one of the windows. Cllr M Finney commented that the neighbouring property would be given the opportunity to object if they wished.

The Council had no objections to this proposal.

DC/14/3293/FUL – Plot 2b, Orford Quay, Quay Street

This was a proposal for the erection of a dinghy storage shed.

Cllr M Finney commented that these similar sheds are being erected down the quay. Cllr R Roberts said that these plans had been looked at during the last NOTT meeting.

The Council had no objections to this proposal.

DC/14/3289/FUL – Plot 2g, Orford Quay, Quay Street

This was a proposal to erect a boat shed.

The Council had no objections to this proposal.

DC/14/3351/FUL – Bright House, Rectory Road, Orford

This was a proposal to convert and extend the existing garage block for use as habitable holiday let accommodation.

Cllr R Roberts felt that this is interesting and he mentioned a comment that Cllr M Pearce had sent that stated this is another holiday let, and is it needed? Cllr A Macro said she had spoken to someone who knows the owners and apparently their house is very popular, and if they wished they could stay in the new accommodation or let that as well. Cllr P Smith commented that this would be an extra investment. Cllr R Roberts commented that during the meeting with SCDC the issue regarding holiday lets to the general housing situation in the village was mentioned and this proposal fits in with our concerns. Cllr J Robinson commented that this is not a new build, it is converting the garage.

Cllr M Finney said this is not knocking two cottages together to make a holiday let, which would concern us, it is a garage; I do not feel we can decline it; it has no dynamics in the village way ahead. Cllr V Ransome commented that it is quite secluded. Cllr M Finney felt it was not going to make a visual impact. Cllr R Roberts said the only other aspect we should look at is the parking issue; they have moved spaces out into the open which may have created slightly more room; the SCDC officers have been kept in touch throughout and probably approve this.

The Council had no objection to this proposal.

Other Notifications:-

None

9. Parish Council Business:-

(1) Defibrillator

Cllr P Smith reported that Orford has been given a defibrillator which was agreed to be a good idea by the Parish Council and we are to be given £100 towards installation, but we have to find somewhere to place it; the shop or the bakery was suggested as it needs to be a memorable place. Cllr P Smith emailed the Pump Street Bakery but they were concerned that there is no 24 hour access to a phone in the bakery; the Town Hall has been mentioned but would people know it was the Town Hall; the current situation is that we have one but we need to discuss where it should go.

Cllr M Finney said that if it was on the Town Hall next to the telephone kiosk it would be useful as we have poor mobile phone signal. Cllr P Smith said he would suggest the Town Hall. Cllr A Macro said this is a question that must be put to the NOTT. Cllr R Roberts wondered if the fact that the Town Hall is a listed building could be a problem.

The Chairman thanked Cllr P Smith for all his hard work on this.

Clerk to ask NOTT Clerk to place this item on the agenda for the next meeting, also to find out if a defibrillator may be placed on a listed building.

(2) Outdoor Gym

Cllr A Macro reported that the outdoor gym is up and running, the seats do get a bit damp but it being well used.

Cllr R Roberts wished to congratulate the Chairman and the Clerk for this asset to the facilities on the recreation ground.

(3) Village Shop

Cllr A Macro said that there was a letter in the Village Voice which informed us all that the shop was about to downsize; she has also been invited round to look at the plans for the new premises, which she hopes to do soon. Cllr A Macro reported that she has already discovered that Ms Teale does not require permission to change the butchers shop to a Post Office/Shop as it will still be a commercial premises. Cllr M Finney commented that something which is a concern to the Council is what will happen to the existing shop when it closes. Cllr R Roberts suggested that it may be a change of use, and it would be interesting to see what Ray Herring thinks. Cllr A Macro said that Ray Herring and Andrew Reid are aware of the situation as the Village Voice letter was sent to them. Cllr R Roberts feels that this is an appropriate item to have on the agenda as it is a matter of general concern; Councillors need to know the information so they can have the answers for the parishioners and there are matters that Councillors may influence but not control.

Cllr A Macro read out a letter from the Post Office concerning the forthcoming proposed changes to the Post Office; longer opening times, no enclosed area, continued Post Office products, it may need to close for 7 days to enable the refurbishment of the shop; the Post Office would like to know what people think to this idea as there is a website which enables us to do this. Cllr M Finney commented that there has already been letters sent to people in the village.

Meeting closed 7.30pm.

D Forbes commented that there are already letters in the shop and has been for some time.

Meeting opened 7.31pm.

Cllr r Roberts reported that the concerns he had heard related to the retail counter; how many members of staff will be trained; personal security whilst queuing and general privacy. Cllr M Finney said are we aware of any Post Offices that have had the changes made to them that we may visit; also businesses that have moved into the village will be enhanced by the extended opening times, this will be a benefit.

Clerk to enquire whether there is a Post Office we may visit that has had the changes made to it.

(4) Barts Hall

Cllr A Macro said that we need to make a decision about this issue; a representative from an artificial grass company came to look at this, he said that there is a concrete plinth that runs from the edge of Bakers Lane for about a meter, this needs to be right the way along for us to butt up to. Cllr A Macro met with Robin Warne from the Highways to ask if this concrete plinth could be placed along the edge of the road, but we have had no reply yet as he had to look into the budget; if they were unable to do this the Easygrass company could but it would be expensive.

Cllr M Iliff wondered if this may look strange in the summer when all the other grass would be brown and dry.

Cllr A Macro said it will cost in the region of £12-14,000; but we will approach the church and the NOTT to see if they could assist with the cost. Cllr R Roberts said we would all have to declare an interest in this; this is a perfect illustration of the nonsense of the Parish Councillors being the Trustees because we have an absolute clash of interest; if we apply to the Trust we are applying to ourselves; and we would all have to declare an interest. Cllr A Macro said there may be someone who would give us some grasscrete. Cllr J Robinson commented that this may be cheaper and we could seed some tough grass on it, which may be more affordable for us. Cllr M Finney suggested that those people who park there should contribute to the expense of this. Cllr M Iliff said that outside Barts Hall looks a mess because when it was built the church said they would put it back but they never did. Cllr A Macro commented that the mess consists of rocks and brick rubble, everything needs digging out. Cllr V Ransome suggested that we ask the Hollesley Bay Prison if some of their inmates could do this as part of community work. Cllr R Roberts said they do some very good work at Butley Church in the churchyard but it depends on the supervisor on the day. Cllr M Finney wondered how we go about de-registering this bit of village green. Cllr A Macro said it would cost £5000. Cllr M Iliff added that you also need to replace it with another piece of ground you could register.

(5) English Heritage

Cllr A Macro said that we have had a meeting but Ruth Watson was unable to attend; they have requested another meeting next week to discuss the Fish & Chip van and the Ice Cream cart; is there anyone who would like to attend; it is on the 19th November at 10.00am in the New Room. Cllr R Roberts suggested a preliminary meeting may be a good idea so we may make our views understood. Cllr A Macro said that English Heritage and Ruth Watson are concerned about the noisy generators and the appearance. Cllr r Roberts suggested that we email them to make them aware of who is hoping to attend.

Clerk to email Steve Bax and Ruth Watson.

10. Correspondence

- **Suffolk Coastal District Council**

Cllr A Macro read out a letter about the cost of the Election next year, and it will be approximately £641 that we have to contribute.

- **Post Office**

This item was discussed under 9.3 Village Shop.

- **Michael & Judith Shallow**

Cllr A Macro read out an email that requested the same parking restrictions in winter as in summer from the Jolly Sailor to the Quay; this was tried 2 years ago and all the residents from that area didn't want it. Cllr A Macro also read out a letter from Diana Paterson whom had been shown a letter gaining support from the residents of the lower end of Quay Street to change the single yellow line to double; Diana Paterson has informed the residents of the public meeting that was held and the decision to keep it as it currently is.

Cllr M Finney asked if we could have residents only parking. Cllr A Macro replied that this has been tried before but it is unable to be enforced.

Clerk to respond to Michael & Judith Shallow.

- **Suffolk Coastal District Council**

Cllr A Macro read out a letter of acknowledgement for our input into the local plan.

- **Harlequin Group**

Cllr A Macro read out a pre-application request for a mobile phone mast at Chantry Farm; plans were distributed to the Councillors; an email from Cllr M Pearce stated that we have little option but to accept as this is a one off opportunity and we badly need a better reception, there are only 1-2 properties that will have it in their sight line.

Cllr M Green felt this would be an impact on the view from the river wall and the Castle. Cllr M Finney asked if there was a history behind this application. Cllr A Macro replied that enquiries were made and the Harlequin group came, looked at the area down the quay and Chantry Farm, and have obviously chosen the farm. Cllr M Finney said this cannot be disguised as a flagpole and it needs to go on the highest point of ground, he felt a place that may be suitable could be the old auxiliary service look out bunker the other side of the Broome. Cllr A Macro commented that Mr Watson had tried to gain permission to erect a mast but was so far, unsuccessful. Cllr J Robinson said that this was probably unsuitable because of the cost of installation but Chantry Farm has everything that is needed. Cllr M Finney asked where the discussion has been regarding this, it will stick up a long way above the barn. Cllr R Roberts commented that this will be very noticeable from Chantry Point; we ought to comment to Harlequin about the appearance of it. Cllr V Ransome suggested it could be on the Ness with the others. Cllr M Finney wondered if we should meet with them to see what their thought process was. Cllr P Smith felt that we do need to discuss this further. Cllr M Finney said we need to be in a position to reply to parishioners who may ask, if it goes ahead, why is this here?

Cllr A Macro reported that the NOTT Clerk was shocked when this arrived as she was under the impression that Harlequin was to place a mast down the quay.

Clerk to contact Harlequin to see if a meeting is possible.

11. Items for next meeting:

None

12. Date of next meeting: 14/01/15

Meeting closed at 8.15pm.

Signed _____ (Chairman) Date _____