

**ORFORD & GEDGRAVE PARISH COUNCIL**  
**The Town Hall, Market Hill, Orford, Woodbridge, Suffolk. IP12 2NZ**  
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**Minutes of the 192<sup>nd</sup> meeting of Orford & Gedgrave Parish Council**  
**held on Wednesday 14th October 2015 at 7.00pm in the Main Room of the Town Hall**

Present: Cllr Anne Macro (Chairman)                      Cllr Derick Brenchley  
          Cllr Jonnie Howard                                    Cllr Michael Finney  
          Cllr Ian Thornton                                    Cllr Margaret Green  
          Cllr Mary Iliff                                         Cllr Michelle Golder

In Attendance, Marie Backhouse (Clerk).

**Opening remarks**

**Public Forum**

There was one member of the public.

Mr R Mellor commented that he had seen the title ‘village pump’ on the agenda and wondered if this was about the renovation of the pump. He suggested that the pump be returned back to the colour black; also the access lid to the well should be checked as it has a large crack in it. It was also suggested that we may need to ask for planning permission if we wish to erect a fence, and the highways department should also be notified of our intentions.

**MINUTES**

**1. Reports from Representatives**

1. County Councillor Andrew Reid.

Absent but a written report was handed out at the meeting.

2. District Councillor Ray Herring

Ray Herring submitted a written report and summarised it to the Council. A copy of the report is attached.

3. Suffolk Constabulary

Absent but a written report was handed out at the meeting.

**2. Apologies for absence:**

Cllr J Robinson, Cllr M Smy & Cllr R Mallett

**3. Declarations of interest:**

None

**4. Applications for dispensation:**

None

**5. It was unanimously agreed that the minutes of the 191<sup>st</sup> meeting held on Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> September 2015 be accepted as a true record.**

Cllr M Finney commented that he was sure Andrew Reid had agreed to investigate the mobile phone mast progress in the village.

**Clerk to contact Andrew Reid**

**6. Matters arising from the 191<sup>st</sup> Parish Council meeting held on 16<sup>th</sup> September 2015.**

Cllr J Howard reported that he and Cllr M Finney had looked at the wall near the Castle Knoll separately; the wall is single brick and there are some bricks that have fallen out near to the benches. It was agreed that both Councillors should visit the owner of the wall together to make them aware of this situation and to ensure there could be no misunderstandings.

**7. Finance**

7.1 The Council received, noted and approved the cheques and balances from 1<sup>st</sup> September – 30<sup>th</sup> September 2015.

7.2 The Council received, noted and approved the quarterly accounts from July – September 2015.

Cllr A Macro informed the Council that if they had any concerns, they could contact the Treasurer.

**8. Planning**

**Other Notifications:-**

**9. Parish Council Business:-**

**(1) Play equipment on Recreation Ground**

Cllr A Macro reported that we have received the inspection report completed by David Bracey; there are some issues that need to be monitored as they are low risk; the roundabout needs a couple of new wooden slats; the multiplay has some worn rope, a wooden slat needs replacing and also some of the welding is rusty and needs repairing; also the kissing gate on the entrance to the field should have a rubber buffer to prevent finger entrapment.

It was agreed by all to ask Mark Thacker to quote for these repairs.

We are still looking for quotes for the multiplay at the recreation ground.

**(2) Co-option of a Councillor**

Cllr A Macro read out an application from a candidate wishing to join the Council. This application was fully considered by the Council; Cllr J Howard proposed that Dr Smith was appointed and this was passed unanimously.

**Clerk to write to Dr Smith.**

**(3) Update on the VAS**

Cllr A Macro reported that she and the Clerk had met with Robin Warne (Highways) and he is in the process of writing to us with the plans for the VAS which we have to approve and sign. Once this has been done the time for the delivery is 12-14 weeks.

**(4) Village pump**

Cllr A Macro commented that the Parish Council had received a donation from a parishioner towards the renovation of the village pump. It would be nice to re-paint the pump black and to replace the grass with stone, also to consider a fence as it was fenced off years ago. The pump is a listed building. We have talked to Robin Warne (Highways) about this and he is going to look in his office to see if they have any information regarding this piece of land.

Cllr I Thornton asked if it was fenced in and someone tripped over it would we be liable.

Cllr A Macro replied that the fence would be similar to the one outside the old shop, so that it matched.

Cllr M Green commented that the pump was used back in the 1950's for the visiting circus animals to drink from.

It was agreed that Cllr J Howard and Cllr M Finney would check the lid to the well near the pump and also if possible look into the well to check the stability of the brickwork.

## 10. Correspondence

- **Diana Partridge**

Cllr A Macro read an email from Diana Partridge concerning the lack of communication with the residents of Munday's Lane and the zip wire; people leaving the Rec Hut after an evening of drinking and climbing onto the zip wire; off road parking and parking in general down Munday's Lane also the possibility of placing yellow lines down there.

Cllr A Macro commented that the zip wire was positioned by recommendations from the companies that quoted for the job of installing a zip wire.

We have spoken to Robin Warne concerning yellow lines in Munday's Lane which would cost us about £5,000 for the registration; this would not be a definite yes that the yellow lines would happen it may be that we could lose that money.

Cllr I Thornton commented that the zip wire was in the minutes in April 2015, which would have been displayed on the noticeboard as well as on the website for people to read.

Cllr M Golder commented that she had spoken to a couple of people who had said that the zip wire is being used late at night; she also suggested that it would be advisable to inform the residents before we undertake changing things; even if this was just putting a simple note through the letterbox, this would give people the chance to comment.

Cllr D Brenchley commented that this would have been difficult to do as the installation date kept changing due to the company having staffing problems.

Cllr I Thornton thought we should consider the implications of people infused with alcohol, maybe it should be locked up.

Cllr A Macro wondered if we should place a poster on the zip wire, 'use at your own risk'.

Cllr I Thornton said that the parking in the village is always an issue that we are constantly monitoring.

**Clerk to ask advice about sign for zip wire.**

- **John Grimsey**

Cllr A Macro read out an email from J Grimsey concerning the use of the zip wire from those infused with alcohol from the Rec Hut; the noise that this creates; the lack of communication with the residents; the amount of money that has been spent on various pieces of equipment on the recreation ground which may have been better spent on parking, affordable housing and loss of retail space.

Cllr A Macro informed the Councillors that the table tennis table and the outdoor gym were both funded by grants; the zip wire had not cost the PC anything either. Regarding the issue of 'loss of retail space', the PC had objected to the change of use of the shop which was unsuccessful; the PC had also supported the Meat Shed application in Bakers Lane which had been successful; affordable housing is an ongoing issue, about 5 years ago there was talk of placing some more houses next to Mill Close, unfortunately at the time SCDC were not keen to allow another access onto the Ipswich Road, this is an ongoing issue and the PC are looking at all the various options open to them.

Cllr M Golder suggested that the PC communicate better with the residents, this maybe dropping notes through letterboxes.

Cllr M Iliff commented that the PC does place items in the Village Voice.

Cllr M Finney commented that it was a shame more residents did not attend the Annual Parish Meeting, this would enable the residents to update themselves on current village issues along with being able to air their concerns.

Cllr I Thornton said we should notify the residents of Pump Street of our intentions regarding the renovation of the village pump.

**11. Items for next meeting:**

Cllr I Thornton enquired as to why the trees were removed in Broad Street.

Cllr A Macro replied that the cherry tree had some disease and was therefore rotten inside, and the apple tree had been badly damaged by a strimmer cutting too closely. The removal of both trees was recommended by the SCDC Tree Officer on a visit to the village.

Cllr A Macro also reported that the trees behind the tennis courts on the recreation ground are also to be tidied and cut down.

Cllr J Howard wondered who owned the bank down rectory road as this looks as if it could do with a good tidy up.

Cllr M Finney wondered if we may enforce a 20 mph speed limit in the village, would this add to the safety of the residents and people visiting the village. This would apply also to the large farm machinery that drives through the village.

Cllr M Golder suggested that we could write to the farmers and ask them to talk to their drivers. This may encourage them to drive with more care in the village.

**12. Date of next meeting: 11/11/15**

**Meeting closed at 7.50pm.**

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ (Chairman)      Date \_\_\_\_\_