

OULTON PARISH COUNCIL MEETING – 3 MARCH 2020**DRAFT MINUTES**

At the meeting of the Oulton Parish Council held at the Old Congregational Chapel, Oulton on Tuesday 3 December 2019, the following members were present:

Mr P Killingback (chair)
Mrs S Mather, Mr A Nash, Ms A Shaw, Mr A Windross.

In Attendance

Mr L Mills (Clerk of the Council)

019/092 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Mr G Peck

019/093 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATION

None

019/094 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on 21 January 2020, having previously been circulated to all members, were considered, **APPROVED** as an accurate record, and signed by the Chair.

019/095 MATTERS ARISING NOT LISTED ELSEWHERE ON THE AGENDA

None

019/096 PUBLIC, POLICE, CO/DIST COUNCILLORS' REPORTS

None

019/097 FINANCE

ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT: The following payments totalling £542.73 were **APPROVED** and the cheques signed by two authorised signatories.

A Martineau, Box Day expenses, £50.00
Administration, £441.63
Ms A Shaw, expenses, £51.10

019/098 PLANNING

(i) APPLICATIONS:

20220161, Street farm, NR11 6AF, Solar voltaic equipment on non domestic buildings

Council **AGREED** unanimously to **SUPPORT** this application

20200166, Barn adj to Malthouse Barn, NR11 6AF, change from agricultural to flexible uses. Prior notification.

Council acknowledges this notification

20200369, Malthouse barn, NR11 6AF, installation of a solar photovoltaic array of up to 50kW

Council **SUPPORTS** this application

Clerk to inform Broadland District Council of the Council's views

(ii) WINDFARMS

[a] Mrs Mather updated the meeting:

Norfolk Boreas

Oulton Parish Council attended an Issue Specific Hearing (onshore matters) in Norwich on 21st January.

The applicants were questioned about highways issues including Norfolk County Council requirement to use trenchless crossing (i.e. Horizontal Direct Drilling) for the B1149 rather than to use an open trench method which would see the need to create a lane constructed on the verge and traffic management for the duration of construction. Norfolk County Council have concerns on the stability of the reinstatement of the road surface and the restrictions on traffic movements during construction.

This issue remains unresolved.

OPC have responded to the Examining Authority's written questions at deadline 5: these can be seen on the OPC website.

The next deadline (6) is due in on the 5th March: OPC will be responding to the applicant's responses at deadline 5.

A further Issue Specific Hearing on onshore matters is in Norwich on the 17th March. OPC will be attending, dependent on the agenda. This will be followed on 19th March by an accompanied site visit which will include Oulton Street - OPC will be attending.

Hornsea Three

The Secretary of State for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy's deadline for responses to further questions from the applicant & interested parties was on the 14th February:

019/098 PLANNING (ii)[a] continued

these responses can be seen on the Planning Inspectorate infrastructure website.
<https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/eastern/hornsea-project-three-offshore-wind-farm/?ipcsection=docs&stage=6&filter1=Secretary+of+State+Consultation+2>

Interested parties have until 9th April 2020 to respond, with the current deadline for a final decision by the Sec. of State at BEIS on the 1st June.

Norfolk Vanguard

The Sec. of State at BEIS is due to make a decision on this project on June 1st. - the same day as the decision on Hornsea Three above.

So June 1st is a potentially dangerous moment for us all in Norfolk.

Equinor

Equinor's Dudgeon & Sheringham Extension project starts their consultation period with an exhibition in Aylsham on 1st April 1 -7pm in the Town Hall.

This is an opportunity to see plans and ask questions about the project and its potential impacts on Oulton.

Please note: the cable corridor for this new proposal will carve a swathe through the western part of this parish and will be the first time that we have been directly affected by a cable corridor in this way. The Parish Council would like to encourage all residents of Oulton to visit the "exhibition" in Aylsham if they possibly can, in order to ask probing questions and acquaint themselves with the real consequences for themselves and the parish if this cable corridor is allowed to come through.

[b] Ms Shaw updated the Council re her meeting in London 2nd March 2020:
Report of a meeting re: offshore wind energy and its onshore impacts

On Monday March 2nd, Alison Shaw attended a 2-hour meeting in Westminster on this issue, representing Oulton PC and 29 other Parish Councils in Norfolk. The meeting was convened and chaired by George Freeman MP. It was attended by 6 MPs from Norfolk and Suffolk and 14 other people representing Parish Councils, pressure groups and landowners. The meeting was intense, with very fast and free-flowing discussion, much exchange of vital information, and several action points.

Main themes:

- urgency of the situation esp. in Norfolk (Sec. of State decision on Orsted and Vattenfall now due on June 1st);
- need for political will at govt. level to grasp this nettle now and plan the whole energy transition properly;
- need to establish a work group to gather together some cost/benefit analyses on alternative offshore solutions, including an ORM, to feed into an MP group (which will include George Freeman, Peter Aldous, and our new MP here, Jerome Mayhew) who

019/098 PLANNING (ii)[b] continued

will be making direct approaches - again - to Kwasi Kwarteng (Minister for Energy) and ultimately to the new Sec. of State (Alok Sharma).

The degree of unanimity of purpose in the room - from the outset - was striking.

Even Peter Aldous MP (Waveney) - who of course is encouraging the development of the port of Lowestoft on the back of these offshore wind farm developments - is absolutely adamant that the current onshore grid connection arrangements are such a mess that even he fears that, if allowed to go ahead, the resulting devastation will give the whole offshore wind farm industry an incredibly bad name with the regional electorate - as indeed it did with onshore wind farms. He doesn't want that to happen.

The meeting was extremely encouraging and is to be followed up in this constituency by a further meeting with Jerome Mayhew MP on 13th March, at which Oulton PC will be represented.

019/099 GROUNDS MAINTENANCE

The clerk has received confirmation that Norse will withdraw from their contract with the Council effect from 31 March 2020. Council expressed their shock and disappointment at this decision.

It was **AGREED** that the Clerk should contact possible firms to replace them. The Chairman is willing to show them around and explain what is wanted.

019/100 CLERK'S REPORT

A request for donations was received from Priscilla Bacon Hospice. *Noted, no action.*

019/101 ITEMS OF INFORMATION / FUTURE AGENDA

Windfarms.

019/102 DATE OF MEETINGS

- (i) Following a request from Jerome Mayhew MP office to meet with the residents of Oulton it was **AGREED** to invite him to the Annual Parish Meeting. Available dates are 24th April or 1st May.
- (ii) It was **AGREED** to hold the Annual General Meeting of the Parish Council on 5th May 2020

Following confirmation that the Chairman intends to retire from the post at the end of this Council year Mr Windross thanked Mr Killingback for all his work over the previous years and was glad that he will remain as a councillor. This was wholeheartedly endorsed by the other members of the Council

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS THE CHAIR THANKED EVERYONE FOR ATTENDING AND DECLARED THE MEETING CLOSED at 20.56