

Minutes of
ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

**At the Annual Parish Meeting held at Oulton Chapel, Hall Rd,
Oulton
on Tuesday 25th May 2021 at 8pm,**

The following were present:-

Susan Mather - Chair Oulton Parish Council
13 members of the public

In attendance:

Heather Jermy (National Trust), Stuart Banks (National Trust)
PC Lucas Ward (police)

Sue Windross took the minutes.

1. **Welcome by the Chairman.** Susan thanked everyone for attending.
2. **Apologies for absence:-** Andy Nash. Rev Andrew Whitehead. Lloyd Mills.
3. **Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 19th May 2019.**
Seen by council and will be duly signed.
4. **Annual Report of the Chair of Oulton Parish Council.**

Before I give you a summary of what has happened over the last year I would like to touch on the events we have all gone through since march 2020. It goes with out saying that this pandemic has effected us all in all sorts of ways and I think we have all got to this point in a more reflective mood, and appreciate Oulton as beautiful place to live. During the first lockdown it was evident that Oulton as a community proved to be one that comes together in a crisis. Whether it was through email exchanges, zoom calls, phone calls with friends

and neighbours, offering practical help, support and humour was good to experience. There was the arrival of Street farm's 'Potato delivery' which was very much appreciated in those early days of lockdown. This saw a steady stream of people out for their 'essential exercise' along with bags to collect the potatoes, which in turn bought about an exchange of potato based recipes...who knew there were so many..... nothing went to waste.
Oulton give yourselves a well deserved hurray...and thank you.

The annual report...

As you know I took over from Paul Killingback as Chair in December 2020...I would like to thank Paul again for all of his hard work over the last few years and his contribution as part of the working party for the offshore wind farm applications, his participation at hearings for the Hornsea Three/Vanguard/Boreas projects have been very much appreciated.....Thank You..so pleased you are still part of the parish council.

So what have Oulton Parish Council been upto since we were last able to meet here in May 2019.....Zoom meetings mostly. Parish council meetings have carried on as normal just virtually. This has now come to an end and we must go back to face to face meetings. A recap...There were in 8 meetings in 2019/20 and 8 meetings in 2020/21

Offshore wind farm projects has taken up a huge amount of the parish councils time over the last few years....The amount of documents involved is at times overwhelming, attending hearings and then providing written submissions has required careful consideration of information, in order to give a clear and reasoned response. Non of us are experts so a lot of research and cross referencing between projects has become the norm.

Hornsea Project Three was consented on the 31st December 2020 having had its decision delayed, and is so far the only project which is set to proceed to construction.

Norfolk Vanguard was granted its Development Consent Order on 1st July 2020, but went to a Judicial review, were the high court

found in favour of the claimant and quashed the DCO. This is now awaiting the S of S to decide how it will be redetermined, having requested feedback from interested parties.

Oulton parish Council have responded as an interested party to the S of S letter, and have requested that both Norfolk Vanguard & Boreas to be redetermined together due to their cumulative impacts.

Norfolk Boreas Examination came to a close on 12th October 2020, but the final decision has now been delayed until 10th December this year. The S of S having requested further information relating to offshore matters, and Boreas's part in the redetermination of Norfolk Vanguard.

The 'Offshore Ring Main' now known as an offshore Transmission network became a real possibility, prompting a review by the government. OPC have contributed to the Offshore Transmission Network review by way of meetings and responses. Alison Shaw has headed this and worked hard writing to several Norfolk and Suffolk MP's as well as about 30 other parish Councils, to gain a collective and cohesive response to put before the government.

Towards the end of last year and early this year saw the publication of the OTNR and the energy white paper, which recommended a more coordinated approach offshore to reduce the impact onshore from the current point to point construction effects on the environment and local communities. This review is still ongoing, It is hoped that legislation and policy changes can be implemented, But it is slow progress, and developers are not keen to become what is called Pathfinder projects. I think all I can add to this is watch this space!

Meanwhile Oulton is now having to go through another consultation process and potential examination of another offshore wind farm project which will see Equinor's Sheringham & Dudgeon extension project bring its 60km cable route through the western part of Oulton; as well as the potential siting of their Main Construction compound next to Hornsea Three's Main construction compound, on the old airfield. A possible two Phased construction period of up to 7 years, phasing dependant on funding.

Equinor's phase 2 consultation is still ongoing and will finish on 10th June. I would urge you to look at their website, and make comments,

as there will be the potential for disruptions for the whole of Oulton by way of construction traffic, road closures and diversions. If the other projects still go through to construction then this will add further disruption, both locally and in the wider road network.

Other planning applications received....

In 2019 there were applications for....

20190512...Garden room meeting house farm **approved** (13.05.19)

20190701....The old chapel oulton Street conversion
approved(20.06.19)

20191885...NT conservation Studio ground source heat pumps
approved (31.01.20)

In 2020.....

20200166....A business relocated from Malthouse barn resulting in prior notification to the change of Use from Agricultural Building to Flexible Commercial Use (Joinery Workshop) - **Prior Notification** OPC support this use.(18.03.20)

20200385 Solar array NT conservation studio **withdrawn** (Paused)
(24/04/20)

20200466...**prior notifications** of an agricultural building (02.04.20)

20200161...Street Farm roof mounted solar panels 216.24 kWp
approved (04.03.20)

20200637...Oulton Chapel submitted an application for the Change of use of open grassed area as a burial ground for 121 burial plots and 31 spaces for ash burials....this was **approved** (16.06.20)

More significant applications were.....

20201776 A **28MW Solar farm** on land to the south of The Street, this was on the boundary with Cawston, the application went to Broadland District Council Planning Committee on the 21st April 21 (this year) and was **refused**.

It was decided by the planning committee that the use of best and most versatile land grade 2 & 3a along with the cumulative impact with the existing phase 1 airfield solar farm along with the potential

of the phase 2 5MW development still not constructed, outweighed the potential benefits.

20210429/PF/21/0317.....The other large application which is still in planning is a **Poultry unit /agricultural dwelling** which again is on a boundary this time with Heydon, Oulton & Corpusty with saxthorpe. The application was submitted to North Norfolk District council and Broadland District Council, OPC have responded to this application with an **objection** relating to potential noise, odour , visual impact and highway safety. A decision has yet to be made on this application.

Finally Other news.....

Oulton Parish Council is looking to source funding for a defibrillator, this would be sited in Oulton Street, this location as it can access an electricity supply.

Long term, location and funding permitting one in another part of the village would be ideal. OPC will keep you posted on how this is going and it may be the case that some sort of fund raising activity is required if there is no other way to get funding.

5. Annual Reports from:

- **Police**

Lucas Ward introduced himself and talked about his role. Based in Aylsham – aims to attend 3 parish council meetings a year – priority is community issues. Chair has contact details. Oulton is a very safe place to live.

- **District Councillors**

No report given

- **County Councillor**

No report given

National Trust.

Heather Jermy, the General Manager at Blickling, spoke. She was only in post for 7 months when Covid struck. She is now getting settled into her work. She is proud of her team and how they all responded. Pandemic built her team community knowledge and she now wants to build on those links. One priority they have is beginning work with government funding on river quality and eliminating

invasive species eg Himalayan balsam and signal crayfish.
Stuart Banks from the National Trust talked about green recovery trust fund. He is surveying at least 500 veteran trees on estate and working on ancient woodland restoration (pre dates 1600) – broadleaf trees and removing rhododendron.

- **Church**

Sue Hall expressed gratitude to Rev Andrew Whitehead for on-line services. Sue emphasised that the church is available for community use. Events planned include **Open Gardens at Oulton Hall, art exhibition, fete on Sunday 5th September, Harvest supper and Oulton entertains**. Sue thanked all those who support the Church. A request was made for cakes to be made for the Open Gardens & Fete. Help with and donations for stalls, bric a brac, books. etc. also needed.

Box Day

Alice Martineau reported that Box Day will take place on July 10th at 5.30pm – it will be a picnic and bonfire and we hope for good weather.

6. Residents' questions

Questions were asked by residents about ivy on trees, access to woods and paths and visitors parking on roads and avoiding paying. Comments were made by a number of residents about NT Tenants stopping public access to paths, buildings etc. NT representatives stressed their awareness of issues and are hoping to improve situation. Conservation Management Plan needs to emphasise historic connections and legacy – awareness needed that this is not a brown field site.

Quarterly meetings with local Councils planned to start again

Meeting closed at 9:15

Susan Mather
Chair Oulton Parish Council.