

OULTON PARISH COUNCIL MEETING – Tuesday 22nd October 2024

MINUTES

At the meeting of the Oulton Parish Council held at the Old Congregational Chapel Oulton on Tuesday 22nd October 2024, the following members were present:

Mrs S Mather (chair)

Mr P Killingback, Mr A Windross. Ms A Shaw, Mr A Nash

In Attendance

Member of the public x1

Lilly Dowe (Orsted)

James Darwent (VolkerFitzpatrick)

1. To receive apologies for absence.

Mr Greg Peck, Mrs W Murphy (Clerk of the Council)

Minutes to be taken by Andy Nash.

2. To receive members' declarations of interest in agenda items and requests for dispensation and the new Chair to sign the Declaration of office.

None Received.

3. To confirm minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council

The minutes of the Parish Meeting held on 3rd September 2024 having previously been circulated to all members, were APPROVED as an accurate record and signed by the Chair.

4. To receive information on matters arising not listed elsewhere on the agenda

a. The Chair confirmed that the Remembrance service would go ahead (as usual) at the memorial by the playground. It was also stated that the Bugler had been booked and a wreath ordered.

Mr Windross offered to deliver a reading for the service.

It was reported that the stone slabs in front of the memorial were now uneven and beginning 'to lift'.

Mr Nash agreed to inspect the slabs, rectify as necessary, and report back on the general condition of the memorial.

Action: A. Nash **Date:** Prior to service

- b. The Chair reported that the annual appraisal of the clerk had been completed along with discussions for the year ahead and the outcome accepted by both parties.

The general format of the minutes was then discussed and it was suggested that where actions are assigned, the responsible person should be highlighted along with a completion date and distributed quickly (say by 1 week) to allow a timely 'follow up'. If necessary, the more 'general information' which is required to be recorded could be distributed later.

5. To adjourn the meeting to receive

- a. reports from police, district and county councillors

There were no police, district and county councillors present.

- b. Orsted.

Orsted gave a general summary of the last 12 months citing the extreme weather events of last winter which caused significant disruption and lead to a detrimental impact on the river Glaven. They stated that they had been involved with remediation works on the river, and had learned from the experience, and were now much better prepared if such an event (1 in a hundred year event) should present again. They stated that the project was making steady progress and would continue throughout the winter, weather permitting. They then asked if there were any issues arising from their presence in the parish.

The poor condition of the road running north from their site entrance out to the Holt road was raised again, namely the large, deep potholes at the near sides of the road, in particular on the bend at the entrance to Docking farm, but also those formed at the entrances to the numerous 'temporary' passing places all along the route. Orsted confirmed that they were responsible for the maintenance of the road surface.

The level of light pollution at the compound was also raised again. Orsted explained that they felt they were compliant with the conditions of their planning consent, however did accept that it was very bright. It was explained that this was due to the lighting in the staff carpark and not the cable store, that there was a need to safely light the area for staff, however they would see if some of the lighting could be turned off / adjusted. It was suggested that once the staff had left for the day (after 7pm) the lighting could be turned off / significantly reduced. **Orsted agreed that they would look to do this.**

Orsted were thanked for attending and for their contribution to the meeting.

- c. Members of the public

A member of the public from the Blickling road (south end of parish) spoke and expressed their safety concerns over the condition of the road and the number of accidents and 'near misses' outside of their property. The erection of the chevron signage was acknowledged but stated that he felt it had little effect, the banks and verges on the side of the road were being broken down and that vehicles continued to drive too fast through the area. A 30 mph speed limit was suggested, and at this point it was explained that the setting of such limits was a national highways responsibility, requiring significant cost and needed to be backed with evidence of dangerous incidents. Unfortunately very few, if any, of the accidents and

incidents in the area have been formally recorded so to progress this at this time is unlikely to work.

Concerns were then raised over the impending elevated HGV levels as a consequence of the wind farm project works, both from the perspective of road traffic accidents on the narrow road but also the potential for the detrimental effects of vibration on the closest properties. It was suggested that RWE Norfolk Vanguard be contacted regarding this issue and any potential for providing a survey.

The elevated HGV levels passing through the area will begin in Feb 25 and be ongoing for 3 months, however there is some good news as they have requested and been granted a temporary 30mph speed limit for the duration of this project stage.

The resident was thanked for attending and raising their concerns.

6. Finance

a. To approve payments

No payments required.

b. Allotment Gate update.

No progress, matter forward to next meeting

Action: A. Nash **Date:** next meeting.

c. RWE Grant update.

It was reported that the first round of applications for grants was currently 'open', the deadline for submissions is 29th November and that the maximum sum is capped at £10K for this round of funding..

7. To consider planning matters

a. Planning applications received before 22nd October 2024 & updates

No planning matters arising.

b. To receive Wind Farm Updates

Orsted, Hornsea Three, RWE Norfolk Vanguard.

Orsted

See agenda item 5.b.

RWE Norfolk Vanguard

The Chair attended the RWE Norfolk Offshore Wind Zone Public Information day in Cawston on 10th September.

The Chair asked why RWE Norfolk Vanguard had not bid in the recent Contract for Difference (CfD) auction round 6 (AR6), they couldn't confirm whether the project had taken

part in the auction round this year, but state that the company still had issues with CfD process, they may enter next years CfD AR7.

The project is still progressing as planned and not receiving funding in this year's CfD will not impact the project.

RWE were surprised that Orsted Hornsea Three had made bids in this year's CfD.

Concerns were raised about Link 75 Blickling Rd, and the use of 72 HGVs daily along this road where there are several narrow sections and bends. The chair showed RWE/Murphy's photos of recent crashes and locations on maps.

RWE noted the areas of concern and said they would get back to OPC.

It was also mentioned that contractor vehicles have been spotted going through the northern end of The Street in Oulton.

RWE/Murphy's confirmed that this should not happen, they will talk to contractors at the next Toolbox meeting.

OPC were asked if possible to take registration numbers of vehicles that are spotted going through the northern end of The Street.

Mobilisation area 7 (MA7) has now been completed, work on the cable route construction for this area will commence summer 2025.

The chair asked if RWE were aware of the Airfield Solar Farm phase 2 construction, RWE are aware of the solar farm, which they believe is paused at the moment, but will bring this up with their next meeting with Orsted.

Rd closure Aylsham Rd Oulton /Diversion routes in operation 21st October /20th November 2024.

8. To receive an update on Blickling Road/Highways

The replacement and new signs for the section of Blickling Rd have been installed as well as a larger Chevron with yellow background for greater visibility at night, has been installed at the bend where the recent accident was.

The proposed Chevron at the other bend is no longer going to be installed following discussions with the land owners and NCC Highways team.

Outstanding work still to do is the line painting at the junction of Itteringham Rd and SLOW signs, this will be carried out when the painting team are scheduled to be in this area.

Agenda item 5.c. also refers.

9. To note items of information / future agenda

Budget

Allotment Gate

Orsted

Blickling Road

Internal Scrutineer

Septic Tank scheme

10. To confirm the date of the next meeting

3rd December 2024

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS THE CHAIR THANKED EVERYONE FOR ATTENDING AND
DECLARED THE MEETING CLOSED AT 21.20