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**OULTON PARISH COUNCIL ANNUAL MEETING – 4 MAY 2021**

**DRAFT MINUTES**

At the meeting of the Oulton Parish Council held online via Zoom on Tuesday 4 May 2021, the following members were present:

Mrs S Mather (chair)

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

**In Attendance**

Mr L Mills (Clerk of the Council)

**021/001 APPOINTMENT OF CHAIR 2021 - 2022**

It was unanimously **AGREED** to appoint Mrs Mather as Chair for the coming year

**021/002 DECLARATION OF ACCEPTANCE OF OFFICE**

Mrs Mather will sign the Declaration of Acceptance of Office of the Chair of the Council as soon as circumstances allow

**021/003 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Mr G Peck, Mr A Nash,

**021/004 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATION**

None

**021/005 MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on 13 April 2021, having previously been circulated to all members, were considered.

With the following two amendments to minute 020/084

***(v) NNDC PF/21/0317 / BDC 20210429 Poultry farm***

*Objections have been sent to both North Norfolk District Council and Broadland District Council*

***(vi) BDC*** ***20201776 Solar Farm land Cawston***

*This matter will be considered by the full Planning Committee of Broadland District Council and members of Oulton Parish Council will speak.*

They were **CONFIRMED** as an accurate record and will be signed by the Chair when circumstances allow

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**021/006 MATTERS ARISING NOT LISTED ELSEWHERE ON THE AGENDA**

None

**021/007 TO ADJOURN THE MEETING TO ALLOW MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC AND COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS TO SPEAK**

None

**021/008 FINANCE**

The following payments totalling £506.24 were **APPROVED** and the cheques signed by two authorised signatories.

L. Mills, salary/broadband/telephone, £104.25

Zurich Municipal, insurance 2021/22, £315.88

Norfolk Pension Fund, pension, £36.11

A Martineau, Box Day, £50.00

**021/009 CLERK’S REPORT**

Precept of £3200 received

Exemption from Limited Assurance Review has been sent

Pension policy (attached to these minutes) was **APPROVED**

**021/010 SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS 2021-2022**

It was **AGREED** the Parish Council will meet on the following dates:

**2021**

4th MAY ANNUAL MEETING OF PARISH COUNCIL

25TH MAY ANNUAL PARISH MEETING (8pm start)

8TH JUNE

27TH JULY

7TH SEPTEMBER

19TH OCTOBER

30TH NOVEMBER

**2022**

11TH JANUARY

22ND FEBRUARY

5TH APRIL

(10TH MAY 2022: PARISH COUNCIL ANNUAL MEETING 7pm

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING 8pm)

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**021/011 DEFIBRILLATOR**

Deferred to next meeting

**021/012 TREES**

Deferred to next meeting

**021/013 PLANNING**

1. No applications have been received since the last meeting

The Broadland District Council Planning Committee met and refused application 20201776 Solar Farm land Cawston.

Oulton Parish Council is unanimous in its appreciation of the efforts Steve Riley (District Cllr), Greg Peck (County Cllr) and Mr C Monk, councillor of Cawston Parish Council) and their presentation of the facts at the meeting

1. WINDFARMS

The Chair and Ms Shaw updated the meeting:

**[a] Norfolk Vanguard re-determination process (& Norfolk Boreas**):

Subsequent to the quashing at the Judicial Review of the original consent, Interested Parties received a letter on 30th April in which the Secretary of State(SoS) said: "*The Secretary of State is, therefore, writing to all Interested Parties to the Norfolk Vanguard project and the Norfolk Boreas offshore wind farm project ... to set out a process to remedy the failure to assess the cumulative landscape and visual impacts of the Norfolk Vanguard and Norfolk Boreas projects in the Norfolk Vanguard examination and decision-making process. In particular, in respect of the proposals for locating onshore substation infrastructure at Necton in Norfolk."*

Interested parties have until 20th May 2021 to respond as to whether they agree with the procedure, as laid out in the letter. OPC will be responding to this letter, after taking legal advice.

**[b] Norfolk Boreas:**

The SoS’s decision on this, which had been due on 12th April, was deferred -  but no end-date has yet been provided. It is likely that the SoS cannot realistically determine Norfolk Boreas until the result is known of the re-determination of Norfolk Vanguard (see above).   A letter was sent out on 28th April to interested parties to inform them that further information was required relating predominantly to *offshore*

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**021/013 PLANNING (ii[b])**

matters, but questions were asked as well of National Grid, Network Rail, the Environment Agency and the Applicant (Vattenfall). The deadline for responses is the 28th May 2021.

**[c] Equinor:**

Sheringham & Dudgeon Extensions Project held 4 ‘informal’ webinars on 20th/26th/27th/28th April via Zoom. On behalf of OPC, Alison Shaw and Susan Mather attended all webinars between them, and many other parish councils also attended.  OPC discovered that, as well as the cable route coming through the western part of the parish, we have been short-listed as one of the Main Construction Compounds again, on the old airfield. Equinor has suggested, as a solution to the impossibility of getting all the HGV construction traffic for Hornsea 3, Vanguard, Boreas  - and now Equinor - out of our parish, that *the whole of the southern stretch of Oulton Street should be permanently widened to form a two-lane highway*.

It was also discovered that although Equinor will use only one cable trench, there is the possibility of the cable construction being carried out in two phases. For example, phase 1 (SEP or DEP), then a 2-year gap, followed by Phase 2 (DEP or SEP). The total construction window might be as long as 6 years. When asked by OPC whether they would pre-duct at phase 1 for phase 2, Equinor refused to commit themselves, saying only that this would be dependent on a commercial, financial decision 'further down the line'. It is therefore entirely possible that not only will Orsted’s Hornsea Three dig up the same cable trench twice, but Equinor will dig up the county twice *as well*.

**[d] Consultation:   Equinor’s SEP/DEP phase 2 public consultation** was launched on 29th April and will run for 6 weeks ending on 10th June. OPC have informed the residents and Equinor have sent out leaflets. The consultation will take the form of an online exhibition page and comments as well as a feedback sheet which was sent out with the leaflets. Another way to express your views is simply to email direct to Equinor at:  [info@sepanddep.co.uk](mailto:info@sepanddep.co.uk)

OPC hopes that all residents will consider responding to the consultation.

**[e] Judicial review funding:**

After consideration of details of the Claimant’s costs for the JR, the Parish Council  **AGREED** to the retention of a contingency fund, given that the Norfolk Vanguard decision will be redeterminedby the Secretary of State and more legal advice will be required.

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**021/014 ITEMS OF INFORMATION / FUTURE AGENDA**

Items for future agenda:

Defibrillator; trees; windfarms

**021/015 DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

8th June 2021

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS THE CHAIR THANKED EVERYONE FOR ATTENDING AND DECLARED THE MEETING CLOSED AT 20.45