

OULTON PARISH COUNCIL MEETING – 4 AUGUST 2020

DRAFT MINUTES

At the meeting of the Oulton Parish Council held online via Zoom on Tuesday 4 August 2020, the following members were present:

Mr P Killingback (chair)

Mrs S Mather, Mr G Peck, Ms A Shaw, Mr A Windross.

In Attendance

Mr D Harrison (Co/Dist Cllr) ; Mr L Mills (Clerk of the Council)

020/014 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Mr A Nash

020/015 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATION

None

020/016 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on 16 June 2020, having previously been circulated to all members, were considered, and **APPROVED** as an accurate record subject to the following:

020/012 Information: Replace Mr Windross with Ms Shaw

With this alteration the minutes will be signed by the Chair as soon as conditions allow.

020/017 MATTERS ARISING NOT LISTED ELSEWHERE ON THE AGENDA

None

020/018 PUBLIC, POLICE, CO/DIST COUNCILLORS' REPORTS

Mr Harrison updated the meeting re Covid-19 in Norfolk. He had attended NCC Scrutiny meeting to look at the matter. Norfolk is below the national average and is possibly the least dangerous place in the UK.

Norfolk County Council will be building three Special Needs Schools.

A discussion then ensued about the merits or otherwise of virtual meetings and working from home

020/019 FINANCE

The following payments were **APPROVED**:

Indigo Waste Services, Recycling, £19.80
Administration, £136.54
P Killingback, Zoom subscription, £14.39
Playsafety Ltd, Play area safety inspection, £94.80

020/020 PLANNING

(i) PLANNING APPLICATIONS RECEIVED BEFORE 4 August 2020
None

(ii) WINDFARMS

The following update, having previously been circulated to all members by Mrs Mather, was received:

Wind Farm Updates

(a) Norfolk Vanguard and Hornsea Three

July 1st was the decision date for Norfolk Vanguard & Hornsea Three. Norfolk Vanguard was granted its Development Consent Order (DCO) by the Secretary of State (SoS) for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy, even though the Examining Authority (ExA) had recommended refusal. The Hornsea Three decision was delayed until December 31st, pending further information on offshore matters (seabird habitats), although the SoS is 'minded to approve'. The ExA again has recommended refusal.

This is extremely disappointing news.

Documents can be viewed on :-

<https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/eastern/norfolk-vanguard/>
AND

<https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/eastern/hornsea-project-three-offshore-wind-farm/>

(b) Norfolk Boreas

The examination continues in written form, virtual issue specific hearings and virtual open floor hearings. The closing date for the public examination is now October 12th, although the final decision is not expected until 6 months later. OPC attended a virtual open floor hearing on 14th July. Also in attendance were two Oulton residents who spoke eloquently of their concerns about traffic issues.

OPC has submitted their oral summaries along with further information, as requested by the panel.

OPC did not attend the virtual issue specific hearing on the 24th July, but were able to view online as a video.

(c) Norfolk Vanguard decision: impact on Boreas

The impact of the Vanguard decision has bearing on the Boreas examination, as well as whether Boreas would proceed as Scenario 1, now that Vanguard has its DCO. The applicant has stated that Boreas would proceed as Scenarios 1 & 2, as Vanguard was always about commencement rather than consent. The CfD auction next year, when the developers compete for “contracts” with the government at a particular ‘strike price’ is the deciding factor as to whether the projects commence.

The Applicant's response to OPC's question seeking clarification on how Boreas proceeds is as follows:

‘However, Norfolk Boreas needs to consider the possibility that Norfolk Vanguard may not proceed to construction. The recent decision from the Secretary of State to grant development consent for Norfolk Vanguard makes Scenario 1 more likely, but there is still the possibility that Norfolk Vanguard may not proceed to construction. As such, in order for Norfolk Boreas to stand as an independent project, this possibility must be provided for within the Norfolk Boreas DCO. Thus, consent will continue to be sought for both scenarios within the DCO.

Now that Norfolk Vanguard has its development consent, ahead of Hornsea Three, clarification is needed on how this will affect each project's progress. In relation to the Outline Traffic Management Plan (OTMP) - which significantly affects Oulton - the Applicant (Norfolk Boreas) responded as follows:

The Norfolk Boreas OTMP, at paragraph 127, commits the first project to proceed (between HP3 and Norfolk Vanguard / Norfolk Boreas) to deliver the full scheme and the final project would then be responsible for removing the temporary infrastructure.

(d) Equinor

Equinor's projects - Sheringham Shoal and Dudgeon Extensions (SEP/DEP) - have started their consultation. There was an issue about not enough leaflets being sent out to all households, with only some areas of Oulton receiving them. S. Mather sent an email, and then the leaflets did arrive. The consultation period has also been extended to **3rd September 2020**.

This project will significantly affect the western end of the parish, as the cable corridor will be coming through many properties. The Parish Council would like to encourage all residents affected to contact the PC if they need help or information - and also to encourage all residents to respond actively to Equinor's consultation, with their views.

Responses can be submitted online at: info@sepanddep.co.uk
or by post to **FREEPOST DUDGEON AND SHERINGHAM EXT**
or freephone **0808 1963 673**

(e) Vanguard: Judicial Review

Ms Shaw explained further regarding the proposed action to force a Judicial Review of the decision by the Secretary of State. A document explaining the situation had been earlier distributed to all councillors (attached.)

It was **AGREED** to donate £1250 (one thousand two hundred and fifty pounds) to the support group, using Section 137 of the Local Government Act 1972
One condition of this donation is that should all the funds collected be not used they will be refunded pro-rata.

(f) Solar Panel Farm:

Mrs Mather was thanked for sending a 'holding letter' to the developers, informing them of our interest in their scheme.

020/021 CLERK'S REPORT

- (i) Street Farm entrance and road: Clerk had sent the letter to Martin Dixon as requested at previous meeting (minute 020/011 [iv])
He had replied that the matter was outside of his remit but that he had forwarded the correspondence to the Highway Engineer. Despite reminders from the Clerk no reply has been received from the Highway Engineer. Mr Peck asked that the material be forwarded to him.

The Chairman reported that one end of the Nissan Hut at Street Farm had been removed. It was **AGREED** that a letter be sent to both Heather Jermy and the Conservation Officer at Blickling National Trust. The Chairman will compose and clerk to send.

- (ii) Play area annual safety inspection: the report from RoSPA had been received, and a copy forwarded to those councillors who requested it. The Chairman is implementing the recommendations.
- (iii) VAT and Recycling 2019/2020: claims for payments and refunds have been sent to the appropriate authorities.

020/022 ITEMS OF INFORMATION / FUTURE AGENDA

None

020/023 DATE OF MEETINGS

It was **AGREED** to hold the next 'virtual' meeting by Zoom on Tuesday 22 September at 7.30pm.

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS THE CHAIRMAN THANKED EVERYONE FOR ATTENDING AND DECLARED THE MEETING CLOSED