

## **OULTON PARISH COUNCIL MEETING – 30<sup>th</sup> November 2021**

At the meeting of the Oulton Parish Council held at the Old Congregational Chapel, Oulton on Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> November 2021, 19.30 the following members were present:

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

### **In Attendance**

Mrs W Murphy (Clerk of the Council)

### **1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Mr G Peck,

### **2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATION**

None

### **3. MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on 19 October 2021, having previously been circulated to all members, were considered and **APPROVED** as an accurate record, and signed by the Chair.

### **4. MATTERS ARISING NOT LISTED ELSEWHERE ON THE AGENDA**

Mrs S Mather went to see the member of public that was at the last meeting about the damage. No one is admitting responsibility. The damage has been repaired by BT and the home owner.

### **5. REPORTS**

Police: None

District and County Councilor: None

No members of the public attended

### **6. FINANCE**

- (i) ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT: None received, Wendy asked if her salary payment could be done twice a year September and March this was proposed by Mrs S Mather and seconded by Mr A Nash. All in agreement
- (ii) Wendy is still looking into the banking arrangement with Barclays
- (iii) The Budget was approved proposed by Ms A Shaw and seconded by Mrs S Mather. All agreement. The renewal of the Hall Hire will be looked into in June 2022.
- (iv) The Precept was agreed as £3200.00

## 7. PLANNING

### Solar Farm Applications:

The Chair updated the meeting: OPC has responded to the county Ecologist's comments made on the applicants ecology report.

This included comments on the Badger sett highlighting the issue of the previous solar farm on the airfield, where there was an earthing problem and four legged animals.

The Ecologist had agreed with the applicant that the 40m hedgerow to be removed was species-poor, OPC disagreed with this assessment and submitted photos and a species list to prove that it was actually species-rich, and similar to the applicants assessment of the hedgerow next to the B1149.

### Updates re Wind Farms

**Norfolk Vanguard:** The Secretary of State's letter of 11th October 2021 requested responses from the applicant and Interested Parties on the **re-determination** of the application by Norfolk Vanguard. OPC sent in a response by the deadline of 19th November and this has now been published online by the Planning Inspectorate. In that response OPC highlighted the following issues: the potential for cumulative construction traffic for Oulton generated by the Norfolk Vanguard/Boreas, Hornsea Three and Sheringham & Dudgeon Extension Projects; the Offshore Transmission Network Review (OTNR); and the environmental impacts of the project on communities and the county of Norfolk.

**Norfolk Boreas:** The Secretary of State has not yet indicated a date when he might publish a decision on the Vanguard re-determination, but he has indicated that he is minded to determine the sister project, **Norfolk Boreas**, on or before **December 10th**. In the event, the Vanguard project might well be re-determined at the same time. This date will therefore be of great significance to us all.

**Sheringham & Dudgeon Extension Project (SEP/DEP):** Equinor have now published their Phase 2 Consultation Summary Report.

One main update made in this report is that Oulton will not now be the location for The Main Construction Compound. This will limit the traffic numbers for SEP/DEP to traffic associated with the cable route construction. The cable route is still coming through the western end of the parish, directly and indirectly affecting several residents and their properties, and there remains considerable uncertainty as to the exact route of the trench when it reaches the southern end of Oulton Street. The direct conflict between Equinor's cable route and the proposed large solar farm on land to the west of The Street (between the Holt Road and The Old Railway Gatehouse) remains completely unresolved and is of great concern.

The Parish Council has already forwarded this 'Phase 2 Summary Report' to the residents by email, but Equinor have now sent out hard copies to residents. Further public consultations are due to take place in 2022.

The Parish Council have been invited to a zoom meeting on 8th December for an update with Equinor. Alison Shaw and Susan Mather will attend.

**The Norfolk Parish Movement for an OTN:** Numbers continue to grow every week and now stand at **91** Parish and Town Councils spread across the entire county. Such a large group of councils working together on a single issue is probably unprecedented - certainly in Norfolk - and increases significantly our power to promote change. Offshore wind industry bodies are taking note and we strengthen by our very existence the mandate we give to our MPs to lobby vigorously on our behalf at Westminster. Both Jerome Mayhew MP and Duncan Baker MP have recently been asking questions in the House, of the Prime Minister and the Minister for Energy, regarding bringing forward the OTN to encompass these early projects. The answers were encouraging.

#### **8. TO RECEIVED UPDATES RE DEFIBRILLATOR**

Thanks were given to the businesses that have responded with donations. Wendy will find out the costs for the defibrillator and bring to the next meeting.

#### **9. TO RECEIVED UPDATES RE TREES**

Ms A Shaw is looking for grants for tree planting and commented that the play area would be a great place for this. There has been lots of correspondence recently regarding 1 million trees for Norfolk. Wendy confirmed that she had received email from various sources re grants and will forward them on.

#### **10. TO CONSIDER QUEENS JUBILEE 2022**

It was agreed that a small picnic may be arranged but this will be carried over to the next meeting.

#### **11. TO NOTE ITEMS OF INFORMATION/ FUTURE AGENDA**

It was mentioned that the drain has still not been looked at by Highways. Wendy will chase them up

#### **12. TO CONFIRM THE DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING**

18<sup>TH</sup> January 2021

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS THE CHAIR THANKED EVERYONE FOR ATTENDING AND DECLARED THE MEETING CLOSED AT 21.13