

OULTON PARISH COUNCIL MEETING – 3 DECEMBER 2019

DRAFT MINUTES

At the meeting of the Oulton Parish Council held at the Old Congregational Chapel, Oulton on Tuesday 3 December 2019, the following members were present:

Mr P Killingback (chair)
Mrs S Mather, Mr G Peck, Ms A Shaw, Mr A Windross.

In Attendance

County Cllr D Harrison
Mr L Mills (Clerk of the Council)

019/067 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Dist Cllr S Riley

019/068 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATION

None

019/069 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on 29 October 2019, having previously been circulated to all members, were considered, **APPROVED** as an accurate record, and signed by the Chair.

019/070 MATTERS ARISING NOT LISTED ELSEWHERE ON THE AGENDA

None

019/071 FINANCE

- (i) **ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT:** The following payments totalling £391.90 were **APPROVED** and the cheques signed by two authorised signatories.
Administration, £373.40
Royal British Legion, wreath, £18.50
- (ii) **BUDGET 2020/2021:** the attached Budget was **APPROVED**.
- (iii) **PRECEPT:** It was proposed by Mr Killingback, seconded by Mr Windross, that the precept requirement for 2020/2021 be set at £3,000 (three thousand). This was **AGREED** unanimously.

019/072 PLANNING

- (i) APPLICATIONS: none
- (ii) WINDFARMS

Mrs Mather updated the meeting:

Vattenfall's Norfolk Boreas: PINS 6-month public Examination has now started.

Paul Killingback & Alison Shaw attended the Preliminary Meeting on 12th November in Norwich. This meeting sets out how the timetable will proceed and it is an opportunity for interested parties to ask questions about the examination. OPC asked the Panel 3 questions: (1) whether they were aware of the fact that a third wind farm developer (Equinor) had now approached PINS for a Scoping Opinion, regarding a further cable corridor that would pass through the western side of Oulton parish (2) whether the Panel would consider inviting a rep. from National Grid to attend and contribute to the Hearings, given the implications throughout the county of their decisions re: the allocation of grid connection points and (3) whether the Panel was aware of the Secretary of State's recent commitment to a review of onshore grid connection arrangements, including consideration of an Offshore Ring Main, were the government to be re-elected.

There was an Open Floor Hearing in Norwich on 13th November and this was attended by three members of Oulton Parish Council. Short statements on behalf of the council & residents were read out (these will be on the OPC website to view).

The Issue Specific Hearings that followed were offshore matters, so OPC did not attend.

OPC has submitted written responses to deadline 1: these are also available to view on line.

The Planning Inspectorate has issued written questions (including some addressed to Oulton) and OPC will be responding to these at deadline 2 on 10th December.

Equinor: Following the consultation meeting at Aylsham Town Hall on 28th October, OPC responded with a written statement highlighting concerns on cumulative impact of further traffic and construction of cable routes in and around the same area. (Equinor's scoping report is available to view online.) Oulton will be impacted by ALL of these projects – Orsted's Hornsea Project Three, Vattenfall's 2 projects (Vanguard and Boreas) and now Equinor's Dudgeon and Sheringham Shoal Extensions. Further consultations on the latter will be expected next year.

The Offshore Ring Main: On 20th November, Alison Shaw attended the AGM of Norfolk Association of Local Councils (NorfolkALC) in order to propose the motion below, on behalf of Oulton and 30 other Parish and Town Councils in Norfolk:

"Oulton Parish Council requests that Norfolk ALC resolves to support the Norfolk parish movement calling for an Offshore Ring Main connecting all offshore wind farms to the grid, off the coast of East Anglia. And if this resolution is adopted, then:

019/072 PLANNING (ii) WINDFARMS (continued)

Oulton PC requests that Norfolk ALC resolves to call on the National Association of Local Councils to lobby the government on this issue, on behalf of all parishes in Norfolk.”

Chris Monk from Cawston PC and Alice Spain from Necton PC spoke vigorously in support of the motion. After a lively debate, the motion was adopted unanimously by the meeting. This is a useful strategic extension to our ability to lobby the government on this vital issue.

Vattenfall’s Norfolk Vanguard: The Secretary of State’s final decision on whether to grant a Development Consent Order (DCO) to this project was originally scheduled for December 10th, but is now expected to be delayed, as any ‘controversial’ planning decisions are not normally announced during the run-up to a General Election.

019/073 CLERK’S REPORT

The Clerk informed the meeting of his change of address with immediate effect. It is now Holly Lodge, Burgh House, Burgh Road, Aylsham, NR11 6AT
Email remains unchanged.

019/074 ITEMS OF INFORMATION / FUTURE AGENDA

Windfarms.

019/075 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

21st January 2020

019/076 EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND THE PUBLIC UNDER THE PUBLIC BODIES (ADMISSION OF STRANGERS) ACT 1960

It was proposed and unanimously **AGREED**, that in view of the confidential nature of the business about to be transacted, it was advisable that the Press and Public should be excluded.

019/077 STAFFING MATTERS

The Clerk left the meeting at this point to allow free discussion of the following:

Oulton Parish Council **RESOLVED** under Regulation 3(1) of the Local Government Pension Scheme Regulations 2013 that *Lloyd Mills, Clerk to Oulton Parish Council* should be designated as being eligible for membership of the LGPS with effect from *5th April 2020*.

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