

OULTON PARISH COUNCIL MEETING – 22nd February 2022

DRAFT MINUTES

At the meeting of the Oulton Parish Council held at the Old Congregational Chapel, Oulton on Tuesday 18th January 2021, 19.30 the following members were present:

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

In Attendance

Mrs W Murphy (Clerk of the Council)

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

None

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATION

None

3. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on 18th January 2022, having previously been circulated to all members, were amended as there was one spelling mistake. These were then APPROVED as an accurate record, and signed by the Chair.

4. MATTERS ARISING NOT LISTED ELSEWHERE ON THE AGENDA

Mrs A Shaw asked if there could be more information noted when cheques are issued. The Clerk confirmed that if appropriate more information would be detailed. The Chair confirmed that the church were happy to put the Covid Plaque in their grounds and they will advise where when they next meet.

5. REPORTS

Police: None

District and County Councilor: None, However Mr G Peck confirmed that Norfolk Council had approved their budget with a 2.99% increase. 1.99% would be for council tax and 1% social care. Consultants have been sought to make a 9.5 million pound saving however they will not get paid until the savings have been met. Mr Peck also confirmed that the Western Link is going ahead.

No members of the public attended

6. FINANCE

- (i) ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT:
Cheque Number 100617 HMRC £145.60
Cheque Number 100618 Void
Cheque Number 100619 Clerk Wages Oct-March £582.60
- (ii) The Clerk is not getting any response from her phone calls to Barclays. The Chair will go to the branch in Barclays and discuss the signing of mandates

7. PLANNING UPDATES

It was agreed that a meeting should be arranged with Mulbarton PC and Cawston PC and Phil Courtier from Broadland County Council – This was proposed by Mrs S Mather and seconded by Mr P Killingback and all in favour. Mrs A Shaw will arrange a suitable date.

Solar Farm:

Broadland District Council Planning (BDC) application (**20211288 / 20211249**)
Ground mounted solar farm associated infrastructure, namely inverters, transformers, a DNO substation & grid connection

This application went before the Planning Committee on 26th January 2022. Alison Shaw spoke on behalf of OPC, as did our District Councillor, Sue Catchpole, in our support. Another of our District Councillors, Steve Riley, has a seat on the Planning Committee. He argued strongly in favor of **refusal** and voted, along with 2 other committee members, against the motion to approve.

The planning committee voted 8:3 **for** the proposal, therefore the application was **granted approval**.

The Solar Farm will cover 95.8 acres of farmland to the west of, and adjoining, Oulton Street on the way to the Holt Road, and will be in situ for (at least) 40 years.

The agents representing the applicants had been asked at committee, if this application were granted permission whether the appeal for the original application (**20201776**) would be withdrawn. The agent responded that *'they were minded to'*. However, to date the appeal (**APP/K2610/W/21/3278065**) is still ongoing, and has not been withdrawn.

The issue of the Sheringham & Dudgeon Ext. project accessing the same site as the Solar Farm was highlighted at the planning committee. However, it was stated that *Equinor* and the *Solar Farm developer* now have a commercial agreement whereby the cable route would be constructed using Horizontal Directional Digging (HDD) *under* the solar farm site. OPC will seek further clarifications on this from *Equinor* and what the impacts will be for neighboring residents surrounding the site.

Poultry Unit.

North Norfolk District Council PF/21/0317 for a *Poultry unit on Land to South East of Lime Kiln Farm Holt Road Heydon Norwich Norfolk NR11 6RD.*

This application is still ongoing. The applicant having recently sent in further information which was requested by the Environment and landscape Officers. OPC has not sent in further information as it was felt OPC had responded fully to date.

Wind farm Updates.

Offshore Transmission Network (OTN) Review

OPC attended the recent OTNR Update webinar on *January 31st 2022.*

OPC were disappointed to learn that the publication of the long-awaited Holistic Network Design of an OTN is now delayed until June this year.

Oulton Parish councilor Alison Shaw has continued to galvanise support from 95 Norfolk Parish Councils who are collectively promoting an Offshore Transmission Network, to improve significantly the **efficiency** of offshore wind energy production and **limit the adverse impacts** on communities and the onshore environment. That work continues.

Norfolk Vanguard

On the **11th February 2022** the **Secretary of State for BEIS** announced his decision on the *re-determination* of **Norfolk Vanguard** and has decided to grant a **development consent order**.

This means **ALL three projects** now consented will come onshore as point-to-point projects.

OPC had hoped that these projects could be considered as pathfinder projects as part of an **Offshore Transmission Network**, to reduce the impact from onshore cable routes and individual substations.

Sheringham & Dudgeon Extension Project

Equinor have sent an email to Oulton Parish Council giving dates and locations for further public information days in March:-

Monday 07 March - 2pm to 7pm – Aylsham Town Hall, Market PI, Aylsham, Norfolk NR11 6EL

Tuesday 08 March – 1pm to 6pm – Hall for All, Weston Longville, Norfolk NR9 5JP

Wednesday 09 March – 1pm to 6pm – Swardeston Village Hall, High Common, Swardeston, Norfolk NR14 8DL

Thursday 10 March - 11am to 4pm – Sheringham Museum, Lifeboat Plain, Sheringham, Norfolk NR26 8BG

OPC will be attending the information day on 7th March in Aylsham.

8. TO RECEIVED UPDATES RE DEFIBRILLATOR

The Clerk presented Invoices of recent purchase of Defib Machine and Case that she had purchased for Aylsham. The Defib was £995.00 plus vat and the case was £479.00 plus vat. She confirmed that it would be approximately £250.00 to install. It was proposed by Mr P Killingback and seconded by Mrs A Shaw and all in favour to order 1 defib and case. There have been donations of £1350.00 and the CIL money that needs to be used is £1197.19. This is a total of £2547.19 for the purchase of Defibs, cases and ongoing maintenance. When a second site is found another one will be ordered.

9. TO RECEIVE UPDATES RE TREES

Mrs A Shaw confirmed that a site meeting has been arranged at the playpark with Stuart Banks, Countryside Manager at National Trust and herself on the 10th March 2022. She asked if other members of the Parish Council would like to attend.

10. TO NOTE ITEMS OF INFORMATION/ FUTURE AGENDA

Date for Box Day – 25th JUNE 2022

There is a member of the parish who may be interested in becoming a councilor. The chair asked for the Co-option to be added to the next Agenda.

A date needs to be arranged for the Annual Meeting of the Council at 7pm followed by Annual Parish Meeting at 8pm.

12. TO CONFIRM THE DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

5th April 2022

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS THE CHAIR THANKED EVERYONE FOR ATTENDING AND DECLARED THE MEETING CLOSED AT 21.19