

## **OULTON PARISH COUNCIL MEETING – 6 MARCH 2018**

### **DRAFT MINUTES**

At the meeting of the Oulton Parish Council held at the Old Congregational Chapel, Oulton on Tuesday 6 March 2018, the following members were present:

Mr P Killingback (Chairman)<sup>[1]</sup><sub>[SEP]</sub>  
Mrs S Mather, Mr A Nash, Mr G Peck, Ms A Shaw, Mr A Windross

#### **In Attendance**

Emily Woolfenden, Tom Neale and Andrew Guyton from Orsted, fifteen members of the public, and Mr L Mills (Clerk of the Council)

#### **017/093 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Ms S Harrison

#### **017/094 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATION**

None

#### **017/095 MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on 23 January 2018, having previously been circulated to all members, were considered and **CONFIRMED** as an accurate record, and signed by the Chair

#### **017/096 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

*The three representatives from Orsted gave a short introduction to their Hornsea Project 3 proposal for an offshore windfarm and onshore cable corridor carrying electricity to the grid connection. They then addressed how this would affect Oulton.*

*The Main Construction Compound would be constructed at Oulton on the western runways of the former airfield. They acknowledged that the B1149 (Holt Road) would be the main traffic route and they would like to promote traffic from the Compound also being routed northbound through the village. They acknowledged that there would be generators on the site, permanent security lighting, and that the hours of operation would be “24/7”. They suggested that abnormal loads would only be routed through the village at night-time.*

*Grave concerns were expressed by councillors and residents on many aspects of these proposals, the major ones being:*

- *the lateness of Orsted in publicly identifying the site;*

- *that there has still been no proper assessment of the site;*
- *that there has been no assessment of the cumulative impacts, especially in terms of traffic, of the fact that the other windfarm developer – Vattenfall - is also actively considering situating two compounds in this parish just to the east, near Docking Farm. All these compounds would be competing for the use of the same lane in accessing the B1149 Holt Road;*
- *a lack of willingness by Orsted to engage directly with Oulton Parish Council, who represent the people most likely to be affected by the operation of the compound: the Planning Inspectorate had to encourage Orsted to attend this meeting;*
- *strong doubts were expressed about the length of time these works would continue, Orsted eventually agreeing that it could be up to 84 months;*
- *strong concerns were expressed by residents of the settlement of Oulton Street as to the threat to their quality of life if construction traffic were to be allowed to go right past their houses: did Orsted understand that most of the cottages had walls directly on the roadway, without benefit of pavement or front garden? Orsted replied that, up to this point, the traffic management assessment had been “a desk-top exercise”;*
- *strong objections were expressed to the hours of operation being 24/7 and the implications for unacceptable lighting and noise;*
- *strong opposition to the proposal was expressed by the residents of the two nearest dwellings – Manor Farm (to the compound) and the Old Railway Gatehouse (to the traffic entrance) in terms of the severe impact on their quality of life.*

#### **017/097 MATTERS ARISING NOT LISTED ELSEWHERE ON THE AGENDA**

None

#### **017/098 DISTRICT and COUNTY COUNCILLORS' REPORTS**

None

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#### **017/099 PLANNING**

(i) ORSTED – Hornsea Project Three Offshore Windfarm: Councillors reiterated their grave concerns about this late choice of the former Oulton airfield as the Main Construction Compound for the onshore cable corridor for Hornsea Project Three, over a likely period of 8 years.

The Council is concerned about: whether due process has been followed in the consultation; the lack of proper assessment of the site; the current traffic management proposals; the hours of operation, lighting and noise; and the consequent severe and unacceptable adverse impacts of this proposal on the quality of life of many residents of this parish.

Council continues to feel heavily under-informed and urges Orsted to carry out with all speed its commitment to send written answers to OPC to the questions sent to them before this evening's meeting. Council also expects to have sight of Orsted's assessments of the suitability of the Oulton site asap and certainly well in advance of the submission of any planning application. OPC will be consulting with BDC and the Planning Inspectorate (PINS) as to the way forward.

(ii) <sup>[L]</sup><sub>SEP</sub> VATTENFALL (Norfolk Vanguard and Boreas Windfarms): A representative of Vattenfall has agreed to attend the next meeting of OPC on April 17<sup>th</sup>.

Mrs Mather will email a precis of information to all councillors.

(ii) RAF Building: The PC noted the response from Mr Harrold late on 5<sup>th</sup> March 2018.

It was **AGREED** that the parish council should make representations to Broadland District Council to seek to secure the protection of the remaining RAF buildings.

(iii) PLANNING APPLICATIONS: none

<sup>[L]</sup><sub>SEP</sub>

### **017/100 FINANCE**

The following payments totalling £450.82 were approved and cheques signed by two authorised signatories.

Indigo, recycling, £16.20<sup>[L]</sup><sub>SEP</sub>

Cawston Parish Council, stationery etc 2017-18, £32.00

Administration, £347.62<sup>[L]</sup><sub>SEP</sub>

A Shaw, lockable cabinet, £55.00

### **017/101 CLERK'S REPORT**

(i) General Data Protection Regulations: a training session for all councillors along with councillors from Cawston Parish Council will be held at Cawston Village Hall, on 10 April. Cost £100.<sup>[L]</sup><sub>SEP</sub>

(ii) Mrs M Anderson-Dungar to be Internal Auditor for 2018. **AGREED**

### **017/102 ARCHIVES**

Ms Shaw has located and purchased a suitable lockable cabinet.

### **017/103 WI FI**

Deferred to next meeting

### **017/104 GREATER NORWICH LOCAL PLAN**

No response to be sent

### **017/105 PARISHIONERS' CORRESPONDENCE**

A response from Mr Harrold had been circulated to all councillors on the morning of the meeting. The Council noted the following responses: -

- The building was demolished and all materials were disposed of in a correct and legal manner as the old redundant drying shed will be as and when they "get round to it".
- The positioning of the new building would be exactly as per the consent as will the traffic\vehicular access for that development. He reminded us that they do use the north gate at times as and when required, mostly when they at the busiest.
- They have no intention of removing or damaging the Oak trees referred to, nor are they planning on removing the fence at present, possibly when a new hedge is sufficiently established would they remove it.
- The remaining Nissen Hut building is in fair condition having been re-sheeted twice in its time there and they have no plans to demolish it.

The Council appreciated that the hazardous materials were disposed of in a correct and legal manner. The Council remains concerned that due to the significant amount of hazardous material within the old drying shed it would require more significant specialist handling than the demolition of the Rubber Store, such as protective sheeting for the structure and clothing for contractors when it is demolished.

It was **AGREED** that the Chairman should draft a response on behalf of the PC.

### **017/106 ITEMS OF INFORMATION / FUTURE AGENDA**

Mr Nash said that the local residents and farmers had done a great job in clearing the roads during the recent snowfalls. Council agreed and thanked everyone who had taken part.

Mr Windross requested a float for the advance organization of Box Day (£200). It was agreed that this would be dealt with at the next meeting.

**017/107 DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

17 April 2018 at 7.30 pm<sup>SEP</sup> 8 May 2018: Annual Meeting of the Council at 7pm and Annual Parish Meeting at 8pm.

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS THE CHAIR THANKED EVERYONE FOR ATTENDING AND DECLARED THE MEETING CLOSED AT 21.40