

## Offton and Willisham Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held at Offton Village Hall,  
On Monday 31<sup>st</sup> July 2023 @ 7pm.

Present: Cllr Andrew Chaplin (Chair) & Minute Taker, Cllr Andrew Cox, Cllr Colin Pinson-Roxburgh, Cllr Lois Seddon Cllr Cindy Eves, Cllr Tim Wells and approx 20 residents

<p>1.a)</p> <p>b)</p> <p>c)</p>	<p><b><u>Meeting Administration</u></b></p> <p><b>Welcome by Chair and opening of the meeting;</b> The Chair opened the meeting and thanked everyone for attending.</p> <p><b>Apologies for absence;</b> None received</p> <p><b>Declarations of Interest;</b> None Received</p>	
<p>2.</p>	<p><b>To Approve the draft minutes of 3rd July 2023 and for the Chairman to sign as a true record</b></p> <p>The Chair asked if there were any matters arising from the minutes. There were none. The Minutes were agreed.</p>	
<p>3.</p>	<p><b>Public Participation Session (To hear reports from the County Councillor, District Councillor &amp; Comments from the Public on the Norwich to Tilbury National Grid Consultation)</b></p> <p>The Chair invited those who wished to speak.</p> <p>A resident put forward a document compiled by the pylon group outlining a statement that they suggested should be sent to the National Grid non-statutory consultation.</p> <p>A number of other residents put forward their views to the current NG proposal. All being opposed to the proposal.</p>	

4.

## **Planning & Governance Consultations**

### **i) National Grid - Norwich to Tilbury Route**

The Chair read out a document prepared by the pylon group on a proposed communication strategy for the objection to the National Grid 'The Great Grid Upgrade'.

The Chair followed by reading the prepared statement by the pylon group to be submitted as Offton and Willisham PC response to the NG non-statutory consultation. As below:

'The Council acknowledges the national importance of strategic energy infrastructure for the transition to next zero and support a strong position that the way to deliver this is for a coordinated, offshore approach to the delivery of the transmission reinforcement, including the consolidation of offshore connections and onshore infrastructure together with ensuring there is a minimal impact and maximum management of construction activities to effectively minimise and mitigate harm to Offton and Willisham's communities and environment.

Through this motion we re-state, on behalf of our communities, our objection to the proposed pylon line, and our strong preference for an integrated offshore approach. We therefore ask the Chair of the Council will write to the relevant parties to communicate these objections.'

The above statement was backed up by Councillors Cindy and Colin both being on the pylon group.

Councillor Colin suggested the council should approach the 'Care Suffolk' group who are looking for a co-ordinated approach. Councillor Andrew Cox added further comment to the need to be seen to have a joined up approach with other organisations.

Councillor Cindy read out a response from Dan Poulter MP, suggesting it lacked content and backing for our cause.

After some further discussion the above statement was agreed to be submitted to the NG consultation. The motion was proposed by Councillor Cindy and seconded by Councillor Colin. Passed all in favour.

The council then considered further relevant parties that should be included in the above consultation. It was agreed that these parties should be written too as individual parties.

Councillor Cindy put forward the list below for discussion:

- Secretary of State, department of Energy security of state net Zero
- Dan Poulter
- ofgem
- Department of energy and climate change
- Suffolk County Council

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Mid Suffolk Council</li> <li>● Offset Group of MP's</li> </ul> <p>After some further discussion the motion to send the statement to this group was agreed. Proposed by Councillor Andrew Chaplin and seconded by Councillor Andrew Cox. Passed all in favour.</p>	
<b>AOB</b>	<p>Councillor Tim gave an update on the proposal for a 'tree for each resident' and asked whether the council would consider making an application to the district council for 'Locality funding'. It was greed unanimously to go ahead with this proposal.</p> <p>Councillor Andrew Chaplin suggested the council might consider a small community wood for the parish where the trees could create an amenity for the whole community.</p> <p>Councillor Andrew Chaplin asked the council to remain to agree terms to add as an agenda item for the next meeting as a follow up to our employee appraisal.</p> <p>Councillor Lois asked the council to consider moving proposed meeting dates for 2024 due to V Hall availability. 8<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup> January and 13<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> May. Councillor Andrew Chaplin would check with the Clerk confirming availability.</p>	
	<b>Meeting closed at 8:30</b>	