

**BILSBY & FARLESTHORPE PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE EXTRAORDINARY MEETING HELD
22 FEBRUARY 2024 AT HOLY TRINITY CHURCH, BILSBY**

Present: Cllrs D Morley (Vice Chair), N. Gaston, & N Simmonds and Mrs K Culley (Parish Clerk)

Also present: Cllr C Matthews (LCC)

There were 5 members of the public in attendance.

Public Forum

Members of the public raised their concerns about the substations and pylons proposed by National Grid. There was particular concern that the substations were largely being overlooked by opposition groups with the concentration being mainly on the pylons.

Cllr Matthews highlighted the proposals affect 20 County Council wards which would include 35 pylons as well as the connector station (substation) within the Bilsby & Farlesthorpe Parish. If the connector station went ahead then there are two other supply lines coming from Scotland waiting to be connected and 5 windfarms which have yet to agree a connection. If the connector stations got the go ahead it could open up a host more solar farm applications as the supply route would be readily available for use. The County Council have objected to the pylons being on land stating they need to be out at sea.

72. Welcome

The Vice Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting at 19.20 hours.

73. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Cllrs E Cooper (Chair), A Carolan and J Hudson due to injury and illness. Apologies were also received from Cllrs G Marsh & S Devereux (ELDC) who had a pre-arranged meeting.

74. Declarations of Interest in agenda items under the Localism Act and to consider any requests for dispensation in accordance with section 10 of the Council's Standing orders.

Cllrs Morley, Gaston & Simmonds all declared an interest in item 75 of the agenda and had provided the Proper Officer beforehand with a request for dispensation. The dispensation requests were granted by the Proper Officer on the grounds the proposals will affect the residents of the parish and so it is in their interest. It also allowed the agenda item to remain quorate so it could be discussed and voted on by the Parish Council. Dispensation on this particular matter was granted for up to 4 years in accordance with Regulation 10 of the Council's Standing Orders.

75. To discuss the Grimsby to Walpole proposals for pylons and substations within the parish and resolve what actions the Council want to take.

The following resolutions were made:

- a. The Council unanimously **resolved** to object to the National Grid proposals.
- b. The Council unanimously **resolved** to write to National Grid with their objections on the following grounds:
 1. Preservation of unindustrial landscape
 2. Proximity to Wolds/Coastal
 3. Agricultural Land impact
 4. Wildlife
 5. Flooding
 6. Health/Environmental impact
 7. Mental Wellbeing
 8. The erection of pylons will adversely affect the value of homes and holiday accommodation close to the route
 9. Concerns over the connector stations.
- c. The Council unanimously **resolved** to forward the letter of objection on to HM King Charles III (as His Majesty had recently declared the Lincolnshire Coronation Coast the first in his series of National Nature Reserves); the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs; the Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero; Victoria Atkins MP, County Councillor Colin Matthews, District Councillors Graham Marsh & Sarah Devereux.
- d. It was unanimously **resolved** to support the councillors and members of public who are visiting every household within the parish to raise awareness and to assist residents with putting in objections. Council confirmed this would cover any printing costs incurred.
- e. The Council unanimously **resolved** to purchase banners for the parish and authorised payment for these of up to £150.00. The clerk already had one quote and Cllr Gaston will liaise with a local printing company for another quote.
- f. The Council discussed in detail the ideas and proposals of the various opposition groups forming. Council went on to consider the pros and cons of belonging to, or having spokespersons with, these groups. It was **resolved** to defer the matter to the next meeting so that Councillors could focus on the deadline of 13 March for getting in as many objections as possible.

There being no further business the Vice Chair closed the meeting at 20.05 hours.