

# **Bilsby & Farlesthorpe Parish Council**

## **Draft Minutes Of The Public Meeting**

**Held on 17 September 2024 at 6.45pm in Holy Trinity Church, Bilsby.  
To raise awareness of the National Grid proposals for the parish.**

### **Present:**

Chair of the meeting: A. Carolan

Speakers: County Councillor Colin Matthews & Andy Roberts

District Councillors: G Marsh & S Devereux ELDC

Parish Councillors: A Carolan (Chair), D Morley, E Cooper, N Simmonds and D Coppack & K Culley (Parish Clerk) Bilsby & Farlesthorpe Parish Council

**Also present:** 58 members of the Public.

### **The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting at 18.45 hours.**

- The Chair passed on the apologies from Peter Phillips of the No Pylons Group, who was unable to attend, due to circumstances beyond his control.
- The Chair reassured everyone that the No Pylons Group were supportive of the parishioners in objecting to the National Grid proposals and were working hard behind the scenes.
- The Chair informed the meeting that a photographic mock-up had been made from drone photos to show how one of the substations may look in the landscape. He emphasised the exact location is not yet known but the photo will hopefully give an idea of the scale of the project.

### **County Councillor C Matthews addressed the meeting at 18.50 hours.**

- Cllr Matthews started by saying the need for new distribution routes was recognised but that the National Grid proposals were not the most effective way to achieve that.
- Cllr Matthews quoted verbatim from a Lincolnshire County Council statement in order not to prejudice a potential upcoming court case. LCC, working alongside the other affected counties, have asked National Grid to disclose their costings but the request has been refused to protect their commercial interests. A challenge to this decision is being considered as it is believed National Grid have failed to follow the necessary rules set out in the Green Book.
- The power will benefit the South East, rather than Lincolnshire, and the surplus could be sold abroad.
- Power infrastructure has already been built offshore at Aberdeen and yet it has been deemed as not cost effective here. There is already infrastructure in place along the Wash down to Suffolk which could be utilised by National Grid.
- The loss to landowners and homeowners will not just be financial but also about everything they love about living in Lincolnshire
- Once the substations are in place the whole area will be open to saturation by wind and solar farms.

## **Andy Roberts addressed the meeting at 19.05 hours**

- A Roberts showed the meeting some of the mountains of paperwork produced by National Grid that they expect the public to read to try and understand their proposals.
- He informed the meeting that National Grid is a PLC with shareholders largely based in the USA and Saudi Arabia, with no British interests other than being contracted through OFGEN to carry out the distribution network upgrade.
- A Roberts took an interest when he lived close to pylons in Devon. A neighbour held a fluorescent tube up under a pylon which caused it to glow. This is caused by the electromagnetic field (EMF) which also causes disruption to the internet and other electronics. From there he chose not to live by pylons and subsequently moved to Lincolnshire. Since he became aware of the National Grids proposals he has read and studied all the literature produced by National Grid to gain an understanding of what is proposed.
- He informed the meeting that the biggest problem faced at the moment in Lincolnshire is getting power from the main grid to supply to individuals and for individuals producing electricity to get power into the grid. He said this problem will not be solved by the current proposals which are about getting power to the South East and abroad and which is capable of meeting the needs of high energy users such as data centres.
- Once power is brought ashore, along the EGL3 and EGL4 cables at Theddlethorpe and/or Anderby Creek it will need to be transformed from DC to AC via huge transformers up to 200 tonnes in weight. These will need to be transported to site by lorries of an equivalent weight. This will cause major disruption to the roads and properties en route to the convertor stations.
- The size of the substations has enlarged as the consultation has gone on and more announcements are made for wind farms and solar farms in the area. They will be the largest in Europe. He believes National Grid intend to make this area the energy hub of the UK.
- As the offshore option is being used all the way from Scotland it is possible to go the further 100 miles to come in at the Thames Estuary. A lot of the power needed there, for transport for example, is for DC electric so saving the need for converting it.
- It is a possibility National Grid want to use Theddlethorpe for producing Green Hydrogen and therefore want to bring the power ashore in Lincolnshire. This will help produce electricity for power hungry data centres which the UK are not currently in a position to build due to the lack of power supplies. In Norway a whole town is heated by the heat waste from one data centre. One data centre uses the equivalent electricity as 180,000 homes.
- A Roberts believes, the current proposals along with the solar farms and wind farms that will follow will change our landscape in a way not seen since the changes made by the end of the last ice age.
- He believes the only way to stop this is to stop the cables coming into Lincolnshire and to control the development of substations and that power should be given to Lincolnshire County Council so that we have a say in the future development of our landscape.

## **The floor was opened up to questions from the Members of the Public**

- What about the risk of flooding to the land due to the large footprint of the infrastructure? A Roberts explained that there is likely to be at least two and possibly three lines of pylons to take the power in and out of the substations in order to get it where it was wanted or exported abroad. The substations are going to be at least 40 acres in size, each one being the size of Alford. This amount of power is needed as even our current UK data centres use as much electricity as the aviation industry. He also referred to the inefficiency of production with wind farms maximum efficiency being 65% and solar farms only 14 %
- What are the risks to health from the EMF? A Roberts stated that there were no conclusive answers. Various studies had reached opposing conclusions on the matter.
- What can we do, what is our strategy as we feel we have no voice in all of this? Cllr Matthews said that Lincolnshire County Council will keep looking for better information. He advised those present to keep themselves informed, to take part in all the consultations and to encourage others to do so as well. Keep objecting and do what we can to delay things until changes in technology cause the current proposals to become outdated. Keep writing to anyone and everyone about the matter. Keep it alive and active.
- Are the costs to damage to the roads and local infrastructure factored into the National Grid proposals? Cllr Matthews stated he does not believe this is the case, nor the costs of devaluation to homes. A Roberts said there is a direct correlation between the devaluation of a property and its closeness to a pylon route. A higher value property with 300 metres of the pylons can lose up to a third of its value. Where mortgages are involved there is even a risk of going into negative equity.

The meeting was closed by the Chair and members of the public were given copies of the map mock ups.