

POLSTEAD PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of meeting held on 26th April 2021 at 7pm via Videoconference

Present: Andrew Wade (Chairman), John Baxter, John Flather, Christine Johnson, James Oxford and Stewart Sowman.

Attending: Dave Crimmin (Clerk) and 5 members of public.

21/079 Apologies for Absence

No apologies required.

21/080 Declaration of Interests and Requests for Dispensation

No interests were declared and no request for dispensation had been received.

21/081 Minutes of Meeting held on 15th April 2021

The minutes of the meeting were approved by the councillors who resolved that the minutes should be digitally signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

21/082 Public Forum

The Chairman invited the residents present to take part in the debate on the Bramford to Twinstead project as a response from the parish of Polstead was required for the consultation not just the parish council.

21/083 Bramford to Twinstead

The Chairman opened the discussion by giving an overview of National Grid's proposals. He outlined the letter that the parishes affected by the project had written to the Secretary of State to highlight the issues of undertaking a consultation at this time and seeking an extension to the consultation. However, the parish of Polstead had to prepare a response with the deadline of the 6th May 2021 being so close as an extension may not be given.

The councillors and residents discussed the various aspects of the proposals and agreed that the priority of the issues that should be raised were:

- Whatever routes the electric cables took in Polstead, the safety considerations in relation to the electromagnetic fields and child leukaemia would be given the highest priority. In developing the route for connection we support principle that NG will seek to maximise the distance from settlements residential properties and schools as far as possible to reduce risks from EMF.
- The consultation should be delayed in order that the cumulative effects of all the proposed projects being undertaken by National Grid through Bramford were identified and were made part of the consultation.
- The Offshore option of electricity being run around the British coast like a ring main should be the preferred choice.
- The second choice would be the undergrounding of the entire length of the Bramford to Twinstead for the currently proposed upgrade.
- If an overhead / underground option had to be implemented, then the proposed Sealing End Compound currently proposed for Dollops Wood should be moved next to the Layham pit so that the SEC did not impact upon the visibility from the AONB and the existing road infrastructure from the A1071 was already in place.
- There was a preference for undergrounding round Sprotts rather than under Dollops Wood.

It was resolved that Cllrs Wade and Flather would draft the response so that councillors can sign off the final draft ahead of the 6th May 2021 deadline.

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21/084 Emails circulated

There were no issues raised.

21/085 Next scheduled meeting

The next scheduled meeting will be held on Thursday 20th May 2021 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall (Subject to COVID restrictions). The councillors agreed that they and the Clerk would undertake a lateral flow test the day before the meeting at the Village Hall and would respectfully ask that all other attendees would do the same.

Meeting closed at 8.10pm.