

Weybourne Parish Council

MINUTES of the Extraordinary Parish Council Meeting held on
Wednesday 30th October 2019, 7.30pm at The Gallery (the function room of The Ship).

Present: Lyndon Swift (Chair), Penny Taylor, Peter Gallally, Valerie Stubbs, Pat Floyd and Catherine Fletcher (Clerk)

Also present: County Councillor Sarah Butikofer, District Councillor Karen Ward and 6 members of the public.

1. (a) To receive and consider apologies

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr. Rose, Cllr. Ruth Gallally and Cllr. Crawford.

(b) To receive Declarations of Interest on Agenda items

No declarations of interest were declared

2. Public Participation (15 min for comments from members of the public)

A member of the public requested to speak on item 3.

3. Planning To consider and respond to the Dudgeon and Sheringham Shoal Offshore Wind Farm Extensions Consultation

It was noted that the proposed Dudgeon and Sheringham Shoal Offshore Wind Farm Extensions are currently in the pre-application stage with the application expected in the third quarter of 2021.

It was also noted that it has been requested that Equinor attend a future Parish Council meeting and also hold a public meeting for Weybourne in the village hall.

It was noted that the current consultation was in relation to what information the Parish Council felt should be provided by Equinor in their Environmental Statement as part of the pre-application process.

It was **agreed** to write to the Planning Inspectorate highlighting that the Parish Council have a number of concerns they feel should be addressed in the Environmental Statement, including:

Environmental and Ecological Impact

Weybourne Parish Council are deeply concerned about the impact these proposals would have on the ecology and biodiversity of the Weybourne area including, but not limited to:

- Impact on wildlife and biodiversity through the disruption and destruction of key habitats
- Impact on bird populations, including residential and wintering birds, but also migrating birds, an area that is not addressed in the scoping document
- The impact of light pollution on the dark skies
- The impact on the Chalk Reef
- The impact on the AONB
- The impact on the SSSI

Impact on Tourism

Tourism is the largest industry in Weybourne and as such is central to the local economy and the sustainability of village amenities such as the pub and village store. People are drawn to Weybourne for its wildlife, birdlife and tranquillity. The impact of this proposed development on the environment and ecology of Weybourne will also impact upon tourism to Weybourne. In addition to this, there are a number of specific projects and locations that currently bring tourism to Weybourne that would be impacted by this proposal:

- The Pond Restoration project

- The Deep History Coast
- The beach
- It is also noted that the North Norfolk Railway Station, a significant tourist attraction for the village, is not identified in the Equinor Scoping document

Impact on Agriculture and Fishing

Agriculture and fishing are significant industries in Weybourne and stand to be impacted adversely by this proposal. These impacts include:

- The impact of beach closure on fishing businesses in Weybourne
- The disruption to agriculture and ongoing reduction in crop yield

The inadequacy of the infrastructure

There are no roads into Weybourne that are suitable for large or heavy construction traffic. Entering Weybourne along the A149 from Kings Lynn would require large vehicles to negotiate the twists and turns of villages such as Cley, while there is a height restriction on the A149 coming from Sheringham. The other roads into Weybourne are narrow, single track and bendy. Station Road crosses the North Norfolk Railway Line over a Victorian bridge built for horses and carts that would not withstand large or heavy construction vehicles.

With these concerns in mind, the Parish Council request that Equinor consider the use of barges and pontoons to bring construction machinery and materials to Weybourne.

Tidal Surges

The Parish Council are keen that Equinor consider the impact of tidal surges in their Environmental Statement. Tidal surges change the nature and character of the coast line and are predicted to increase in frequency and severity.

Offshore Ring Main

Weybourne Parish Council are keen that the possibility of an Offshore Ring Main be considered as an alternative to the repeated disruption and damage, caused by numerous cables making landfall at Weybourne.

Repeated disruption

The Parish Council are also concerned at the repeated disruption the village will be facing over the coming years. Two cables have already come ashore at Weybourne (Dudgeon and Sheringham Shoal) with the prospect of the Hornsea III cable coming through the village in the next few years and now the possibility of two further cables outlined in this proposal. This repeated disruption puts a significant burden on the village over a lengthy period of time. Steps need to be taken to mitigate the impact of this and to ensure the village does not suffer permanent damage to its wildlife and ecology, its economy, and as a result, its community, all of which stand to be impacted by this proposal.

4. Correspondence to consider and respond to the following:

(a) Items received since 24th October 2019

No items had been received.

5. To confirm date of next Parish Council Meeting, Wednesday 6th November 2019

There being no further business, the extraordinary meeting was closed at 8:19pm.