

LITTLE BROMLEY PARISH COUNCIL

EXTRA ORDINARY MINUTES

Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held at The Haywain Public House, on Thursday 20th April 2023.

In Attendance:

- Councillor J Buxton (Chairman)**
- Councillor I Smith (Vice Chairman)**
- Councillor N Stock**
- Councillor S Sauka**
- Councillor C Barrett**
- Clerk – D Sauka**

Meeting commenced @ 19.30pm

36 members of the public attended.

73/1. Apologies to be received and accepted

None

73/2. Members Interests

- To declare any Disclosable Pecuniary, other Pecuniary or Non Pecuniary interests
- None

73/3. Five Estuaries Stage 2 Consultation

A number of Five Estuaries (FE) drop in events have happened including Ardleigh on 31st March & Lawford Venture Centre on the 13th April. Cllr Buxton stated that he has taken information from the FE website and from information gained at the drop in events and created a set of slides for the EO meeting. These slides focus on issues that relate to the parish of Little Bromley. LBPC wish to respond to the FE Consultation and need parishioners' feedback for the response. Cllr Buxton proceeded to project slides, outlining FE proposals.

FE propose to bring their windfarm cables ashore at Frinton, and place cabling underground (approximately 26km) to a new substation at Little Bromley. This will allow FE to connect into the proposed National Grid East Anglian Green substation targeted for the west side of the village (near the current substation at the junction of Ardleigh Road and Grange Road). The proposed National Grid substation is sized at 23 hectare and is the offered connection point for off shore wind farms and energy suppliers. The FE substation is planned to be around 8 hectares. We are aware that North Falls (out for consultation in May 2023) also plan to connect into the National Grid Substation with their own 8 hectare substation. There is also early discussion of a company call Tarcon (a Shell Company) running an undersea cable between Germany and the UK, coming ashore and connecting into the National Grid substation. We assume that this will be around 8 hectare in size as well. North Falls and Tarcon will also need underground cabling to their substations.

So the high level understanding is for 3 or 4 substations (4 including Tarcon), multiple sets of underground cables and significant land consumption for each substation.

FE propose a 3 hectare temporary construction site at the top of village towards Horsley Cross roundabout, which would be in place for around 2 years. Other temporary construction sites for the developments will also be required.

The FE construction route to the substation depends on the substation location. For the East option the route will be off Horsley Cross Roundabout, along Clacton Road and then join a new cross country haul road around Abbots Hall. This haul road will then run south of the village. For the West option the route will be off the A120 into Bentley Road and join a new cross country haul road just before Paynes Lane.

The haul road whichever substation location is selected will have its main access point at Bentley Road just before Paynes Lane. The haul road will cross Paynes Lane, Spratts Lane, Barlon Road. and Ardleigh Road. The construction sites, selected substation location and haul roads will cause enormous destruction to surrounding farmland.

FE will lay 4 electric cables underground. The working width for this work is estimated to be 60 metre wide trenches (4 trenches) including the haul road. FE state that land would be reinstated to original condition. It is not believed that this is possible.

FE propose to build temporary reservoirs to accommodate all the drain water during the construction - it is not known where this water will eventually drain to.

There would also be a major impact on traffic flow for 2 years plus from 2027 (proposed start date). FE predict that an extra 180 HGV per day, running for 6 days a week (Sundays working within the compound) will be needed for the development. This is around 15 HGV's per hour from 7am till 7pm or one every 4 minutes. It is worth noting that Bentley Road is sized such that 2 HGVs cannot pass each other without one or both vehicle mounting the verge.

Cllr Stock thanked Cllr Buxton for the presentation all his hard work. Stated that he had attended a meeting with the Government minister for energy and was not reassured that this project would not go ahead. However if the National Grid East Anglia Green project (Pylons – through East Anglia – Norfolk / Suffolk / Essex) did not go ahead, then Five Estuaries & North Falls would withdraw their applications.

Cllr Buxton stated that the Essex/Suffolk / Norfolk Pylons Group which is being lead by Rosie Pearson, has already presented a 23,000 signed petition from across the counties. She has worked with the offset Group i.e Bernard Jenkin, Priti Patel, Therese Coffey and various other MPs along the proposed route. They have stated that these developments should now be going off shore instead of Pylons.

District Cllr Fairley stated that on the Essex / Suffolk / Norfolk Pylons Group website they have some useful information, including suggested letter templates for the public to use. She stated that it is not a done deal, there is an opportunity for this to go elsewhere, and therefore individuals should write to their MP. FE have applied for government funding to look at the possibility of an offshore connection and encouraged the Parish Council to make a response to the stage 2 consultation.

Cllr Buxton stated that the Parish Council had already made representation to the East Green Project.

Cllr Stock proposed that the Chairman writes a letter to Bernard Jenkin and Five Estuaries outlining the Parish concerns, and that we do not want the project here. Copy to be posted onto website for parishioners to view. 2nd Cllr Smith – Unanimously agreed.

Cllr Buxton proposed that a 2nd meeting be held on the 29th June 2023 to discuss North Falls Windfarm consultation.

Cllr Buxton thanked members of the public for attending, stated that it was nice to see so many concerned about the projects.

73/4. Planning

- Stow Farm - 23/00457/FUL – Erect a 14 metre x 12 metre x 3 metre high farm/kennel storage barn
- After discussion it was proposed that Clerk make comment on the Planning website to support project.

73/5. Public Participation

- Matters arising from members of the public
- None

73/6. Next meeting date.

- 18th May 2023, commencing at 7pm
- Parish Assembly – AGM – Parish Council

Meeting closed @ 21.03

Signed:.....

Dated:.....

Name:.....

Position:.....