

MULBARTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Extraordinary Parish Council Meeting held remotely at

Thursday 20th August 2020 at 7pm

Councillors present via remote videoing platform:-

Derek Aldous Adam Banham Gerald Peachey Beverley Leek Steve Sewell Richard Tucker

Also in attendance were District Councillor Legg and one member of the public.

**1.0 To formally open the extraordinary meeting**

Cllr Leek formally opened the extraordinary meeting following an explanation that the meeting is being held remotely as permitted under The Local Authorities (Coronavirus)(Flexibility of Local Authority Meetings) (England) Regulations 2020 which came into force on 4th April 2020 and allows local authorities to conduct meetings remotely.

**2.0 To receive and consider apologies for absence**

Cllr Leek reported that no apologies had been received and asked for the minutes to show that Cllr Leigh was not in attendance.

**3.0 To receive declaration of interest on items on the agenda**

Cllr Banham declared an interest in any matters relating to planning or GNLP.

**4.0 To receive a report on offshore wind farms and related developments and to consider a donation of funds under Section 137 of the Local Government Act 1972**

It was noted that all Cllrs had received a copy of the email from the individual (claimant) who is seeking a judicial review into the Norfolk Vanguard project decision, a covering email from Oulton Parish Council and a MPC background paper.

Following discussions regarding the use of S137 powers, all Councillors agreed that there was a direct benefit to the Mulbarton area and its inhabitants in contributing to the cost of a judicial review and that the benefit accruing to the area and its residents was commensurate with the proposed expenditure on the grounds of volume of construction traffic and the number of years this will impact villagers; increased traffic along the B1113 to Norwich; the visual impact of a substation on the area and the creeping industrialisation of the area surrounding the village. It was noted that once one substation is approved others are more likely to be approved.

During discussions regarding the donation of funds it was confirmed that MPC would only make a one-off payment and that payment would not be direct to the Claimant and would most likely go into the legal team's client account.

Following confirmation that all Cllrs were in agreement that S137 expenditure could be justified; Cllr Leek proposed that approval of £1000 expenditure, under Section 137 of the local Government Act 1972, towards the cost of a judicial review of the Secretary of State's decision to approve the Norfolk Vanguard off shore wind farm project be given. This was seconded by Cllr Sewell and unanimously agreed.

#### **5.0 To adjourn the meeting for the public session**

District Councillor Legg reported that he had forwarded to MPC a copy of an email and consultation response from a Swardeston resident in regards to the Sheringham Shoal and Dudgeon extensions Phase 1 consultation.

Cllr Legg stated that he is trying to make contact with Richard Bacon, MP to discuss the impact of windfarm substations on the local area.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 7.22pm.

The next meeting will take place on Monday 7<sup>th</sup> September 2020 at 7.30pm.