

## **WIND FARM UPDATE**

Monday 7th February 2022

### **1. Offshore Transmission Network Review**

The government held an online briefing event on Monday 31st January 2022 with the relevant departments (BEIS and Ofgem) and National Grid. There is still no clear end date for any outcome.

A new 'East Anglia Coordination Programme' has now been announced as part of the Review. Mulbarton Parish Council submitted a contribution recommending the 'Split DCO' approach. This would retain the offshore wind turbine approvals whilst taking most of the infrastructure offshore.

### **2. Contract for Difference auctions**

The government's latest round of subsidy awards for offshore wind farms is now taking place. The process is managed by National Grid on behalf of the energy regulator, Ofgem. The application window closed on 14th January and National Grid should have advised applicants on 25th February whether or not they are eligible. If there are no appeals, the results may be published in April 2022.

### **3. Hornsea Three**

The government is still consulting on proposals for dealing with the effects of the offshore wind farm cable trenches on marine wildlife along the Norfolk coast. This was not resolved as part of the Development Consent Order application and there is no indication of when it will be completed.

The South Norfolk Council planning portal is out of action and no further details are available.

### **4. Dudgeon and Sheringham Shoal extensions**

The developer, Equinor, has begun requesting face-to-face meetings with parish councils along the onshore cable route. Mulbarton Parish Council has not yet received a request for such a meeting and has written to Equinor with a list of unresolved issues and a request for further clarification.

### **5. Norfolk Vanguard and Boreas**

In December 2021 the government approved a Development Consent Order application for the Norfolk Boreas offshore wind farm. Approval for the Norfolk Vanguard project was quashed by the High Court, but the project was re-approved on 11th February 2022 with no significant changes.

### **6. East Anglia One North and Two**

A decision for these two wind farms off the coast of Suffolk, which lie within the same zone as Norfolk Vanguard and Boreas, is expected by no later than 31st March 2022. Local communities in Suffolk are pressing hard for the 'Split DCO' approach. This would retain approval of the offshore wind turbines whilst taking most of the substations and infrastructure offshore and using brownfield sites, such as disused fossil-fuel power stations, for any onshore infrastructure that is still required.

### **7. Independent professional advice**

Mulbarton Parish Council is proceeding with the next stage of independent professional advice and is now engaged in consultation with the local MP on the best way forward.