

LAYHAM PARISH COUNCIL

DRAFT Minutes of the Extraordinary Meeting of the Council
held at 6.45pm on Wednesday 28 April 2021 via ZOOM

Present: Charlotte Britton - Chairman (CB)
Graham Coleman (GC)
Jane Cryer - Clerk (JC)
John Curran (JDC)
Bill Paton (BP)
David Pratt (DP)
Sheila Roberts (SR)
Michael Woods - Vice Chairman (MW)

In attendance: Gordon Jones - Suffolk CC (GJ)
John Ward - Babergh DC (JW)
5 Parishioners

Apologies: None

21.4.1E APOLOGIES

See above.

21.4.2E DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

21.4.3E PUBLIC FORUM

Martin Looker, a member of the working group which had been looking at the impact of the National Grid's proposals, encouraged as many parishioners as possible to respond to the NG consultation; all adults in a household could write in separately.

21.4.4E NATIONAL GRID PROPOSALS

JDC explained that the National Grid proposed replacing the existing line with a larger one between Hadleigh and Layham; the same proposal as in 2012. This would mean that pylons and wires would be much more visible; however, it was possible to put the wires underground, as was already planned for the Stour Valley and the AONB. There would be no benefit to the local area, but the proposals would allow the National Grid to move electricity from offshore wind farms and Sizewell C to London and the rest of the country. There was also a proposal for an additional line from Bramford into Essex. A letter had been sent to NG, the Minister of State for Business, Energy and Clean Growth, the Planning Inspectorate, Ofgem and the Government Legal Department from all the parish councils in the area; Layham had signed up to this, subject to full council approval; JDC thanked JW for his role in bringing the various parish councils together. The letter stated that the period of notice was insufficient and should be extended to August 2021, given the restrictions in place due to the pandemic. JDC explained that the parish council wanted to disseminate as much information as possible to parishioners, to help them to make an informed response. He also supported Martin Looker's proposal for a petition. In response to a question from SR, JDC said people should write separately to NG even if they had already completed the form supplied; it was important that individual views were taken into account, as the NG form contained leading questions. In response to a comment from GC that an underwater option should be considered, JDC agreed that the two new lines could easily be put under the sea. A group of MPs had requested that changes be made to legislation requiring NG not to go with the cheapest option.

It was proposed by DP, seconded by SR and agreed unanimously to adopt the recommendations from the working group:

- that Layham Parish Council should support the joint Parish Council response;
- that Layham Parish Council should submit an individual objection, focusing on the need to underground the line;
- that Layham Parish Council should undertake an awareness raising exercise with parishioners to assist them in compiling their responses to the National Grid proposals;
- that consideration should be given to organising a petition.

21.4.5E DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Annual General Meeting - 7.30pm on Wednesday 26 May 2021, via Zoom.

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