

Marham Parish Council

Minutes of the Extraordinary Council Meeting held Wednesday, 4th September 2019 at 7.15pm in the Village Hall, Marham

Present:	Chairman	Cllr I Barrett
	Vice Chairman	Cllr P Walsingham
	Councillors	Cllr G Bucke
		Cllr S Canham
		Cllr D Flatt
		Cllr T Harrison
		Cllr J Hipperson
		Cllr E Rix-Clark
		Cllr S Wilson-Low
	RAF Representative	WO G Spark
	Parish Clerk	Mrs S Porter
	Member(s) of Public	29

150. Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence had been received from Cllr C Child (ill health), County Cllr G Middleton (prior meeting), Borough Cllr G Hipperson (BCKL&WN Mayoral commitment) and Borough Cllr M Howland (prior meeting).

151. Declarations of interest and requests for dispensation

There were no declarations of interests and no requests for dispensation.

152. Approval of the minutes of the Parish Council meeting

Cllr Rix-Clark advised that Item 142.1.2, paragraph 1 following the resolution, should read:

Cllr Wilson-Low will do the response to Marham Friends (*not Cllr Rix-Clark will do the response to Marham Friends*).

Cllr Barrett amended the name and initialled the amendment.

Proposed – Vice Chairman, Cllr Walsingham

Seconded – Cllr Wilson-Low

That the minutes of the Council Meeting held on Wednesday, 21st August 2019 (items 131-149) are approved and signed as a true and accurate record with the amendment made as stated above.

All in favour

The Chairman, Cllr Barrett, duly signed and dated the minutes of the meeting.

153. To resolve the following:

Proposed – Cllr Canham

Seconded – Vice Chairman, Cllr Walsingham

That non-elected Members of Marham Parish Council and non-ratepayers of the Parish of Marham are given permission to participate during Item 6 on the agenda, as the principles of involvement of those potentially affected by, or interested in the Norfolk Minerals and Waste Local Plan Review, holds that those who are affected by a decision have a right to be involved in the decision-making process and that any agreed actions are then assumed by the appropriate Parish Councils.

All in favour

154. Report from County Cllr Middleton regarding the Norfolk Minerals and Waste Local Plan Review

County Cllr Middleton had submitted a written report as follows:

Following my call with the Clerk today I'd like please for the below to be read out to attendees this evening.

Dear residents, MPC and CATSS

Firstly, my sincere apologies for not being able to attend this evening, which had been my intention until this morning. I have a personal issue that I need to deal with.

I would like to declare my dedication to the fight which still faces us. The next stage of consultation is coming up soon and we need to be prepared for it. The success so far for the campaign is significant; lots of media coverage has enabled voices to have been heard but we are not out of the woods as yet (excuse the pun).

I do believe we need to take progress as a positive SIL02 has been removed from the plan and let's not forget this is the site that Sibelco wanted, was interested in, and had built a plan to quarry. However, through ours and MOD response this has been defeated!

But the AOS still exists and poses a real threat to our wonderful Warren and surrounding area. So, the fight goes on. The main difference between the two is that Sibelco wanted the SIL02, and the AOS doesn't so far have any interested party with any sort of plan to develop. If it becomes an AOS it basically becomes an invitation for any interested party to come forward. Having said that they still need to go through the process.

In terms of my role I will continue to be a loud voice for you. As the Vice Chair of Infrastructure and Development I ensured that the plan was featured on our agenda and was vocal with mine and our opinion, as featured heavily in local media.

We now need to build our thoughts for the next phase of consultation and in terms of this evening please do compile a list of next steps or questions you require me to act and find out answers too. I would then like to, ASAP, organise a meeting with myself, Parish Council representatives and CATSS to discuss and feed information back to you, the residents.

Finally, I would like to apologise again for not being with you this evening but to pledge my full support to the campaign and to serve you and assist in winning this battle.

Many thanks and hope to see you all soon.

The Chairman, Cllr Barrett, reported that the next phase of the public consultation had originally been proposed to commence August/September 2019. However, the Norfolk County Council website now stated that this would be September/October 2019.

The public were informed that an extract from the Draft Norfolk Minerals and Waste Local Plan regarding the Marham and Shouldham sites and a map produced by CATSS had been printed for them for the purposes of this meeting (Appendices A & B). A brief description of each document was provided. It was noted that SIL02 (Silica Sand) had been removed completely, although an area of around 30% still remained within the parish of Marham under AOS E, located mostly within the parish of Shouldham. The assessment concluded that an area to the northern part of AOS E around Wormegay and Pentney Priory area should not be allocated in Norfolk Minerals and Waste Local Plan.

The public were informed that they were entitled to make representations to Norfolk County Council by letter or by email and each adult living in a household was eligible to submit their own individual comments.

155. Questions from the floor

The Clerk to Shouldham Parish Council requested that the report from County Cllr Middleton be forwarded to him. The Clerk would deal with this.

Various questions were raised from the floor and answers provided as follows:

Q: Why has a small area of Marham been kept in the Plan under AOS E when it was initially announced that SIL02 had been removed in its entirety?

A: This would be put to County Cllr Middleton.

Q: Once an Area of Search has been approved by Norfolk County Council, can it then remain on the Plan?

A: Yes.

Q: Many people visit Shouldham Warren. Do residents have to live in the affected parishes in order to object?

A: Any members of public can object to the Draft document; they do not need to be residents of the affected parishes.

Q: If approved, how would the silica sand be transported?

A: By road which would have an enormous effect on the A134 and A10 with increased HGV movement.

Q: Has Sibelco registered its interest in the AOS E?

A: This would be put to County Cllr Middleton.

Q: Sibelco currently transports sand to Grimsby where it is sold and shipped globally. Why did Sibelco not mention that its silica sand was not wholly used in this country?

A: This would be put to County Cllr Middleton.

Q: The MOD has objected to wet dredging. If the sand was to be dredged dry, would the MOD still be able to object to this?

A: Yes. In order to comply with international standards, each aerodrome, whether military or civil, is surrounded by a 13km air safeguarding zone. This zone is based on a statistic that 95% of bird strikes occur below 2000ft, and that aircraft approaching an aerodrome on a normal approach would descend below 2000ft approximately 13km from the runway, reflecting historic angles of take-off and approach.

Q: The requirement for silica sand is driven by Central Government for national self-interest and self-sufficiency for the purpose of the glass industry. However, there are no third parties that actually check how much sand is dug or how much glass is made in the UK from its quarries. Can Norfolk County Council verify the above information?

A: This would be put to County Cllr Middleton.

Q: Has the Parish Council been engaging with Elizabeth Truss MP?

A: Elizabeth Truss MP has been kept aware of the progress and can be invited by either parish to speak at a future public meeting if required.

Q: Will the Parish Council be objecting to the Draft Plan and will its Members object individually?

A: The Draft Plan will be considered when it has been published and it is likely that the Council will object. Councillors, as general members of the public, are encouraged to object individually but cannot be forced to do so.

Q: How will residents be informed of the next consultation stage?

A: Information will be published on the Council website and noticeboards. The CATSS group has kindly confirmed that letters will be hand delivered to every household in Marham and Shouldham to give guidance on how to object.

Q: Can CATSS include Wormegay as well?

A: CATSS will consider this.

Q: Are County and Borough Councillors entitled to submit their own objections?

A: This would be put to County Cllr Middleton.

Q: There are international associations that provide data on quarries to each other but it is extremely difficult for individuals to access any information on where quarries are based in Europe. Silelco is a private company with its headquarters based in Belgium and is one of the largest operators in the world. How can the public find out information on their global operations?

A: This would be put to County Cllr Middleton.

Q: Do any Parish Councillors have a conflict of interest regarding ownership of any AOS E land?

A: No.

Q: What are the views of the RAF?

A: RAF Marham does not have an opinion on the Plan; observations can only be made by the MOD.

1 member of public arrived at the meeting at 7.59pm.

Q: Conservation is very poor nationwide compared with other countries, and there is currently no power to ensure individuals and/or businesses recycle their products. If the UK recycled more, the need for silica sand would be far less. Can objectors include these important matters in their objections?

A: Yes, although during the last consultation when people included objections regarding conservation, recycling, nature, health, wellbeing, biodiversity, etc, these were merely noted by Norfolk County Council as protests regarding amenity are not considered to be as effective as certain other criteria.

The Chairman, Cllr Barrett, thanked everyone for attending and invited people to submit any further questions by email to the Chairman or Clerk.

156. To record the date and time of the next Full Council meeting

The next meeting of the Parish Council would be held on Wednesday, 9th October 2019 at 7.15pm in the Village Hall.

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 8.05pm.