

**Minutes of Meeting.**

<b>Meeting title</b>	Cable Route North Community Liaison Group
<b>Location</b>	The Coronation Hall, Wainfleet All Saints
<b>Date/ time</b>	Tuesday 2 July 2024 7pm – 8:30pm
<b>Originator</b>	ODOW
<b>Attendees</b>	<p>Dan Clark – ODOW – DC  Chris Jenner – ODOW - CJ  Roisin Alldis – ODOW – RA  Sophie Brown – ODOW – SB</p> <p>Dr Clive Shrubsole – Wainfleet St Mary Parish Council – CS  Carleen Dickinson – East Lindsey District Council and Friskney Ward Council – CD  Kym Wickham – Friskney Parish Council – KW  Jean Hart – Wainfleet Parish Council – JH  Helen Smithson Whitehead – Firsby Parish Council – HSW  Margaret Smithson – Resident of Irby in the Marsh – MS  Mick Rust - Wainfleet St Mary Parish Council - MR</p>
<b>Apologies</b>	None
<b>Purpose of meeting</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To involve key local stakeholders in the design and development of the Outer Dowsing Offshore Wind project (landfall, onshore cable route and substation) through presentations, discussions and planned workshop activities.</li> <li>To act as a two-way communication channel between local communities and the project team.</li> <li>To help foster local involvement and ownership of the project.</li> </ol>
	<p><b>1. Chair’s welcome, terms of reference and introductions</b></p> <p>CJ opened the meeting and attendees introduced themselves.</p> <p>The group was reminded of the terms of reference.</p> <p>The minutes of the last meeting were already approved and posted on the website.</p>

2.	<p><b>Project Update</b></p> <p><u>Project Timeline:</u> The 25,000-page application has been accepted and the Planning Inspectorate (PINS) will pull issue a timetable for the hearings in August. The project anticipates a consent decision by summer 2025. Subject to a consent decision from the Secretary of State, there will be a period to discharge any conditions prior to construction starting from 2027. Construction will last approximately 3 years and it is anticipated that the project will start to generate power in 2030.</p> <p><u>DCO Examination Process:</u> The Relevant Representation period has now closed and representations are available to view on the PINS website. A total of 95 representations were received including one from Fosdyke Parish council and one from Well Parish Meeting. A number of representations were submitted by landowners.</p> <p>The next stage will include a Preliminary Meeting where the examination panel will commence the 6-month Examination process. The hearings are expected to take place between October 2024 and March 2025.</p> <p>The full examination process will take around six months with issue-specific hearings taking place over this period. The five inspectors will inspect the application and focus on areas of interest and to reflect the representations that have been received. There will then be hearings on specialist subjects.</p> <p>The inspectors will then have three months to write a report recommending approval or refusal and this will be sent to the Secretary of State who then has three further months to make a decision.</p> <p>Landowners in the area will receive a 'Rule 8' letter from the Planning Inspectorate detailing the</p>
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		<p>examination process and this may generate some queries to local councillors.</p> <p>Residents can sign up for project updates on the PINS website which will provide notification of key milestones such as when the Rule 8 letters are being sent out.</p>
<b>3.</b>		<p><b>Survey Activity</b></p> <p>Further survey work is being undertaken across the project area. This included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Offshore geophysical surveys from July until later this year.</li><li>• Onshore geophysical site investigations – in fields – these were completed in June.</li></ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Onshore geotechnical boreholes and trial pits were completed in May. These will allow the engineers to have a better understanding of the subsurface geology for HDD and the substation work.</li>   <li>• Nearshore geotechnical seabed survey off the coast from Anderby Creek is due for completion by the end of July and a jack-up barge will be visible from the beach. At the closest point, it will be 500m from the shore. It is being undertaken during the summer for weather, speed and safety reasons. It will give the engineers an idea of what they will be drilling through and help them design an optimal route. Workers will be ferried in and out from Skegness Yacht Club.</li>   <li>• Onshore Archaeology trial trench excavation in fields along the route would take place between July-October (est.). This will involve trenches 30-50m in length at locations identified by the geophysical surveys.</li> </ul> <p>CD asked if the landowners were on board. CJ said they were going through the process of the entering option easement agreement and all landowners had been approached to sign these.</p> <p>HSW confirmed that she was on the other side of the hedge to where the cables would be laid so that she was approached by two lovely women from ODOW but it was not applicable to her.</p> <p>MS asked if there was a map available of the cable route. CJ showed the map to the attendees and its relevance to Wainfleet and discussed the usage of the local roads.</p>
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### **Outer Dowsing in the community**

#### Young Engineers

The team is attending the Future Fest careers event in Boston to encourage students to consider a career in offshore wins. This is in addition to a previous event at John Spendluffe College that the team attended.

The team is looking to do more STEM events and the possibility of purchasing learning equipment to do work with primary schools.

CD said she was pleased that ODOW was getting involved in these events because there needs to be more to engage with young people and keep them in the area with roles like the ones ODOW is promoting, rather than losing those skillsets to major towns and cities elsewhere in the UK.

#### Lincolnshire Show

Outer Dowsing was proud to sponsor the show this year for the first time. As one of Lincolnshire's flagship events it was important that we were able to show support for the Lincolnshire Agricultural Society and all that they do to celebrate and support rural Lincolnshire. It also provided a good opportunity to answer questions about the project to interested parties such as speak to landowners and primary schools.

#### Community Benefit Fund

The formal CBF will launch in 2027 when the project reaches financial close.

Ahead of the Community Benefit Fund (CBF), the project is exploring options to support a small number of projects in line with our themes. Most projects proposed so far were more aligned with the CBF. Therefore, ahead of the CBF launch the project will likely focus on developing STEM and Nature Positive related activities such as outdoor learning with local

	<p>schools, planting/bio-diversity projects and wind workshops.</p> <p>CS mentioned that ODOW had been invited to the Wainfleet Village Fete on 1<sup>st</sup> September and that this was discussed with Jenny Marsden.</p> <p>CJ said that they would like to attend and would speak with JM to confirm this.</p>
<p><b>5.</b></p>	<p><b>AOB</b></p> <p>KW asked what ODOW would do if a Landowner did not agree to works being completed on their land. CJ said that they would go down the compulsory purchase route, which they want to avoid as much as possible, but when there are voluntary agreements then it is much more mutually beneficial for all parties.</p> <p>KW said that she had one of the landowners ask about the heat from the cable and the impact on the crops and soil, etc.</p>

MR said it came up at a local meeting at the Croft and one of the landowners said it affects productivity of the land because of the heat and it wouldn't be as productive.

CJ said that the Project has had conversation with the landowner and they provided evidence to demonstrate that there would not be a significant impact based on heat. Those discussions have centred around a couple of areas on previous projects where there have been slight differentials in productivity. There could be a number of factors for that, including drainage, soil reinstatement, etc.

HSW asked why ODOW were going underground when National Grid Grimsby to Walpole scheme is proposing overhead lines. CJ said that would be a question for National Grid.

MS asked about the cable size examples presented. CJ provided information about the amount of electricity conducted and its insulation.

MS asked how deep the cables would go. CJ confirmed it would usually be 1.2m but it is dependent on land drains or other infrastructure.

MS asked how resilient the cables were. CJ said design life is 35 years but the reality is most likely longer than that.

MS asked if they are buried offshore. CJ said where possible cables are buried but there are places where this is not possible and boulders or concrete covers would be placed over it.

MS asked if it would be one long continuous cable. CJ said onshore cables come in spools max ~1.5km long so they would connect them along the line. Offshore would usually be longer because you can put larger cable drums on a ship, while onshore they can only be loaded onto a low loader.

MS asked who would own the infrastructure. CJ said the generational assets would be kept with the company that develops it. The cables would be

		<p>sold off to an offshore transmission operator who would maintain the substation and the cables.</p> <p>CD asked if business rates were applicable because it was an offshore project. CJ said ODOW would pay business rates because of the substation and this would be a significant amount dependent on substation size, etc.</p> <p>MS asked if there were any issues with permissions to put cables in the sea. CJ said both offshore and onshore permissions are sought together in the DCO.</p> <p>MS mentioned about the stanchions were good for creating biological ecosystems. CJ said there were studies on other projects about the positive impact on marine growth with different species of fish, lobster and molluscs, etc.</p>
6.		<p><b>Chair's closing remarks and next steps / next meeting</b></p> <p>The next CLG is expected to be in the late Autumn but the ODOW team will be in touch with details nearer the date.</p>

<b>Meeting Protocol</b>	
Distribute agenda before meeting	Fix responsibilities for each item
Start on time	Finish on time
Set out your ground rules	Publish minutes / actions
Stick to the agenda	Continuous improvement