

Minutes of Meeting

Meeting title	Community Liaison Group – Surfleet
Location	Surfleet Village Hall
Date/ time	6 May 2026/ 7pm.
Originator	ODOW
Attendees	Andrew Acum – Outer Dowsing Offshore Wind – AAc Alison Austin – BBC - AA Richard Austin – BBC – RA James Cantwell – BBC – JC Elizabeth Jones – Surfleet Parish Council – EJ Jenny Marsden – Outer Dowsing Offshore Wind - JM Alan Mowton – Fosdyke Parish Council – AM Keith Overell – Fosdyke Parish Council - KO Ian Pennington – Weston Parish Council - IP Greg Tomlinson – Outer Dowsing Offshore Wind - GT David Wright – Outer Dowsing Offshore Wind - DW
Apologies	None
Purpose of meeting	1. 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. 2. To act as a two-way communication channel between local communities and the project team. 3. To help foster local involvement and ownership of the project.

1. Chair's welcome, terms of reference and introductions

GT opened the meeting and attendees introduced themselves.

The group was reminded of the terms of reference.

IP declared an interest as a landowner.

2. Project Refresh and Update

The group was given a reminder of the background of the project (see power point slides)

It was noted that there had been extensive consultation throughout the development of the project and this had resulted in changes to the project including moving the onshore cable route.

Consent was granted for the project in February 2026. The project is now procuring assets and services, and is out to market for main asset packages.

An explanation was given about what the DCO award means: that the project has been formally approved by Government and can now go ahead, albeit construction will not start yet. The next steps will be to secure a route to market, progressing project financing arrangements and preparation for construction which is expected to commence in 2028. Onshore construction will complete in 2030 in time for the Grid Connection.

The next phase includes detailed design, further survey works and agreeing detailed plans with Lincolnshire County Council. It was stressed that management of impacts like traffic, noise and disruption is a requirement of the DCO. Detailed plans will be agreed before construction starts to reduce impacts to local communities as much as possible.

Outer Dowsing team reiterated the wish to keep a two-way channel of communication with the community open throughout this period and in the lead up to construction. It was discussed that a Community Liaison Officer (CLO) will be appointed before construction starts to assist with timely resolution of queries or issues. The project will continue to encourage ongoing engagement which will include the continuation of Community Liaison Group (CLG) meetings.

AM asked if the project would send representatives to speak at parish council meetings. JM confirmed the project would be happy to do so if invited.

IP flagged concerns that other local projects did not benefit the local areas. The project team stressed that they intended to take onboard lessons learnt from other projects and design the project's Community Benefit Fund to benefit local communities, while adhering to the proposed community benefit fund criteria outlined on the Outer Dowsing website.

RA enquired what the total project cost was. GT said it was estimated to be in the region of a £5bn investment.

3. Updates to Landowners

The team shared an update that had recently been shared with landowners. The main points were that the project will conduct various surveys in the run

up to construction in Q1 2028 (at the earliest). See slides for the detailed timeline. Outer Dowsing shared that there will be continued liaison with landowners throughout the survey work. Any queries related to land should be directed to the ODOW land agent via outerdowsing@dalcourmaclaren.com or 0333 188 5374.

DW shared Outer Dowsing's approach to land rights. Even though the DCO granted CPO powers to Outer Dowsing, ODOW's preference is to secure rights voluntarily. Compulsory acquisition will only be exercised where it has not been possible to reach a voluntary agreement. An update was given showing that the majority of landowners along the route have signed Heads of Terms with the project, and nearly two thirds of landowners have signed option agreements.

4. Archaeological trial trenching

An update was given on archaeological works. Nearly 400 trenches have been excavated but the majority of trenches contained no archaeology of major interest.

Findings included:

- Postmedieval ditches
- Potential Iron Age archaeology including intact horse and cow skulls and pottery
- Potential intact Roman pottery
- Potential medieval pottery
- Potential Salt-working activity

RA said that there had been salt working in the area for over 1600 years and he had hoped that they might have found something interesting, but it was perhaps a good sign that ODOW had managed to design a cable route that had avoided disturbing archaeological history.

JC asked if it would be possible to have a CLG visit to one of the archaeological sites. The project advised that they would look into the feasibility of a visit for CLG members.

KO asked if there would be a visitor centre to display and finds or films for future use. The project advised that the few artifacts that have been found will be stored in the Lincolnshire Archives, in accordance with the agreed Archaeological Written Scheme of Investigation. As works progress, archaeological investigations may help the Outer Dowsing team better understand the history of the local area. If finds of particular interest are identified, Outer Dowsing will look at suitable ways to share that story with the community, potentially through a future update, talk, display or similar

activity, subject to the nature of the finds and specialist archaeological advice.

5. Future Survey Plans

The project team advised that a campaign of archaeological trial trenching will be undertaken in 2026. Works will comprise the excavation of approx. 200 trial trenches predominantly between Friskney and Fosdyke in agreement with Lincolnshire County Council and Historic England.

In and around the landfall construction compound, located in farmland south of Anderby Creek, ODOW will be installing boreholes to assess ground conditions and monitor groundwater levels.

6. Outer Dowsing in the Community

The project gave an update to the group that the Outer Dowsing Energise Workshops launched in 2025 had now been delivered to 14 secondary schools and over 50 primary schools.

The project team also updated the attendees on the careers outreach and engagement, reaching over 10,000 young people in the last 12 months by attending careers fairs and outreach events.

7. Virtual work experience

The team updated the group on a pilot run by Business Lincolnshire that offered a virtual work experience to secondary school pupils. Rather than conventional work experience held in the place of work, this pilot offers in-school workshops, where students were given real-life scenarios and they had to come up with plans to solve these challenges.

8. Community Projects

The team updated attendees that the main Community Benefit Fund (CBF) will launch in 2028. In the interim the project has invested in nature positive and STEM projects that fall within the criteria to help support local communities.

The community investment moving forward until the formal CBF will be focussed on STEM and careers outreach, and so far includes a new bird hide at Anderby and supporting the Friskney Outdoor Learning Programme.

9. Youth Representative

The Outer Dowsing representatives enquired with the community liaison group members to see if they would approve of inviting a youth representative. This would be a KS4 student (15/16 years old) who would join CLG meetings to represent the younger members of the community.

This would require a guardian or parent to act as a chaperone, but would give participants an opportunity to engage and also to gain work experience that they can add to their CV.

The project is proposing to seek applications via young farmers and local school groups with a selection committee to be formed if a number of candidates come forward.

The Youth representative idea was gladly received by all attendees. It was pointed out that in Boston as part of the "Pride in Place" workstream young people had been consulted on the town refurbishment of £20m which had worked well and resulted in useful meaningful feedback.

Outer dowsing will launch the scheme via the newsletter and promote to teachers with a view to having the youth representative in seat for next meeting

JC said schools would have school councils who may be interested. AM also suggested contacting the Young Farmers.

10. The Onshore Substation Design Review Process

The Outer Dowsing Project team gave a refresher on the Local Design Panel (LDP) process that included two meetings prior to the project's examination including an External Design Review.

The project team updated attendees that the DCO includes a requirement that ensures the design of the substation must be developed in consultation with the LDP. The design will need to be approved by LCC prior to construction. One of the requirements that the project now needs to discharge is to ensure that it follows those design principles. The project will be starting that process soon, prior to submitting the design of the substation for local authority approval.

Those involved in the local design panel include:

- Internal IDBs and the EA
- Project consent managers
- Project landscape architect
- Project community engagement manager

- Project design engineer
- CLG members
- LPA (S&ELCP) and appointed landscape architect
- LCC and appointed landscape architect
- Local flood authority representative
- External independent design review

GT said Outer Dowsing would feedback on the outcome of the panel meetings, which would include landscaping proposals in 2027.

KO asked if the landscaping would be banking and trees. The project team advised that there would be trees planted both close to the substation and further afield. KO asked if the project would require overhead lines or pylons to connect to the Grid. DW confirmed that Outer Dowsing Offshore wind only includes underground cables to the connection point, where there are exciting overhead lines with capacity for Outer Dowsing.

11. Next Steps

The project advised that there will be local design panels meeting in Summer and Winter 2026 that will follow the same format as previous meetings. The intention is for the meetings to be held in person with option for virtual attendance. Design and landscaping proposals will be adjusted taking into account previous feedback. ODOW advised that they will commission a second external design review for discussion at next meeting once feedback has been incorporated.

12. AOB

KO raised concerns about the effect of heavy construction vehicles passing close to historical houses with old foundations and wanted to know if there would be any monitoring or pre-construction visit to establish a baseline. DW said he would have to look at the traffic volumes and get back to him. There was also a request to add access routes to the interactive map.

KO asked about reinforcing Wash Road and Craven Lane. DW said they would be installing passing bays on the road. AM asked if it would be made one way. DW said they wouldn't need to due to the passing bays.

KO asked about the number of vehicles. DW said he would send him a link to the relevant section of the Traffic Management Plan.

KO asked about the number of workers, vehicles and working hours. The project advised that working hours will be defined and numbers will be communicated once a contractor is appointed.

KO and IP raised concerns about traffic congestion and drivers taking shortcuts. The project advised that all contractors (vans, pick-ups and company vehicles) would have to use the designated route as designated in the traffic management plan, and this was managed through the terms of the DCO. Once the contractor is onboard, Outer Dowsing will be able to discuss specifics with community groups in relation to the traffic management plan.

JC said he had three concerns – firstly, the condition of the roads; the protection of residents' houses and listed/historic buildings; risk that contractors do not adhere to the Traffic Management Plan. The project acknowledged these comments and stated it would have regard to them as detailed plans are developed.

13. Chair's closing remarks and next steps / next meeting

The Chair thanked everyone for their time and participation and explained that the next CLG is expected to be towards the end of this year, but the team will be in touch with details nearer the date.