

SWAYFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

Cllrs: Mrs W Peat (Chair) Mr K Holden (Vice Chairman)

Mrs J Geeson, Mr D Metcalfe, Mr A Cusdin, Mr T Small, Administrator: Mrs A Reichelt.

Email: swayfieldparish@gmail.com

Draft Minutes of Swayfield PC extraordinary Meeting 16th July 2025, 7.00pm

In Attendance – All Swayfield Cllrs and a member of the public

1.0 The Great Grid upgrade - Weston Marsh to East Lincolnshire - resolve the Councils position.

In brief: Harvested wind energy is to pass through Lincolnshire via substations from Weston Marsh to East Leicestershire. The proposal is for an additional substation to be built on the old Corby Glen Railway Station on the B151. This land is within the Corby Glen parish.

2.0 Kilinside Energy Park - resolve the Councils position

In brief: Solar panel energy converted to electricity and stored underground within the Parish of Swayfield.

Public forum – Parishioner Andrew Jenkins - Prior to retirement he was sustainability manager for a large Corporate Business. In light of his profession and relevance to the agenda, the Chair invited Mr Jenkins to participate in the discussion outlining his concerns. He opened his invitation with concerns of the development and the over development of Lincolnshire's farmland and loss of natural landscape and beauty. Nearly 30,000 acres of Lincolnshire farmland is proposed for solar farm development which is nearly 10% of the County. This is disproportionate to the rest of the U.K where the Government has pledged 1% of farmland being given to solar farms.

Attending the Corby Glen Exhibition Mr Jenkins was able to read through documents available to the public, a few questions have arisen about the development. There is evidence that the pylon line from Grimsby to Weston Marsh which has not yet been approved, have not given a reason as to why the cables cannot go underground, they blame expense but refuse to give figures. Should this development not have planning approval, then the Western Marsh to East Leicestershire pylon route may not go ahead. Understandably, electricity harvested off the East Coast should not be wasted, this would reaffirm the case for more solar farms, however looking at the proposed route has thrown up several questions.

Question one: Their document titled "study area" which is a swathe of land going from the north of Corby Glen down through Stamford and Peterborough and on to the South. They suggested several corridors and chose this route as their preferred and most direct although from inspecting the plans, this is not the shortest route and they have not given reasons why?

Question two: Within the National Grid documents, they have something called the 'Holford Rules' which is a set of rules that they have to adhere to when proposing routes for pylons. One of the rules that they stipulate is that when proposing routes for pylons they must avoid prominent ridges and skylines and utilise natural backgrounds like trees and hills to minimise the impact on areas of high amenity value. Their suggested route for the pylons is coming right across the ridge which fails that rule. They also claim that anything they build has to have a 10% biodiversity gain. In short, the environment has to be 10% better after the pylons are built, there is currently nothing in the document outlining what they plan to do.

Councillors Response

1.1 The Great Grid upgrade – The Cllrs have taken the decision to represent the parish whilst the schemes of work are at the consultation phase. Until a planning decision is made on Weston Marsh in Grimsby, no additional works, including Kilnside will happen. It was decided that at present, it is too soon for a village consultation.

2.1 Kilnside Energy Park – The Clls unanimously agreed to strongly object to the proposed windfarm energy storage facility on the grounds of Lincolnshire has already committing their share of farmland to these developments. Should the substation at Corby Glen Railway get approval, it will attract more energy farms to the area which they strongly oppose. Cllr Holden volunteered to pen the letter of objection on behalf of Swayfield Parish.

All Cllrs agreed that Cllr Holden would approach Andrew Jenkins to see if he would be interested in being a consultant for sustainability and big infrastructure matters.