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, Mr A Shorrock,
Administrator: Mrs A Reichelt.
Email: **swayfieldparish@gmail.com**

1.0 Minutes of the Extraordinary Parish Council Meeting
Subject: National Grid – Amended Pylon Route Consultation
Parish Council Meeting Purpose: To confirm the Council's response to National Grid and hear additional concerns from affected residents.

2.0 In Attendance:

All Swayfield Parish Councillors
Mr Stephen Slough & Mrs Jane Slough
Mr. Martyn Poessinouw
Mr Andrew Jenkins
Other members of the public

3.0 Apologies for Absence:
Alicia Kearns MP
Cllr N. Robbins
Cllr C. Vernon

4.0 Purpose of Meeting
The Chair opened the meeting by explaining that the purpose was to:

Confirm the Parish Council's formal response to National Grid (NG).
Hear any new information or concerns from residents.
Clarify issues arising from recent National Grid documentation, including unexpected route changes.

5.0 Residents Concerns:

Incomplete or Inconsistent Information
Several documents contain conflicting timelines (2030–2035).
Some maps omit key features such as access roads and compounds.
Environmental and heritage assessments are incomplete at this stage.
Lack of Clear Justification for Route Change.

Mr Poessinouw began the meeting with a response from NG raised in a previous meeting. Two pylons shown as "new" on the map were later clarified by National Grid as not new builds, but existing pylons marked for potential integration into the new line. National Grid apologised for misleading mapping.

Cllr Peat asked Mr and Mrs Slough to recap their concerns on the new route as discussed at the previous PC meeting:

The Slough's concerns with the proposed pylon line will run directly across their main south-facing aspect. A new pylon will be positioned directly in front of their home, significantly affecting visual amenity and property value. Their business involves raising thoroughbred foals, requiring quiet, safe fields, the proposed haul road across their front field would make the land unsafe for horses and remove it from productive use. Their farm is respectful to wildlife and natural habitats, they have encouraged native birds, mammals and insects which include boxes for bats and owls. The disturbance of hedgerow and pasture is deemed unnecessary when there are alternative existing routes. A large compound is proposed near their gateway, this is not shown on the main consultation map.

Their concerns include:

Noise and light pollution, possible generator use, unknown duration (estimates vary from 2030–2035), impact on village views and tranquillity.

Broader Issues Raised by Residents

Lack of Clear Justification for Route Change, NG originally preferred a northern route. The shift to the southern route has not been adequately explained.
Flood risk was cited but does not appear in the scoping documents.
The new route is now longer and will incur more expenditure.
Undergrounding of 132kV Line, Unclear where undergrounding will occur, will this reduce visual impact to Swayfield Village

Stage 2 consultation is largely a “community engagement exercise,” not the formal Development Consent Order (DCO) process. All comments raised with NG will be logged in a communications plan. Documents sent to the residents of Swayfield and the surrounding villages are not approved planning documents, some detailing may appear ‘woolly’ or inconclusive and all current surveys will have been high level. The NSIP website does have Parish Council representation on it, it would be well worth looking at and gaging other people’s/ Councils concerns. Going forward, NG will require detailed surveys from Cultural Heritage, archaeology and agriculture and biodiversity surveys. PC’s response letter needs to include as much evidence to support our request for an explanation to the new route.
A member of the public would like to remind the village that there is a meeting at the Ron Dawson village hall in Corby Glen on October 17th, they encourage as many Parishioners as possible to attend and sign the visitors book.

Heritage and Landscape Concerns

Ten heritage properties in the village have no assessment in National Grid’s gazetteer.
The area is designated as the South of Steven Uplands Landscape Character Area, by Lincolnshire County Council.
The proposed route breaches several Holford Rules (guidelines for pylon placement), especially where crossing the Glen valley.
Ancient woodland maybe disturbed, it was described as ancient on a map from 1799. Is this a designated site.
Concerns that the enlarged substation may encourage further solar farm development.
Previous solar farm applications near the village suggest future risk of additional infrastructure.

6.0 Parish Council Discussion

The Council acknowledged the need to submit a factual, accurate response. Cllr Metcalfe discussed the possibility of creating a subcommittee of non-counsellors to work as an action committee on the project. To be confirmed at a later date
The Council will:

Incorporate residents’ concerns
Request detailed justification for route changes
Highlight missing environmental, heritage, and technical assessments
Seek clarity on construction timelines, compound use, and haul road placement
Support collaboration with neighbouring parish councils

Councillors will finalise and submit a formal response to National Grid. Residents are encouraged to submit individual questions to NG with personal queries.

The Chair thanked all attendees for their contributions.