

# Grafton Underwood Parish Council



Clerk: Mrs Ruby Cole  
32 Old Road  
Walgrave  
Northampton  
NN6 9QW

Tel: 07881 458801 / 01604 781834

Email: [clerkgupc@gmail.com](mailto:clerkgupc@gmail.com)

Website: [www.graftonunderwoodparishcouncil.com](http://www.graftonunderwoodparishcouncil.com)

## MINUTES

Minutes of the Extraordinary Parish Council meeting held on **Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> April 2022 at 6.30pm** at **Grafton Underwood Village Hall**, Grafton Underwood, Kettering NN14 3AA

**Councillors Present:** Chair R Corney, Cllr P Sneddon, Cllr A Medri, Cllr D Baker,  
Cllr A Wildgoose, Ward Cllr M Rowley

**Public Present:** 5

**Clerk:** Ruby Cole

**Meeting not formally opened until item 22/041**

<b>22/037</b>	<b>Apologies:</b> Item not conducted
<b>22/038</b>	<b>Public address to the council:</b> Item not conducted
<b>22/039</b>	<b>Declarations of interest under the Council's Code of Conduct related to business on the agenda:</b> Item not conducted
<b>22/040</b>	<b>Clerk Resignation:</b> Item not conducted
<b>22/041</b>	<p><b>Approved Solar Farm - Brigstock Road (land to the North West of), Grafton Underwood, NN14 3AB</b> Meeting with developers, Scottish Power to receive update and discuss possible potential financial benefits to the community</p> <p>2 representatives from Scottish Power presented a talk regarding their plans for the development of the Solar Farm. The slide show presentation was not able to take place due to technical issues.</p> <p>The meeting consisted of the below with various questions and responses from councillors and public.</p> <p><b>Background:</b> The land for this development is on Boughton Estates and was originally developed by Elgin Energy. Elgin Energy put forward an application for planning approval for a Solar Farm development on this land. This was approved and subsequently Elgin Energy sold the development plans to Scottish Power Renewables. Scottish Power Renewables developed the recently consented Brigstock Solar scheme, approximately 1km north of the Grafton scheme. Scottish power Renewables intention is to build and operate both schemes.</p>

**Substation:** There are two schemes being considered. One is to have a new battery storage station and substation, associated with the Brigstock solar scheme. SPR are considering removing the already consented Grafton substation and have a direct underground line through the woods from Grafton to Brigstock.

The battery storage would consist of 38 shipping containers stacked two high. SPRs intention is to submit a planning application for the Brigstock battery and substation in the coming weeks and work with grid operator (Western Power Distribution) to see if both substations can be merged into one, at the Brigstock scheme.

**Sound/Visibility:** The communications mast is visible from the existing pylon. A noise impact assessment has been carried out. Scottish power believe that no sound can be heard from the site, given the distances and screening between the site and nearby houses.

**Flood/Drainage:** it was pointed out that there are conditions of consent for both schemes that require a Drainage Plan to be developed. Scottish Power believe that grass being allowed to grow under the panels will provide better absorption of rainwater. Swales/retention ponds could be in place to control storm water mitigation during and after construction. This will prevent overflow towards the brook.

**Community Benefit:** It was agreed that the previous benefit offered to the community would be held. That is £5k per MW at 38 MW (based on exported power onto the grid network). Based on these figures, approximately £190k is available. A representative from the village hall committee expressed interest in receiving funds towards the construction of a new roof on the village hall building. Brigstock Parish would receive a contribution separately, for the Brigstock scheme. Warkton Parish was mentioned as a possible recipient of funds as the development slightly encroaches within their parish.

**Traffic Management:** This needs to be investigated further. The roads into Grafton are small and not suitable for HGV's. Construction drivers will be unfamiliar with these roads. Scottish Power have reviewed the Traffic Management Plan, proposed by Elgin, and will have to make some changes, given that Scottish Power have now taken over the Grafton scheme and consideration has to be made regarding timings of construction of both schemes. Scottish Power commit to returning to the Parish Council committee in a few months' time, with more details.

**Brigstock:** The representatives present also held a meeting with Brigstock Parish Council regarding this development.

**Meeting Closed: 7.45pm**