

DRAFT

**Cowfold Parish Council
Minutes of the Extraordinary General Meeting Held on Monday 26 February 2024
in the Allmond Center at 7.30pm**

Present:

Mr S Reading (SR)	Mrs Connie Towle (CT)
Mr J Hooper (JH)	Mrs Maria French (MF)
Mrs J Newman (JN)	Mrs D Everest (DE) (Chairman & Acting Secretary)
Mr Peter Harsum (PH)	

Mrs L Lambert (LL) – Horsham District Council
Mrs S Payne (SP) – West Sussex County Council

Public – 32
Press – 0

1. Apologies:

Apologies for absence were received from Mrs Jan Wright and Ms Kate Kingshott.

2. Declaration of Interest:

None.

4. Mrs Everest welcomed attendees to the meeting and emphasised that its purpose was a discussion by members of the Parish Council of the proposed submission to The Planning Inspectorate relating to EN010717: Application by Rampion Extension Limited for the Rampion 2 Offshore Windfarm. The deliberations specifically relate to the siting of a Sub Station at Oakendene with associated aspects and impacts within the parish. Members of the public would be invited to speak after the discussion had taken place.

Mrs Everest summarised the draft proposal, which all Parish Councillors had prior sight of, that would be submitted to the Planning Inspectorate's Examining Authority. She also complimented Mrs Creaye on her Biodiversity Threat study and thanked her for permitting the Parish Council to cite the document.

Members of the Parish Council and Public thanked Mrs Creaye with a round of applause.

5. Public: comments in respect of the proposed summary.

* Mrs Smethurst stated that Biodiversity Net Gain requirements had already been identified by Rampion 2 in extant documentation. Mrs Everest qualified that the Parish Council's request via the Examining Authority was that since 12 February 2024 a 10% Biodiversity net gain (BNG) has become mandatory. Given the established concerns the Parish Council wished to see a detailed, updated schedule from Rampion 2 of how this might be effectively and sustainably delivered across the whole of the proposed site(s) within the parish.

* Mr Lightburn thanked the Parish Council for the work that had been done on this Letter of Representation. He asked if the submission was specific to the Oakendene estate. Mrs Everest replied that the Letter of Representation focussed on Rampion 2's proposed activities across the parish. Mr Lightburn then requested that the Parish Council participate proactively at the next Open Floor Hearing (13 May 2024). Mrs Everest agreed that one or more members of the Parish Council would be present and that a request to be heard at any subsequent Open Floor Hearings would be formally made to the Planning Inspectorate.

* Mrs Lambert (Horsham District Councillor) emphasised the benefits of in-person participation at the Open Floor Hearings.

* Mrs Smethurst asked if the Parish Council was objecting to the Rampion 2 application. Mrs Everest replied in the affirmative.

* Mr Ball thanked Mrs Smethurst for the amount of work that she has contributed to the Cowfold/Rampion residents' group. Mrs Everest agreed that the Parish Council would refer to the Cowfold Residents' Impact

Statement on Rampion 2 provided by CowfoldvRampion in the Letter of Representation. The Parish Council and members of the public acknowledged Mrs Smethurst's manifold contributions with a round of applause.

- * Mrs Payne (West Sussex County Councillor) spoke of the value of Parish Councils within the community.

- * Mr Hooper proposed on behalf of the Parish Council that road traffic data is further evolved in readiness for presentation at the Open Floor Hearing in May.

- * Mr Guy asked if West Sussex County Council and West Sussex County Council Highways would be represented at the forthcoming Open Floor Hearing. Mrs Payne confirmed they would be.

- * Mr Hughes pointed out the overall, year on year traffic increases which are detrimental to the community.

- * Mrs Smethurst summarised the likely damage caused by haul routes particularly to Cratemans and properties along Dragons Lane. Mrs Everest noted that these two particular areas were identified in the Parish Council's Letter of Representation.

- * Ms Powell voiced concerns on behalf of businesses located in the parish if a traffic gridlock occurs during the Rampion 2 construction phase. Mrs Everest confirmed that this too was included in the Letter of Representation.

- * Mr Turock summarised that both residents and the Parish Council were clearly demonstrating they are collectively against the proposed Rampion 2 project's footprint within the parish.

- * Both Mr Turock and Mr Ball noted the likely impact of the Rampion 2 project on property prices across the parish, particularly during the construction phase.

6. Wider Communication and Engagement with Parish Residents:

Mrs Towle undertook to organise a door to door Survey Monkey questionnaire in which parish residents would be asked if they wished to provide an email address via which the Parish Council could alert them to significant matters affecting the parish. This would amplify the current methods of wider communication via the Parish Council's website and Social Media. Mr Reading stated that the Parish Council would need to further investigate the ramifications of the General Data Protection Regulations to ensure that the requirements were fully met.

7. The Parish Council voted to submit the Letter of Representation as read to the Planning Inspectorate's Examining Authority before the 28th February 2024 deadline.

8. The Meeting Closed at 20.30.