

Minutes of the Extraordinary Meeting of the Great Waltham Parish Council held on Monday 12th October 2026 at The Pavillion, South Street, Great Waltham.

1. Chair's Welcome:

Chair: Gilbert

Cllrs: Martin, Stephenson, Bradley, Holland, Nicholls, Jackson and Taylor.

2. Apologies.

Cllr McDevitt.

3. Declarations of interests (existence and nature) with regard to items on the agenda and any request for dispensation.

There were no declarations.

4. Public Participation session for any items regardless of its existence on the agenda.

Two members of the public made these observations and comments in relation to the National Grid (NG) applications:

- The application 26/01193/FUL has not been notified by either Chelmsford City Council or NG to residents in the immediate area of the proposed works.
- The applications are objected to because there is no approval for the whole project.
- The proposed works (and the whole scheme, if permitted) will likely be extended across many years with ongoing disruption.
- There seems to be no benefit to commencing the proposed works until the scheme is approved.
- Concerns over full and effective reinstatement works being possible after temporary works have been completed.
- The scheme's Development Consent Orders decision is not due until February 2027.

5. Local Planning consultations.

1. 26/01193/FUL

Address: Land South Of Windmill House Chelmsford Road Great Waltham Chelmsford

Description of works: Construction of temporary bell mouths TB-B094 and TB-B095 located on Chelmsford Road with associated vegetation clearance.

- The Parish Council has opposed pylons routing anywhere in the parish throughout the various consultation processes.
- The documents suggest routing of 2 or 3 lorries per day at the site for a prolonged period.
- Concerns about HGVs safely crossing the B1008 from one side of the site to the other.
- Accumulated impact on the locality of two bellmouths opposite each other.
- Temporary speed limits for a period of time.
- Noted that National Grid has statutory powers to undertake some works where existing electrical equipment exists.
- Concerns about light pollution for any night or evening works.

Resolution **Great Waltham Parish Council objects in the strongest possible terms to this application, as it also does with other concurrent applications by National Grid for temporary bell mouths within the parish. While the Council's capacity to fully assess the proposals has been hampered by the ongoing technical issues affecting the Chelmsford City Council planning portal, it possesses sufficient information to request that this application is refused. Specifically, the proposed works:**

1. Fail to satisfactorily address the Council's prior representations made during National Grid's statutory and non-statutory consultation periods;
2. Seek consent prematurely for works that will serve no purpose should the main scheme be rejected by the Planning Inspectorate and fail to secure a Development Consent Order. The Council's view is that given the highly controversial, damaging and destructive nature of National Grid's scheme these Early Enabling Works should not be permitted until a full and final decision on the scheme's go ahead (including any judicial reviews) has been completed; and
3. Will, we believe, inflict permanent damage to the landscape, and, in practice, despite any reinstatement commitments cited in the application, will irreversibly scar the parish's countryside without the possibility of full environmental restoration. It is simply impossible to grub out tracts of vegetation and restore them like-for-like at some future date.

For information, the following text is the wording the Council has used in its consultation responses to summarise its position in relation to National Grid's scheme. The Council has had no reason to alter its stance:

"[While Great Waltham Parish Council] fully supports the installation of North Sea wind farms to generate abundant clean electricity, [it] does not support, and objects strongly to, the proposal for 180km of 50m high pylons to carry electricity from the offshore windfarms and other sources from Norwich to Tilbury. In [its] opinion [...] the pylon structures cannot be adequately screened or masked and therefore would have an irreparable and adverse visual and landscape impact on the very flat and open East Anglian countryside. In the Chelmsford area, the pylons will be visible over a large residential area, and an unacceptable level of amenity loss and planning harm will be caused.

"The Council's position is that the placement of overhead pylons anywhere in its parish is entirely unacceptable and will continue to be strongly opposed. This includes not only the route cited in the statutory consultation, but also any other future alternative route(s) which may come to be proposed. Be in no doubt, National Grid pylons will be equally unwelcome anywhere in the parish and its proposals to impose them on the community will always encounter the same level of opposition. The Council stands in solidarity with all residents and other county, city and parish councils who oppose the use of pylons anywhere in Essex, Suffolk and Norfolk under this scheme".

2. 26/01227/FUL

Address: Land Southwest Of Little Stonage Farm Essex Regiment Way Great Waltham Chelmsford

Description of works: Construction of a temporary bell mouth access and associated works along the B1008 Essex Regiment Way. The temporary bell mouth will be positioned on the eastern side of the B1008 and will provide direct access from the public highway

- A similar response to that made for 26/01193/FUL is possible as the same issues apply.

Resolution **Great Waltham Parish Council objects in the strongest possible terms to this application, as it also does with other concurrent applications by National Grid for temporary bell mouths within the parish. While the Council's capacity to fully assess the proposals has been hampered by the ongoing technical issues affecting the Chelmsford City Council planning portal, it possesses sufficient information to request that this application is refused. Specifically, the proposed works:**

1. Fail to satisfactorily address the Council's prior representations made during National Grid's statutory and non-statutory consultation periods;

2. Seek consent prematurely for works that will serve no purpose should the main scheme be rejected by the Planning Inspectorate and fail to secure a Development Consent Order. The Council's view is that given the highly controversial, damaging and destructive nature of National Grid's scheme these Early Enabling Works should not be permitted until a full and final decision on the scheme's go ahead (including any judicial reviews) has been completed; and
3. Will, we believe, inflict permanent damage to the landscape, and, in practice, despite any reinstatement commitments cited in the application, will irreversibly scar the parish's countryside without the possibility of full environmental restoration. It is simply impossible to grub out tracts of vegetation and restore them like-for-like at some future date.

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3. 26/01264/LBC

Address: The Old Smithy Main Road Great Waltham Chelmsford

Description of works: Proposed Garage Conversion and Outbuilding Demolition and Replacement with associated external works.

Resolution Due to the ongoing access issues with the planning portal on the CCC website we have made our decision based on the limited information we could access. The Parish Council has no objections. As a condition, we feel the workshop must be retained for non-commercial use. Also, we are concerned that the proposed metal fencing is not in keeping with the general appearance and age of the dwelling.

4. Reference: 26/01263/FUL

Address: The Old Smithy Main Road Great Waltham Chelmsford

Description of works: Proposed Garage Conversion and Outbuilding Demolition and Replacement with associated external works.

Resolution Due to the ongoing access issues with the planning portal on the CCC website we have made our decision based on the limited information we could access. The Parish Council has no objections. As a condition, we feel the workshop must be retained for non-commercial use. Also, we are concerned that the proposed metal fencing is not in keeping with the general appearance and age of the dwelling.

Meeting closed 19:40