Foxholes with Butterwick Parish Council

Website: foxholesbutterwickpc.co.uk

Extraordinary Meeting held on 19th August 2025

PRESENT:	**Chair**	**Cllr D Eddy**	**Cllr S Parker**
		Cllr A Scruton	**Cllr T Walker**
		Cllr P Warters	
		50 members of public	
	Clerk	**Mr C Adnitt**	

25/76 The Extraordinary Meeting was opened at 19.00 hours to discuss planning application ref: NY/2025/0113/FUL.

25/77 Apologies for Absence
Apology was received from Cllr D Clark.

25/78 Declarations of Interests
No declarations of interest were received.

25/79 Open Forum to Discuss Planning Application
An open discussion followed with a variety of views expressed by residents. They felt that the County Councillor was in favour of the drilling application, but it was noted that the MP Kevin Hollinrake promised to represent local interests. It was felt that it was unrealistic for residents to read all the documents relating to this application and it was explained that a briefing document had been compiled by a small working party to study the facts both for and against the application.
Concerns were raised about the stance of the Environment Agency. It was perceived that the Environment Agency felt it was suitable for the industry to be self-regulating. It was highlight by a resident that there was always a delay in testing and getting the results which in the event of an environment issue arising would lead to a delay in identifying the problem.
The geological structure of the area was discussed which consisted of chalk aquafers in the area which supplied over 900,000 people with drinking water. This was felt to be a major concern that any drilling operation would contaminate the drinking water supply over a wide area.
It was felt that a "share point" was required for access by residents. It was highlighted by the Chair that following representations by the Clerk the parish council had been granted an extension until 31st October 2025 to make its formal response following consultation.
Increased traffic noise and the huge increase in traffic volume was also of major concern to residents.
It was highlighted that Egdon could put forward further documents over the coming

weeks which will need to be responded to.
A further discussion followed a with a variety of views expressed.

25/80 Publication of the results from the Community Engagement Survey

A door to door survey was conducted to establish local views on the planning application with 2% in favour, 8% don't know and 90% against the application.

25/81 Briefing Document from Working Group

A small working group had been set up to establish the facts and produce a thorough, impartial, comprehensive and fractural report. This was to be used to determine future action of the parish council.

25/82 Councillors Vote on Planning Application NY/2025/0113/FUL

Each councillor voted in turn which resulted in a unanimous vote against the application. This was to be followed up with a formal objection being made against the drilling application. It was highlighted that it would take a few weeks to complete the formal objection.

25/83 Open Forum

A question was asked about the legal regulations covering drilling operations, to which no-one present was able to answer at that time. It was also highlighted that there was a need to consult with experts and adjacent parish councils affected. The Chair confirmed that this work was already underway.

It was also highlighted that everyone needed to get involved and submit their own objections. It was suggested that leaflets should be circulated giving the facts to local residents. The use of local radio was also suggested. Other ideas for communication were also put forward.

The need for the site restoration (if the application is granted) was of concern given that the industry has a poor record of this.

The contamination to the drinking water supply was of major concern to everyone. The pollution of Gypsey Race was also of concern.

25/84 The Chair thanked everyone for attending and for their comments. The meeting was closed at 20.10 hours.