Alverdiscott and Huntshaw Parish Council public comment on Xlinks proposal Extraordinary meeting 6th December 2022

In attendance: Apologies

Jim White Graham White

Helen Bolton Bernard Hardwicke

Liz Meaney Peter Ley

Gill Ross Caroline Lewis Ann White

Due to the concerns expressed by a number of parishioners with regard to the proposed XLinks convertor station at Huxhill the Parish Council held an extraordinary meeting on Tuesday 6th December 2022 to discuss the principles of the matter.

Whilst 3 councillors were unable to attend this meeting, their views were gathered by Councillor Jim White prior to the meeting.

The PC was unanimous in **NOT** being in favour of the current Xlinks proposed site. Furthermore the PC voted unanimously that they agreed with efforts to get the proposed plant relocated to the ‘Show Ground’ which they felt was a more appropriate location having all read the report of a site visit produced by 3 members of the PC. (Copy of report attached)

5 councillors attended the Xlinks Public information days and the majority (7:2) were in favour of the principle of the proposal to bring green energy from Morocco to the UK.

Additional concerns voiced by the PC during the meeting were:

1. The impact on all local residents of the proposed Huxhill site is unacceptable, and it is immediately adjacent to the listed buildings of Higher Huxhill Farm and in close proximity to the listed Fair Oak Farm
2. Local opinion indicates that the Show Ground site would be acceptable as it was considered more favourable to concentrate ‘industry’ in one area rather than creating a new site.
3. If the Show Ground were to be selected concerns were expressed about the amount and impact of upgrading the existing substation especially due to the lack of evidence supplied by Xlinks of appropriate identification of alternative sites further up the Bristol channel with existing links to the National Grid.
4. Assuming the project in general proceeds the PC would need to be involved in the traffic management planning conversations with respect to our local roads.
5. While proposed community pay back projects would benefit those on the cable route it must also substantially benefit those most affected (eg. as with solar panel project). Suggestions included reduced electricity costs and help installing domestic green energy systems
6. General concerns about the security and vulnerability of the proposed undersea cable.

**Public session** with Sir Geoffrey Cox MP Alverdiscott village hall 9th December 2022

Further to the above extraordinary meeting 6 Parish councillors attended the public session with Sir Geoffrey Cox MP with Councillor Graham White acting as chairman on the request of a member of the public.

There were approximately 70 people in attendance.

The Parish Council agree that they support the views of the community and Sir Geoffrey Cox that the public consultation carried out by Xlinks lacked sufficient detail to enable reaching an informed decision.

It agrees that the consultation period has been insufficient and strongly support demands for an extension on this whilst further details and information is gathered, particularly with respect to

1. alternative site identification,
2. implications regarding the substation capacity and associated power line infrastructure,
3. and potential further development of the immediate area following any proposed development of a new or upgraded station