

# SYRESHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Parish Office  
Village Hall Main Room  
Main Road  
Syresham  
NN13 5HE



Telephone: 01280 851178  
E-mail: [parishclerk@syreshamparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:parishclerk@syreshamparishcouncil.gov.uk)  
[www.syreshamparishcouncil.gov.uk](http://www.syreshamparishcouncil.gov.uk)

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## Extraordinary Full Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> August 2024 at 5 p.m. in Syresham Village Hall

### DRAFT Minutes

PRESENT Cllr Dunkley, Cllr Munsey, Cllr Woolley, Cllr Cranwell

Speaker Martin Frost and Colleague from National Grid

5 members of the public

**24/102** To **NOTE APOLOGIES** for absence.

Apologies received from Cllr Mclver, Cllr Green, Cllr Draper

**24/103** To receive **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST** under the Council's Code of Conduct related to business on the agenda. **(Members should disclose any interests in the business to be discussed and are reminded that the disclosure of a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest will require that the member withdraws from the meeting room during the transaction of that item of business.)**

None received

**24/104 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION SESSION.** An opportunity for the public to address the Parish Council on issues on the agenda or to raise issues for future consideration at the discretion of the Chairman. The session will last for a maximum of 15 minutes with any individual contribution lasting a maximum of 3 minutes. Members of the public should address their representation through the Chairman of the meeting. Once the public participation session has ended, members of the public may not take part in the meeting.

A member of the public spoke about concerns at the recent power outages which recently have been more frequent and more prolonged. The resident's primary objective was to obtain detailed answers from National Grid regarding the short, medium and long term actions taken to alleviate the persistent and prolonged power outages that have significantly affected the residents' quality of life.

**24/105** To **NOTE** the following report received from Martin Frost, Team Manager at National Grid on Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> August:

*“As discussed I have attached details of the recent power interruptions to the Syresham area. In March and June this year the area experienced two short duration interruptions. These “auto reclose” operations usually last approximately 10 seconds and are caused when something makes contact with the high voltage overhead lines. These fault are transient in nature.*

*At 23.18 on the 22<sup>nd</sup> July a large generator connected to The Pound substation stopped. This generator had been installed and connected without affecting electricity supplies and was one of six that had been installed for works in relation to a planned wayleave termination. The generator supplier sent their engineers to site and they were unable to re-start the unit. While a replacement set was ordered my staff were dispatched and we eventually restored supplies via an alternative source.*

*At 13.00 on Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> August the high voltage circuit tripped. Staff were dispatched and they isolated the cable to The Pound substation. A fault location was completed that evening which identified a joint in front of the substation to be faulty. Over the weekend that joint was excavated, removed, replaced and the circuit recommissioned.*

*At 18.04 on Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> August the circuit tripped again. Staff were dispatched and an 11000 volt disc insulator installed at the Shooting Range Crowfield was found to have failed. This was replaced and the circuit was re-energised.*

*I have arranged for the circuit to be flown and this will be completed, weather permitting, tomorrow.*

*I hope this helps but if you need any further information then please do not hesitate to give me a call.”*

**Noted.**

**24/106** To receive any further **updates** from **Martin Frost** at National Grid:

MARTIN FROST gave a very detailed explanation of the procedures National Grid takes when the power goes off. He explained in detail how power is fed to the village of Syresham (it actually comes from Silverstone via overhead cables) and stated that devices are fitted to the overhead cables that are designed to detect transient faults e.g. a balloon on the cable. He then outlined the procedure that occurs when such an incident happens. Usually this causes a short outage of 10 seconds as the object is freed. If this does not happen then National Grid have to come out to find the fault, often made difficult by fields, hedges etc. He explained that NG have very tough targets and 90% of power is restored within 60 minutes. The biggest problem they have is trees where branches grow too near to the cables and the NG then has to liaise with landowners to resolve such issues. They have helicopters that fly on a regular cycle of inspection to detect problem trees that are usually dealt with

swiftly and efficiently. However, there are presently 4 locations in our area where trees may cause problems – these were shown on a map. These are mainly on farm land and sometimes landowners are reluctant to give access because of disturbing growing crops etc.

Martin Frost gave details of the 3 outages in Syresham and explained how they were dealt with (as outlined in his report). He gave an assurance that the recent power outages were not an indication that the power supply is overloaded.

**24/107** Follow up Q & A: This is a chance for residents to have further discussions on the points raised - session should last 15 minutes:

He was asked whether the present supply could meet the increasing need for domestic ev power chargers. He gave an assurance that the present infrastructure is sufficient, but if this ceases to be the case the substations will be enlarged to meet the supply.

He was also asked whether HS2 was having any impact on the power supply to the village. He stated that this does not affect the Silverstone feed to Syresham. There is a feed from Thenford that is affected, but this is only a temporary measure and will not affect our village.

Those present then looked at the maps provided by NG of the areas where trees may cause problems.

The Chairman thanked the Speakers for their attendance.

**DATE OF NEXT FULL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING** Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> September 2024.

*C. Munsey*

Cllr Chris Munsey  
Syresham Parish Councillor

email: [parishclerk@syreshamparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:parishclerk@syreshamparishcouncil.gov.uk)

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