



Osgoldcross Forum

Minutes of the meeting held on 20th March 2008 at the Eggborough Methodist Chapel.

Members present: Councillors M Shepherd (in the chair), E Beechey, S Ryder, G Ivey, D Simpson, D Pointon, R Dunning, B Crossdale, K Ronksley, F Blackburn, K Westwood, S Laurenson, M Williams, M Skirrow, M Langhan, H Bickerton, L Amerigo and Mr J Vause.

At the request of the Chair, Item 4 was brought forward.

Item 4. Stubbs Bridge Wind Farm

Charlotte Healey and Alex Bowers of Your Energy gave a PowerPoint presentation on the proposed wind farm at Stubbs Bridge. They explained that each area must meet Government targets on the amount of “green energy” produced there.

Speaking specifically about the Stubbs Bridge development, they said the site was identified in 2002. A scoping document was submitted to Selby District Council late last year and environmental studies were being carried out at the moment in order to submit an Environment Impact Assessment.

Local contractors would be used to build the masts, which would take 6 to 9 months. The site will be kept very tidy during construction. All on-site cabling would be underground. Connection to the national grid would have to be a separate planning application and that cabling could be overhead.

A Community Benefit Fund would be set up. A first instalment of £40,000 would be paid, followed by an annual sum of £10,000 up to a maximum of £290,000. This would be managed by a local council.

Charlotte and Alex then asked members if they had any questions.

A member asked if Your Energy knew about the proposed Eco-town at Willow Green. Charlotte replied that it did not encroach onto their proposed site.

A member asked if Your Energy was aware of a new electricity sub-station currently being built at Kellingley. Charlotte replied that they were looking at a connection near Ferrybridge but studies were still being carried out.

A member said that he had no objection to “clean energy” but he did not believe this was the way to achieve it. He thought that more off-shore wind farms should be constructed. He said that a lot of turbines would have to be constructed to produce the amount of electricity that is needed. Alex said that they were not saying that wind energy would supply all our power needs. Every region in the country will have to have some wind farms. They must achieve 20% of energy needs being produced from renewable sources by the year 2020. This is European legislation.

A member asked Alex and Charlotte if they had any statistics to show that there was enough wind in this country.

Charlotte replied that their wind farm at Burton Wold ran for 95% of the time last year. Your Energy obtains planning permission for 25 years. In that time, another method of producing energy from renewable sources may be invented.

A member asked if there were any constraints regarding positioning the turbines near houses.

Charlotte replied that two proposed turbines had already been removed from the scheme as they were considered too near to houses.

A member asked when the planning application for the test mast would be submitted.

Charlotte said by the middle of the year. The same member asked if members would be able to obtain the details obtained from the mast. Charlotte said “of course”.

A member asked what the lifespan of the turbines was.

Charlotte said that it was 25 years, the same as the length of the planning consent. The manufacturers guarantee the turbines for this length of time.

A member said that some of the roads around the site were little more than country lanes. He said that he would prefer the traffic needed during construction used the A645 main road.

Alex said that the Environmental Impact Assessment would cover that and it would form part of the consultation process. The member asked if the lanes were used, would residents living on them be paid compensation? Charlotte said it would be part of the Community Benefit Fund scheme. The member said that some local residents have a poor quality of life now. Charlotte said that the Environmental Impact Assessment would take that into consideration.

A member said that the Burton Wold wind farm had 21 conditions attached to the planning consent and asked what they were. He also stated that the proposed turbines at Stubbs Bridge were higher than the ones at Burton Wold.

Alex said that some of the conditions were the usual ones covering “commencing the development within 5 years of permission being granted”, “a limit on the amount of noise generated”, “clean roads during construction”, and the “effect of the turbines on TV reception”.

Regarding the height of the turbines, Alex said that generally the higher the turbine, the more power is generated. The turbine would probably be 125 metres to the top of the blade. She said that local residents at Burton Wold are proud of the wind farm. The local Council use turbines on their literature.

The Chair thanked Charlotte and Alex for the presentation.

Item 1. Apologies

Apologies were received from Councillors M Whittles, J Adams, K Newton, M Bray, R Stephenson, J Mitchell, D White, J Clarkson, and S Gilbert.

Item 2. Minutes of the last meeting on 4th October 2007

K Ronksley said that Item 4, paragraph 2 should read “river courses” and not “drainage ditches”. Members agreed.

Subject to this alteration, the minutes were signed by the Chair as a true record.

Item 3. Matters arising from the Minutes

The Chief Executive was asked if a meeting suggested in Item 4 had been arranged. He explained that it was in process but it was difficult to get all the relevant people together at the same time.

G Ivey said the Internal Drainage Boards should be added to the list of invitees. This was agreed.

Regarding item 3, a member said that the Government had announced plans to allow local councils to charge residents for refuse collection on a trial basis and asked what District Councillors thought. G Ivey said she would ask Selby District Council's Environment Board.

Item 5. The Osgoldcross Forum's Highways Board

The Chair of the Highways Board, E Beechey reported on the work of the committee. A meeting has been held with the West Yorkshire Casualty Reduction Partnership and the Forum's membership was discussed.

A meeting has been held with NYCC's Road Safety Officer, Emily Proctor, to discuss possible partnership working.

Meetings have been held with North Yorkshire Police (Traffic Division) and Highways North Yorkshire. Steve Burrell has put forward a "Road Share" scheme that would run between Beal and Kellington villages. Meetings are now being held between parish councillors from Beal and Kellington. Mr Beechey showed members superimposed photographs of how the scheme may look. D Pointon said that he did not support the scheme at first but now did.

Item 6. The Osgoldcross Forum's Youth Board

The Chief Executive updated members on work of the Youth Board. He said that it was hoped to carry out a feasibility study of young people in the area to find out what they really wanted. A funding application had been made to the NYCC Area Committee for money to carry out this study but the application had been refused. D Pointon told members that it was hoped to still carry out the study and three organisations had been interviewed and a decision made on which should carry out the work. Lyn Amerigo had given members of the Youth Board a PowerPoint presentation on a project at Askern called Shakers. Members had decided that a similar project could be carried out in this area in the future.

Item 7. The Osgoldcross Forum's Environment Board

The Chief Executive reported that six members had volunteered to join the Forum's Environment Board. This meant that the first meeting of the Environment Board would be arranged in the very near future.

Item 8. The Osgoldcross Forum's Social Board

The Chief Executive reported that more volunteers were needed before the Social Board could be initiated.

Item 9. Charity Fundraising

F Blackburn told members that he wished to organise a fundraising event. The Chief Executive reported that charities could work together to raise funds if a formal agreement to do that had been signed by both charities.

Members decided that more information was needed on the project before a decision to organise an event could be made.

Item 10. The Defibrillation/First Responder Project

The Chief Executive reported that six individual schemes were being set up to cover fourteen villages. Nine volunteers were now fully trained and training is being organised for about nine more. More volunteers are still needed.

Item 11. Police Volunteers and Eggborough Police House

The Chief Executive reported that the Police Community Team had moved to Community House and so the Forum had now moved into the large office at Eggborough Police House. Measures were being carried out on the building to make it more secure and then the volunteers could start their work. Five volunteers have been trained and four more are about to be trained.

Item 12. Payments

Postage - £10.04

Paper - £15.90

Website - £26.09

Refreshments - £27.46

Room hire for First Responder training - £96.00

Room Hire (20/03/08) - £15.00

The Chief Executive reported that this would leave £370 in the account.

All agreed to pay.

Item 13. Any Other Business

The Chair said that flytipping in the area was a serious problem. A member asked who was ultimately responsible. A District Councillor said that Selby District Council would not clear flytipping on private property and more and more rubbish was being tipped off the highway.

Item 14. Date and venue of next meeting.

The next meeting of the Forum will take place on Thursday 12th June 2008 at 7.00 pm at Eggborough Methodist Church. *(This date has since been changed to Thursday 26th June at Kellington Village Hall)*

Meeting closed at 8.55pm.