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**Grange Community Liaison Group (CLG) Meeting note, 1<sup>st</sup> December 2011**

**In attendance:** Bobbie Ashton (BA) – Long Sutton Parish Council  
Cllr Simon Booth (SB) – South Holland District Council  
Ian Edgar (IE) – Tydd St Giles Parish Council  
Nicolette Evans (NE) – Tydd St Mary Parish Council  
John Grimwood (JG) – Sutton Bridge Parish Council  
Heather Jackson Parker (HJP) – Tydd St Mary Parish Council  
Graham Lewis (GL) – Tydd St Mary Parish Council  
Mary Preston (MP) – Sutton Bridge Parish Council  
Jack Tyrrell (JT) – Long Sutton Parish Council  
Cllr David Wilkinson (DW) – South Holland District Council  
Sue Fortune (SF) – Lincolnshire Community Foundation  
Helen Hall (HH) – RES  
Francois Loiez (FL) – RES  
Samantha Mayes (SM) – RES  
Phil Briscoe (PB) – Bellenden, Chairman  
Rosemary Day (RD) – Bellenden

**Venue:** Tydd St Mary village hall

**Date:** 1<sup>st</sup> December 2011, 19.00 – 19.45

**Apologies:**

Apologies were received from councillors Dennis Tennant (South Holland District Council), Walter Mohr (Little Sutton Parish Council), Adrian Back (Tydd St Mary Parish Council), Chris Brewis (Sutton Bridge) and Rex Mallett (Tydd St Giles Parish Council).

**1. Welcome and Introduction**

The Chairman PB welcomed the second formal meeting of the Grange Wind Farm Community Liaison Group (CLG). He asked members to introduce themselves for the benefit of the meeting.

**2. Approval of Minutes of the Last Meeting**

Hard copies of the unconfirmed minutes from the last meeting on 19<sup>th</sup> October were circulated to the Group. Soft copies had already been emailed to the clerks of all six parish councils invited to the CLG.

Cllr Mary Preston name was added to the list of attendees, otherwise no other changes were made to the minutes. The minutes were voted on by the CLG and approved for publication on the project's website: <http://www.the-grange-wind-farm.co.uk/about-the-project/community-liaison-group.aspx>

Later in the meeting, IE wanted to clarify why members of Tydd St Giles Parish Council were not in attendance of the last CLG: unfortunately their parish newsletter had circulated the wrong date for the meeting.

### 3. Matters arising

There were no matters arising.

### 4. Update on the Construction Stage from Francois Loiez, RES

HH introduced FL as an employee of RES who had been working on the construction of wind farms in France for over 10 years.

FL talked through a Powerpoint presentation updating the group on the various construction stages for Grange Wind Farm. He explained that road works would begin in early January 2012, which would be followed in a couple of months' time by works starting on the construction of the wind farm site: namely, crushed stone would be brought in for track construction; facilities would be built on site to keep materials and machines; followed by excavation of the grounds for laying of the turbines' foundations; then the substation would be installed - which will interface the electricity generated from the turbines to the National Grid. All cables would be laid underground.

FL explained that the photos used in the presentation's slides were typical of the construction works for RES wind farms. However, the rotor head used on the Grange turbines would be an improved model than the one shown on slide 11.

JG asked whether the foundations would require a pre-cast steel pipe into the ground.

FL explained that the design for laying the foundations had not been finalised. The site would require piles, but the exact type would not be decided until the contracted engineer (not RES) had designed the laying of the piles in a way which would be sensitive to the site's soil.

IE said he was surprised that RES had not decided on the type of foundations at this late stage.

FL said that the type of piles needed to be designed by a piled specialist and the design wasn't 100% confirmed yet. However he said that he could confirm 'pre-cast' was not the preferred method, instead the concrete would be poured in place on site.

FL continued with the presentation outlining the rough timelines for the Grange project: road improvement works to start in January 2012; turbine delivery in autumn 2012; the construction phase completed in June 2013.

JT asked how long it usually takes for a turbine to be erected once it arrives on site. FL explained that on a good day with good a good crew, it should take one working day.

GL queried how long the turbine blades were in relation to the village hall. FL explained that they will be approximately the length of two Tydd St Mary village halls.

GL asked how blades of that length could be transported around windy village roads. HH explained that a computer model of the route that the turbine blades would be driven had been done to make sure it was safe and viable. A dry run with a vehicle the length of the blades had also been driven from the A17, down the A1101 – down the North Road access point – to test this route.

**5. Grange Wind Farm Site Update from Helen Hall, RES**

HH explained that construction works upgrading North Road and Long Road would hopefully begin in January 2012. Signs would be put up before the works start to flag up road closure.

Improvements on the road A1101 would require traffic lights and RES are working to ensure that disruption on this road is kept to a minimum.

RES are hoping to start tree and hedgerow planting in February or March 2012.

JT asked whether it would be possible to arrange a CLG visit to the Grange site during the construction period. HH said yes, but one should be arranged when more interesting things were happening on the site such as the laying of foundations or turbine erection.

GL explained that he had a keen interest in local history and understood that an old army base used to be located on the Grange farm site. He asked if there were any buildings or artefacts left over from the army base and if so, could a site visit be arranged before they are removed for the construction works.

FL explained that he had recently visited the site and there aren't any standing buildings left over from the army base, but there is some rubble and foundation stones. These will not be moved or affected by the construction of the wind turbines. HH went on to say that an archaeological study of the site had been submitted along with RES's planning application, which she would be happy to circulate to anyone interested.

MP asked when the construction works would be finished. HH said that depending on weather, RES plan to finish the construction phase in June 2013 and electricity would start to be generated straight away.

JS asked whether the turbines are built, and whether the on-site labour is sourced, in the UK. FL said that the turbines are built by a Danish firm, however some elements may be made in Britain. The construction project usually employs local suppliers and contractors.

FL answered a question on site construction times. Working hours on site were confirmed to be between 06.00 to 20.00 on Monday to Saturday, with no civil works taking place on Sundays.

**6. Update from Sue Fortune, Lincolnshire Community Foundation**

SF explained that she was from the Lincolnshire Community Foundation (LCF) who were managing the community foundation funds on behalf of RES.

LCF have held four public consultation events over the use of the Grange community fund. She had received 21 paper responses and understands more have been filled in online, which she is waiting to read.

Of the responses received so far, the key priorities seem to be: young people, old people, health and social care, and community facilities. She will be carrying out a more detailed analysis of the results and will be producing a full report for RES.

SF said she would like to do some work on getting ideas from a more concentrated geographical area around the wind farm site, such as Tydd St Mary. She would like to hold an event in January to consult with local residents and councillors.

Although Grange's community fund will not be fully available until the wind farm is up and running, an initial £10,000 will be made available by RES in the New Year. As such, she would like to get the local consultation event arranged as soon as possible: either before Christmas or early January.

SF would like to set up a community fund 'panel' by the third week in January 2012. The panel would input local knowledge to help make recommendations for the funding, which would then need to be approved by LCF's board. She explained that training would be provided to the panel.

The panel should have 10 members to ensure that each meeting was quorate to allow for good and transparent decisions. It would ideally consist of at least three residents, one parish councillor and one district councillor.

## **7. Any other business**

NE asked whether the public meeting on Grange Wind Farm - to be held at Tydd St Mary village hall on 2<sup>nd</sup> February - would be advertised in the local press. HH confirmed it would be and said that invitations would also be circulated to local residents.

There was concern that the hall may not be able to accommodate everyone who is interested in attending the meeting. HH said she would ask people to let RES know whether they were attending, and if it was looking like the hall would be over capacity, another public meeting could be held on another day. She suggested that other public meetings could be held at later stages of activity for the wind farm. Parish councillors could also be invited to attend a site visit during the construction stages of Grange Wind Farm.

A provisional date for the next meeting of CLG was arranged for Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> March 2012. By this date on-site construction should have started so there will be information to feed back to the Group. Any other relevant news, such as the exact dates for road works, will be circulated via community newsletters.