

**The Grange Wind Farm Community Liaison Group (CLG)****Meeting Note, Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> October 2012**

**In attendance:** Mary Preston (MP) – Sutton Bridge Parish Council  
Mr W. Knott (WK) – Tydd St Mary Parish Council  
Rex Mallett (RM) – Tydd St Giles Parish Council  
Nicolette Evans (NE) – Tydd St Mary Parish Council  
Samantha Mayes (SMa) – RES  
Stephen Milloy (SMi) – RES  
Sue Fortune (SF) – Lincolnshire Community Foundation  
Rosemary Day (RD) – Bellenden  
George Saliagopoulos (GS) – Bellenden

**Venue:** Tydd St Mary Village Hall

**Date:** 4<sup>th</sup> October, 19:00- 19:45

**1. Welcome and Introduction**

RD welcomed the meeting of the Grange Wind Farm Community Liaison Group (CLG). She introduced herself as a colleague of the former Chair, Phil Briscoe from Bellenden. She explained that whilst SF had been nominated as the new Chair of the Group at the last meeting, it had been agreed by RES and SF that it would be better to keep the Chair as an independent person rather than a representative from Lincolnshire Community Foundation as they were handling the wind farm's community benefit fund.

She explained that RES welcomed nominations from the existing CLG members for the role Chairman but no one put themselves forward. It was agreed that RD would Chair the Grange Wind Farm CLG meetings going forward.

RD asked members to introduce themselves for the benefit of the meeting.

**2. Apologies**

Apologies were received for Cllr Graham Lewis (Tydd St Mary Parish Council), Cllr John Grimwood (Sutton Bridge Parish Council) and Cllr Simon Booth (South Holland District Council).

**3. Matters Arising**

SMa apologised for the delay in holding the fourth formal meeting of the CLG. She explained that RES had investigated a visit to the Grange site for the members but unfortunately it had not been possible to organise.

#### **4. Approval of Minutes of the Last Meeting**

The minutes of the previous meeting were unanimously agreed. RD said that the minutes would be added to the Grange CLG website and circulated to the group by email.

#### **5. Construction Update**

SMi re-introduced himself as the Construction Site Manager for the Grange Wind Farm and explained that his presentation would focus on how the construction project had progressed since May.

SMi said that RES was finishing the widening works on the roads and access tracks. The 'portacabins' had also been removed following the erection of the permanent site offices.

SMi showed the members of the CLG images of the new road up to the wind farm. He talked about the existing ground conditions and the rationale for having a stony-surface road: water permeability.

SMi explained that all power cables coming from the wind farm would be based underground and would be relayed to the substation at Long Sutton, alleviating the need for visible overhead cables.

SMi showed the members photos of the construction site. He stated that the site tracks and ground compaction process had been completed, while the control building had now also been constructed. SMi went on to detail some of the technical specifications of the control building, explaining that it holds the switch gear and will be ready to energise once the turbines are up and running.

SMi gave further detail about the turbine construction process, explaining that up to 600 tonnes of concrete would be needed for the base of each of the turbine. He then stated that RES would commence topsoil reinstatement and grass seeding and proceeded to show images of the foundations, control building and detailed some of the equipment in the control building and how it works.

SF asked whether the station would be manned. SMi replied that it would be mostly remotely operated.

SMi continued the presentation and highlighted that there is due to be a delivery 'dry run' with a dummy blade in mid October. He explained that if all goes well, the towers would be brought in by November and subsequently the main tower structures would be brought in by December. SMi said he anticipated that the first turbine would be erected by January 2013 and construction would be fully completed by June 2013.

NE asked about what impact bad weather would have on the construction period. SMi explained that the construction process had been delayed by bad weather during the summer months but the team had been working longer hours and at weekends in order to complete the development within its timescales. However, it was possible that if wind speeds exceeded 11 metres while they were erecting the blades, it would present problems for construction.

SMi continued the presentation and showed an example image of a blade size from another site in Cambridgeshire and talked further about the delivery schedule. SMA added that RES will inform local residents as soon as they can with information regarding the delivery period.

SF asked whether a large police convoy might be needed to escort the truck carrying the turbine equipment. SMi said that a convoy may be needed but it depends entirely on the council.

SMi moved on and showed an image of a nacelle and blades, explained the process of putting them together and highlighted the difficulty of fixing the blades to the nacelle. Attempts to demonstrate the construction through a time lapse video clip were hampered by a technical issue. SMA said that she would email a link to the video to members.

SMi then explained the next steps, highlighting that up to 3km of hedgerows are to be planted and that the community benefit fund would start operating one month after the first turbine goes online.

NE asked whether the turbines would stay white at the bottom, stating that she had seen other turbines with green paint on the tower which looked great. SMi explained that the planning conditions were prohibitive in allowing RES to paint the turbine towers any colour other than white but thanked NE for the suggestion.

WK asked whether the soil extracted from the base could be transported to his parish council colleague's land. SMi explained that this would require RES to apply for a specialist waste transfer license for both themselves and the parish councillor which would be very difficult.

SF asked which energy company would deliver the electricity to people's homes following completion. SMi stated that it was not RES' role as a wind farm developer to supply electricity directly to properties; they would just connect the power generated from the Grange project to the National Grid. However, he explained that electricity suppliers operating in the local area included West End Power and Scottish Power.

RM asked how long the cables would be once laid. SMi explained that the cables had been installed already. RM replied that he just wanted to know if there would be more in the future. SMi stated that they had already found a good route to the Long Sutton substation.

RD asked whether there were any more questions and thanked SMi for the presentation.

## **6. Community Fund Update**

SF gave an update of the activities of the Lincolnshire Community Foundation who are managing the community benefit fund for the Grange Wind Farm.

SF explained that there had been one community benefit fund meeting since the last CLG in May and detailed the funding awarded to local groups. She stated that £5,000 had been awarded to the Tydd St Mary Playing Field but that it was currently 'ringfenced', so not yet accessible.

She said that £500 had also been awarded to the South Holland Voluntary Car scheme and explained why the scheme was worthy of the funding. SF also detailed that funds had been released towards Sutton Bridge Dining and Luncheon Club and the Social Club, noting that only equipment which could be used by the wider community could be purchased.

SF explained that, in total, £1,540 worth of funds have been left over and that the balance would be transferred to the wider community benefit funding pot when it becomes available (after the Grange Wind Farm starts generating power). SF asked SMi to confirm if this would be June. SMi said that the first testing would commence in the summer and then the initial payments would commence shortly afterwards, she would keep SF updated with these timescales.

SF moved the matter on the panel composition of the community foundation and stated that she would like a member to join from Sutton Bridge. MP said Cllr Booth had previously been the Sutton Bridge member on the panel and said she would raise SF's request at the next meeting of Sutton Bridge Parish Council.

SF thanked MP and said that it wasn't an urgent matter at this juncture. SF then announced a panel resignation, stating that the new member would be Lisa Jomlay.

SMa asked when the next meeting of the Community Fund Panel meeting would be. SF replied that she would prefer to have a concrete date in mind for when the community benefit fund would be available before arranging the next meeting.

## **7. Future Meeting Dates**

It was agreed that a future meeting date would be arranged in advance via email.

## **8. Any Other Business**

No other issues were raised.

The meeting ended at 19:45.