

**The Grange Wind Farm Community Liaison Group (CLG)
Meeting Note, Thursday 10th May 2012**

In attendance: Bobbie Ashton (BA) - Long Sutton Parish Council
Graham Lewis (GL) - Tydd St Mary Parish Council
Mary Preston (MP) - Sutton Bridge Parish Council
John Grimwood (JG) - Sutton Bridge Parish Council
Samantha Mayes (SMa) - RES
Stephen Milloy (SMi) – RES
Sue Fortune (SF) – Lincolnshire Community Foundation
Phil Briscoe (PB) - Bellenden
Rosemary Day (RD) - Bellenden

There were also two local residents in attendance of the meeting.

Venue: Tydd St Mary Village Hall

Date: 10th May, 19.00 – 19.45

Apologies:

Apologies were received from councillors Walter Mohr (Little Sutton Parish Council), Rex Mallett (Tydd St Giles Parish Council) and Simon Booth (South Holland District Council).

1. Welcome and Introduction

The interim Chairman PB welcomed the third 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 1st December 2011 had been circulated to the Group. Soft copies had previously been emailed to the clerks of all six parish councils invited to the CLG.

GL's name was corrected on the attendee list; otherwise no other changes were made to the minutes.

The minutes were approved for publication on the project's website: <http://www.the-grange-wind-farm.co.uk/about-the-project/community-liaison-group.aspx>

3. Matters Arising

JG raised that a question he had asked at the previous meeting - what type of foundation would be used for the turbines - had not yet been answered. SMi said he would cover that topic in his presentation and JG said he would be happy to wait until then to hear the answer.

4. Construction Presentation from Stephen Milloy, RES

SMi introduced himself as the new Construction Site Manager for The Grange Wind Farm project and as the RES representative who would be attending these meetings going forward.

SMi explained that whilst a slight delay in the construction plans had occurred due to a lengthened financial close, RES were still on track for completing construction – depending

on the weather - in June 2013. RES were currently working on road improvements and within the next two months, they would start on the site's access tracks. SMi highlighted that residents may have seen the recently constructed temporary 'portacabins' by the site entrance. He advised that when the site offices are established, passers by will not be able to see much from the main road. Depending on the weather, the turbines would be erected in January 2013 over an anticipated one month period.

He went on to explain the construction process and stated that The Grange Wind Farm's foundations are expected to be laid from June 2012. He explained that each base would consist of approximately 600 tonnes of concrete and that each foundation would take about a month to complete after being backfilled with soil, to leave only 4m diameter of the turbine bolts visible above ground.

JG queried how many lorries would be needed to deliver this concrete. SMi said that approximately 54 lorry loads would be needed per base. GL asked where the concrete would be coming from and which road the lorries would use. SMi replied that RES were investigating options for concrete plants including one in Wisbech and studies would be carried out in due course to determine the suitable road routes.

MP asked whether it would be possible to do a site visit when the holes were being filled with concrete as she would be interested to see how it works. SMi said RES had done such visits in the past and would look to see if one could be arranged for this stage of the project if there was enough interest.

JG asked what would happen to the base at the end of the wind farm's lifespan and SMi explained that the top metre of the base would be removed when decommissioned but the basic structure is left in the ground. When asked whether these foundations could be re-used, SMi clarified that it would be technically possible to re-use the base for new turbines, but this was unlikely to happen as the technology, and therefore the base requirements, would be likely to change over this time. It would also be difficult for developers to guarantee the stability of the concrete for a completely new project. SMi said he knew of cases where wind farm sites were repowered, but the number of turbines had typically been reduced from say 20 to five after a further planning application.

SMi continued with the presentation and explained that the substation would be installed in August 2012, which meant that as soon as the turbines were operational, they would start generating electricity – which is anticipated in the first quarter of 2013. GL asked whether people would be able to see additional electricity infrastructure for connecting the turbines to the grid. SMi clarified that RES are overseeing the removal of some lines and that The Grange Wind Farm would use existing power lines. Any addition cabling would be underground and only the substation would be visible.

SMi advised tree planting would commence at the back end of 2013 as the cold months would provide the optimum conditions.

Following the presentation, there was a question and answer session with SMi. GL asked what the piling method would be and SMi explained that it would be drilling, rather than knocking, so it wouldn't create much noise.

5. Community Foundation Update – Sue Fortune, Lincolnshire Community Foundation

SF gave an update to the activities of the Lincolnshire Community Foundation which was managing the community benefit fund associated with The Grange Wind Farm.

She explained that the Foundation had run five public consultation events, of which the last one had taken place at Tydd St Mary Village Hall. The Foundation had set up a panel to manage the fund, had determined roles and responsibilities for panel members and promoted applications for the money.

SF said that as always, there were more applications for funding than money available: £19,500 applied for and £10,000 available. Priority for funding was given to groups or projects closest to the proposed development site.

SF explained that an additional £5,000 had been donated to the fund by RES, SMa confirmed this. The closing date for applying for this additional money would be 1st July 2012 and a subsequent panel meeting to decide where the money should go, would take place on 23rd July 2012. Subject to progress of the development, the next meeting of the community fund panel would then take place in February 2013.

GL queried whether the £5,000 has been taken from the £28,000 associated with electricity generation of the wind farm. SF said no, that the previous £10,000 (£5,000 of which was given by RES and then match funded by the Government) and this additional £5,000 was separate to the £28,000 generation pot which would become available one month after the wind farm begins generating.

GL asked whether groups who had been refused funding at the last round of applications could reapply. SF said groups could apply for up to £5,000 per year, although she would not necessarily encourage groups to apply for the same projects.

JG asked which recipients had received grants so far. SF explained that successful applicants had been: Tydd St Mary Village Hall's roof, the Tydd St Giles Pre-School and the Tydd St Giles Community Centre (for disabled parking bays).

GL asked if a time limit was put on local groups who wanted to re-apply for funding, as a local power station had done. SF said no, the Lincolnshire Community Foundation did not want to do this as the fund applied to a small geographic area with pockets of deprivation and a time limit may stop good causes from coming forward. However, The Grange Community Fund Panel had agreed to a financial limit: one applicant could only receive up to £5,000 in one year.

6. Future Meeting Dates

It was agreed to have the next meeting date on a Thursday, during the first half of September 2012 and if possible, would be combined with a site visit to the The Grange Wind Farm to witness some of the construction works. However, the meeting would need to start at 6.00pm rather than the usual 7.00pm, as workers and visitors need to vacate the construction site by 8.00pm.

SMa and SMi agreed that they would check the possibility of a site visit for the CLG and would confirm with members over email.

7. Any Other Business

JG raised concerns he had about shadow flicker on neighbouring properties. He said that he had attended a meeting in Sutton Bridge, where a wind farm developer had explained that advances in turbine technology would mean that turbines could be stopped or turned at certain times to prevent shadow flicker on houses. He asked if the same could be done for The Grange?

SMi agreed that the turbines would be able to do this and RES would have done studies to assess if shadow flicker would be a problem, and if so, the turbines could be remotely stopped or turned.

GL asked SMi about a recently erected turbine opposite the site entrance of The Grange Wind Farm. SMi wasn't sure what this project was but he was looking to find out and confirmed that the turbines at The Grange would be taller than this turbine.

PB introduced the fact that whilst RES would continue to fund The Grange Wind Farm CLG, it would be the end of Bellenden's role of Chairing and administering the meetings. RES would continue to fund and resource Group, but an existing member should be nominated the Chair it going forward.

Parish Council members raised their concerns that Chairing the meetings and being elected councillors could cause problems with 'conflict of interest' rules. As such, SF put herself forward as the new Chair, the nomination was formally supported by BA and MP and she was elected to the role.