

DUNEATON COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING

TUESDAY 3 August 2021

(Non-quorate Zoom Meeting)

(No July meeting held)

AGENDA

1 Present

- 1.1 Malcolm Muir, Gordon Wilson, Cllr E Holford, Alison Mitchell, Clare Symonds,
Public attendees – Kay Booton, Glynn Booton.

Representatives – Statkraft (West Andershaw wind farm extension) – Iain Robertson (Project Manager), Ruth Semple (Community Development), Sam McMillan (Consultant).

1.2 Apologies

Anne Jefferies, Cllr McAllan, Katie Stuart-Cox; Liz Steele, Irene Riddell, Robin Craig

MM advised that the meeting was not quorate but we would continue with the Statkraft presentation.

2 Statkraft – Overview of West Andershaw wind farm extension.

- 2.1 MM welcomed the Statkraft representatives to the DCC meeting and asked them to proceed with their presentation.

IR introduced himself, RS and SM and advised the project is at Scoping Report stage. Proposal is to site 11 additional turbines next to the existing West Andershaw wind farm which has been operational since 2017. Each turbine will be 250m high to the tip, with the addition generating >50MW. Given the size of the project it has been referred direct to the Scottish Government. The new turbines will be located on land that is currently commercial forest land. Statkraft has various environmental studies to complete and intends to go to Planning next year.

RS advised that Statkraft had a meeting with Douglas CC on 5 July. Statkraft will host an online exhibition from 9 – 27 August and will be writing to 1400 households giving the community the opportunity to comment on its proposals. There will be 3 online chat sessions held over that period. A second exhibition will be held later in the year which it is hoped can be face to face.

SM advised that £5,000 per MW of installed capacity will be made available annually to the community. Statkraft is interested in exploring shared ownership with the local community. The website to access the online exhibition is www.westandershaw.co.uk.

CS asked who was responsible for the ecology survey for the original wind farm and can it be made available. IR advised McArthur Green carried out the work and it could be made available. In addition, the current Scoping Report is available on line. RS advised she would check to see what could be shared and advise.

MM asked if there was a habitat management plan for the site. RS advised there was and it includes the planting of broad-leafed trees. MM then asked what management was proposed for the Community Fund. IR advised it would be a Section 35 Renewable Energy Fund managed through South Lanarkshire Council.

GW asked what proposals there was for shared ownership and how they may develop. RS advised that discussions had already taken place with Dumfries and Galloway/Ayrshire Community Councils. The outcome could be individual to each project. SM said that Mark Brennan was the shared ownership specialist at Local Energy Scotland.

EH asked where Statkraft envisaged connecting their output to the national grid. IR said that this was still to be determined and one option was a new substation. However, as this was planned for 2027 no final decision has been made. EH then asked if the project was determined on the Bodinglee wind farm progressing. (Malcolm – I have no note of their response, can you fill in the blanks?).

GB then asked regarding the statement in the presentation about improving broadband connections. RS advised that a broadband feasibility study would be carried out to investigate current coverage and to see if the community could take it forward. GB asked why Statkraft could not wait until it could have face to face meetings rather than rely on on-line communication. IR advised that these projects take time to organise and plan with deadlines to meet. He emphasised the importance of keeping in touch through the planning process. MM said that face to face meetings are preferred. RS agreed but stated that Statkraft had received some feedback forms already. AM stated that she did not think that Statkraft was getting the attention/interest of the whole community. MM advised that DCC may want to carry out its own survey, focussing people on the Scoping document. IR said he would welcome that and having a post event catch-up. SM advised that they would share feedback and welcome advice from DCC as to how best to go about community consultation.

MM thanked Statkraft for its attendance and presentation at the meeting.

3 Previous Minute

- 3.1 Not discussed as meeting not quorate.

4. Treasurer's Report

- 4.1 Not discussed as meeting not quorate.

5 Grant Applications

- 5.1 Not discussed as meeting not quorate.

6 Planning Applications

- 6.1 AM advised that the Little Gala application was in.
- 6.2 There was some discussion about the preliminary feedback of the Grayside wind farm questionnaire provided by MM prior to the meeting. AM thought there was very little that was positive about the wind farm in the feedback. CS advised most people had not taken the questionnaire from Facebook and some thought they could not comment as the community was getting money from the wind farm project.

MM advised there had been 100 responses and we need the information so the DCC can speak from a position of strength. He advised he would do more analysis and submit findings to SLC on behalf of the community. CS advised it is the Community Council's statutory duty to object if that is what the community is saying.

GB asked if the information would be published on the website. MM confirmed it would. GW stated that this was promised when the questionnaire was first discussed by DCC.

7 Local Issues

- 7.1 AM asked EH if he had had any response from the Council regarding garden uplifts. EH advised he had asked on a regular basis but was advised there was no action as yet due to covid restrictions and the impact it was having on the staffing of waste collections.
- 7.2 GB asked about outstanding items from previous minutes – publishing of wind farm spreadsheet on website which has not happened yet; tracking of Banks Scoping report for Bodinglee; A73 road resurfacing at Roberton.
- MM stated that he wanted to discuss the DCC web page tidied up before uploading anything else. CS advised that the road surface at Wiston has been done. GB advised he understood the A73 was to be closed at end of August. EH confirmed it is for resurfacing of area GB was enquiring about.

With there being no further business the meeting ended.

Actions

Clarification needed regarding the consideration of grant applications when the agenda has been finalised.

Grayside questionnaire results to be posted

MM to check with Energy Consent Unit at Scottish Government regarding MoD disturbance levels.

Defibrillator to be progressed.

Upload spreadsheet for tracking key windfarm dates onto website.

Tracking of Banks Group Scoping Report amendments.

June meeting

Promote consultation for second phase of Grayside wind farm.

Monitor access issue for Grayside wind farm

DCC to consider review of website. MM to speak to AJ

Payment of three grants – Village Hall Wiston ✓

Holy Trinity Chapel, Lamington ✓

Monitor Bodinglee progress

Report back on West Andershaw and Kennoxhead sites

Cllr McA agreed to follow up on issue regarding Crawfordjohn picnic area; garden waste uplifts; non-slip area on A73;
