

PINWHERRY & PINMORE COMMUNITY COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON Thursday 15 August 2013 IN PINWHERRY COMMUNITY CENTRE

Community Councillors present: Roger Pirrie (Chair), Chris Saunders (Vice Chair) Mike Chamberlain (Treasurer), Marie McNulty (Secretary), Joy Chamberlain, David Logan, Peter Walker.

Co-opted members: Charles Welsh

In Attendance: S.A.C Elected Member Alec Clark, S.A.C Link Officer Louise Fyfe

Apologies: John McAlley, Pearl McGibbon
Community Police Officer not present.

Members of the public: Siobhan McLaughlin (SPR), Victoria Boyle, Claire Pirrie, Kim Terry, Ian Terry, Jean W. Wyllie, J. Doug Wyllie, Rory Boyle, Jamie Boyle, Frank Bean, William Black (SPR) Lord Duoro, Harriet Ellis.

Chair taken by Roger Pirrie. **Minutes** taken by Senga Scobie

Declarations of Interest: No additions to those registered.

Item no.	Item	Action by
1.	<p>Deputations / Presentations / Open Forum:</p> <p>Proposed extension to Mark Hill wind farm:</p> <p>Scottish Power Renewables' (SPR) representatives outlined plans for an extension to Mark Hill wind farm which was built in 2011 and then bought from Catamount Energy. SPR are also meeting with Barrhill and Cree Valley CCs. A map of the proposed extension was circulated showing the area being surveyed for an unknown number of 2 mega watt turbines south east of Mark Hill in what is currently private forestry.</p> <p>Bird surveys, archaeological studies and background noise monitoring are ongoing with a view to an application in spring 2014. SAC will request comments from PPCC on the environmental impact assessment.</p> <p>Access is expected to be by existing tracks or a new route from the A714 linking the 2 sites.</p> <p>Q. Why is it described as an extension with new access when it would be an upgrade of the current access?</p> <p>“Linking” 2 sites is not an extension when the sites are not adjacent, it is a second wind farm.</p> <p>A. Government guidance defines it as an extension rather than a new wind farm.</p> <p>Q. How can it be an extension when the area outlined on the map is bigger than the existing wind farm?</p> <p>Q. Why is another wind farm needed when turbines are not turning currently?</p> <p>A. The area is being assessed according to current legislation.</p>	

	<p>There was a general discussion about the definition of “extension” and phases 1 and 2.</p> <p>Q. How will grid connection be managed?</p> <p>A. An application will be made to the national grid so no details are available.</p> <p>Q. What distance will there be between turbines and existing turbines?</p> <p>A. Turbulence from existing turbines is taken into account with 7 rotor diameters between turbines in all directions. Spacing between wind farm sites will be minimised but it depends on constraints such as residences and it will be designed to look like one wind-farm.</p> <p>SPR representative commented that the common question relates to whether the proposal is an extension and the design is influenced by landforms and heights around which the wind farm is designed.</p> <p>Q. There is a waiting list for the capacity of the existing substation so are more pylons and a new substation a possibility?</p> <p>A. Yes.</p> <p>Q. Mark Hill and Arecleoch were built to feed power through interconnector to Ireland so will this be an additional power export?</p> <p>A. Power goes into the grid without being destined for any particular area. Power goes both ways through the interconnector.</p> <p>Q. When turbines are so often turned off why do we need more?</p> <p>A. The system of the national grid was described.</p> <p>Q. Letter from a local resident was read expressing great concern about the potential impact on his property.</p> <p>A. All local residents around the site have been contacted.</p> <p>Q. Why choose such an unsuitable site which is full of peat? When Mark Hill was built micrositing moved 27 of 28 turbines 49 metres because of peat. Micrositing was not permitted within 1km of dwellings. Scottish Power moved turbines 49m without reference to the local authority and this is now subject to the legislative process. Will there be deforestation with trees just chipped and not harvested?</p> <p>A. Peat was a constraint but now there is a step 1 peat assessment built into the design to avoid areas of “deeper” peat. This reduces micrositing and the distance of 1km from a property is not a requirement but is in the planning consent.</p> <p>The process of mulching waste rather than harvesting was described and how it minimises the process of</p>	
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	<p>deforestation for waste. SEPA regulations now require the removal of waste / mulch.</p> <p>Q. Mulch releases nitrogen and sterilises the ground.</p> <p>A. It is good for tree growth and there is a plan for broad leaf planting.</p> <p>Q. SPR appear to have no consideration for cumulative impact despite all elected members having committed themselves to no further wind farm developments in this area.</p> <p>A. SPR want to produce power and do consider the visual and ecological cumulative impact.</p> <p>Q. It is obvious that SPR are not considering the impact as they are contemplating another wind farm.</p> <p>A. The infrastructure is here for access, transport, workers and wind.</p> <p>Q. Then it is illogical to consider another wind farm as, if such infrastructure etc is here, it points to the fact that any further extension tips the balance to being too many.</p> <p>Q. Wind farm developers need to be honest and admit it is just about making money.</p> <p>A. Yes it is about business but there are benefits for communities.</p> <p>Q. What would be the benefits to local communities?</p> <p>A. Information can be provided.</p> <p>Q. The benefits are funds obtained through higher household bills and renewable option charges so how are communities benefiting?</p> <p>A. This is unknown until the wind farm is producing power. Previous benefits are the Barrhill CIC and the turbine technicians' course.</p> <p>A statement was read out about all the detrimental impacts of the potentially large increase in construction traffic. Also the impact of more wind farms on tourism initiatives currently being developed in the area and it was proposed that PPCC should object to this application.</p> <p>Q. Surprise was expressed that SPR had come to present their proposal but were unable to answer so many questions.</p> <p>A. That is because the proposal is at a very early stage.</p> <p>Q. How many turbines will it take to meet Scottish Government's plans and how many extensions are we going to have to keep discussing?</p> <p>Alec Clark commented that the points about cumulative impact are the most relevant because SAC is in a very difficult position due to the government's position. The aim should be local democracy.</p> <p>The discussion was closed and the Chair thanked SPR representatives for their presentation and residents for their attendance.</p>	
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	Resident requested PPCC check the planning permission durations for the anemometer masts at Breaker Hill and Little Pinmore	
2.	Minutes of 18th July 2013. Approval proposed by Joy Chamberlain Seconded by Mike Chamberlain. All agreed.	
3.	Matters arising not on the agenda: Item 4. Mental Health document – JC has replied to this. Item 6. Roads meeting did not take place as planned.	
4.	<p>Regular Reports:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <p>SAC Elected Member Alec Clark: Priority of Road Repairs – As previously advised by K.B. this is a defect categorisation process. Roadside maintenance is a find and fix process with Thia Pettigrew's team. A714 – some resurfacing work has been done. E. Ayrshire is now the lead partner. AC expressed his concern over the future of the Girvan depot. Foliage on private property – it is the land owners responsibility to maintain this. RP stated the problem is dead trees overhanging the carriageway. AC advised, it is the council's responsibility if it is dangerous. AC will take this forward. A partial response was received following tour of area. RP questioned the existence of a risk assessment. A discussion took place and AC advised a report has to exist if this has been done. PW – 4 accidents have been reported including one tonight between Ash Cottage and Little Pinmore Farm. This danger has been reported with very little action taken. AC will take this forward.</p> <p>SAC Link Officer Louise Fyfe: Hall charges – the local Community Association is responsible for lets, charges and management of income. Discussion took place regarding let fees for hall users. Lets should be charged depending on the type of booking. The janitor is employed 15hrs per week the CA has to pay overtime charges at £10-£11 per hour for additional hours, let charges will depend on the flexibility of the CA budget, Ronnie Sinclair is happy to support the CA. Jennifer McGill (Manager) advised hours from previous weeks can be carried over if the janitor is willing to do this. CA overtime charges is billed at end of the financial year. LF recommends the CA discuss this with Ronnie Sinclair. PW suggested holding a meeting with all parties involved, 2 Pins, CC & CA. LF will follow up why 2Pins are paying as much.</p> 	<p>AC</p> <p>AC</p> <p>LF</p>

	<p>MC – Kevin Braidwood reply was not clear regarding signage for road closures. LF will get back to him regarding this. AC suggested talking to Tommy Thorburn about this. AC will take this forward.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Treasurer Mike Chamberlain: <table border="1" data-bbox="387 598 976 940"> <tr> <td>Carrick Futures small grants</td> <td>£646.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Hadyard Hill small grants</td> <td>£4693.03</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Council business</td> <td>£1,887.06</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Lay by enhancement</td> <td>£1,926.27</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Secretarial</td> <td>£967.24</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: right;">Total</td> <td>£10119.60</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>School House</td> <td>£12,090.00</td> </tr> </table> <p>MC has spoken with the Bank of Scotland Manger.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Secretary: Eileen Howatt visit – MM has given dates for the next 6 months, was hoping for November visit but that is not possible for Eileen Consultation Scottish Government – Off shore wind-farm public consultation 3rd September at Stranraer. Drop in between 1-5pm with Q & A between 6-8pm. MM will look to see if it can be completed on-line. 	Carrick Futures small grants	£646.00	Hadyard Hill small grants	£4693.03	Council business	£1,887.06	Lay by enhancement	£1,926.27	Secretarial	£967.24	Total	£10119.60			School House	£12,090.00	<p>LF AC</p> <p>MM</p>
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5.	<p>Pinwherry School & 2 Pins Centre projects: Planning application away to SAC Fund raising event on the 24th August at Pinmore. Meeting with Architect & QS on the 26th.</p>																	
6.	<p>Roads: Roads group meeting cancelled due to another meeting being held which RP attended. Community Rail Partnership – AC suggested holding a meeting with all interested parties as no one appears to know what is going on.</p>																	
7.	<p>Wind-farm updates/developments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The result of the Assel Valley appeal has not been published yet. • Tralorg's reporter has been appointed. CW's challenge to the timing of the appeal and comments process is 																	

	<p>ongoing.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Altercannoch community liaison group meets on Monday 19th August. • Auchencrosh application was withdrawn. • Resident asked PPCC to check if Breaker hill anemometer mast is still in situ as planning permission has expired. If necessary PPCC will contact planning department. Planning permission for Little Pinmore Farm anemometer mast is also to be checked. • RP will get back to everyone when he hears from Scottish Power. Their response will be published with the approved minutes and published on the 2 Pins website. 	<p>MM</p> <p>RP</p>
8.	Forum updates: All	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CF – no report • HH meeting & AGM – CW, Dinmurchie will not be going ahead due to it no longer being a viable project. 	
9.	Any Other Business: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RP - £60k for Red Squirrel project, 36 applications received with 8 being shortlisted. The appointed person will be starting soon. • PW – Replacement boards, money is there but this is a sensitive issue. • MC – letter received in April – Accounts audited, all fine. Letter advised grant will be delivered soon, still not received it. LF will look into this. 	
11.	Meeting closed at 21:15 Date of next meeting: 19th September at 7.30pm in Pinwherry Community Centre	

Minutes approved: Chairperson – Peter Walker

Secretary - Marie McNulty