

**Wadlow Community Liaison Group (CLG) Minutes, 16 March 2010**

**In attendance:** Cllr Mark Russell (MR)  
Cllr Sisse McCall (SM)  
Cllr Jo Patten (JP)  
Cllr Brian Pope (BP)  
Cllr Penny Smith (PS)  
Cllr Sally Ramus (SR)  
Cllr Sara Himsforth (SH)  
Cllr David Kiddy (DK)  
Cllr Nicholas Beamish (NB)  
Cllr Prue Addecott (PA)  
Cllr Susan Lee (SL)  
Cllr Richard Barrett (RB)  
Cllr Julia Squier (JS)  
Cllr Matthew Shuter (MS)  
David Cox (DC), Amy Bambridge (AB) – RES  
Phil Briscoe (PB), Matthew Horn (MH) - Bellenden

**Venue:** West Wrattling Village Hall

**Date:** Tuesday 16 March 2010

**1. Apologies:** Cllr John Batchelor

**2. Welcome and Introduction**

PB welcomed the Group to the first meeting of the Wadlow wind farm Community Liaison Group (CLG). He went on to outline the purpose of the Group as an opportunity for RES to issue updates about the Wadlow site to the local community and, in turn, for questions and concerns from local residents to be vectored to RES.

**3. Election of Chairman**

PB outlined the need for a Chair to be elected for the Group to run and control the meeting proceedings. PB went on to state that a preferable solution would be a volunteer from the Group to Chair the meetings or, if necessary, he would act as a neutral Chair for the Group. PB went on to request volunteers for the position of Chair. NB stated that it would be more beneficial to have an independent Chair and suggested PB acted in that capacity.

**It was agreed that:**

PB elected as Chair of the Wadlow CLG. PB will be referred to as the Chair for all Minutes issued going forward.

**4. Role of Liaison Group & Terms of Reference**

The Chair informed the Group that the CLG was an opportunity for information exchange between RES and the local community. Questions can be issued via the Group to RES and information disseminated to the wider community via the members of the CLG. The Chair

highlighted that the membership of the Group had been based on the inclusion of elected representatives from Parish, District and County Councils dictated by proximity to the wind farm site. The Chair went on to state that further members can be elected to the Group but the inclusion of further members should be the responsibility of the Group. He went on to request any additions to the Group. MR highlighted the potential inclusion of Carlton Parish Council. NB stated that Carlton Parish had been invited to a pre-briefing and MS emphasised that if Carlton had an issue that needed to be raised at the meeting they could contact the Group.

MS questioned which County Councillors had been invited to attend the Group. The Chair informed the Group that Cllr John Batchelor had been invited but could not attend that evening. NB questioned if different individuals would be best qualified to ask questions on behalf of each Parish and asked if external individuals could be used in the stead of current members. The Chair stated that it was up to the individual Parish to send whoever they wanted to represent the Parish on the Group.

MR raised four concerns over the Terms of Reference (ToR). He requested that the word 'deal' is changed to 'submit' in section 4 of the ToR. MR also requested that the ToR includes a caveat that the CLG continues at least one year after the completion of the wind farm. MR went on to request that any correspondence articulated directly to RES should be directed back through the CLG. MR requested that the ToR should state that it is not a decision making Group.

SR questioned the need for two representatives on the CLG from each Parish Council. The Chair highlighted that the number was merely a guide and one member can attend the meetings from each Parish Council if preferable. PA highlighted that there were four members who would be happy to attend the Group from Six Mile Bottom and Little Wilbraham Parish Council. The Chair emphasised the importance of consistency of membership of the Group but reminded the Group that attendees were the Parish Council's prerogative.

SR requested that there should be a quorum. SR stated that this is usually one third of the members, which would be six members of the Group.

The Chair asked the Group how soon unconfirmed Minutes should be issued after the meeting. A period of two weeks after the meeting was put forward.

BP asked how often the Group were considering meeting. The Chair outlined that it was up to the Group to decide but suggested every two months.

**It was agreed that:**

Section 4 of the ToR would replace the word 'deal' with 'submit'. The ToR will also include a commitment that any contact issued directly to RES from the local community will be channelled back through the CLG. The ToR would incorporate a commitment to maintaining the existence of the CLG at least one year into the completion of the wind farm. The ToR will state that it is not a decision making body. The ToR will state that membership from each Parish Council will be for up to two people. A quorum of at least six members (excluding RES and Bellenden representatives) should be included in the ToR. Unconfirmed Minutes will be distributed within two weeks of the CLG meeting via email to the members of the Group who can then distribute them as they see fit.

### **5. Wadlow site update**

DC informed the Group that he was speaking to various turbine manufacturers for use at the site. Negotiations were unlikely to be concluded for another four to six weeks. DC informed the Group that a turbine would be chosen and the Group informed of the decision in two months. DC went on to highlight that there are currently no turbine manufacturers in the UK at present. NB asked RES how tall the turbines would be. DC stated that they would be about 120m in height from tip to base.

MR asked about the transport route for the site. DC stated that he would issue the Traffic Management Plan (TMP) to the Group at the same time that it is submitted to South Cambridgeshire District Council. DC informed the Group that the lorries for the site would be going past the Camgrain stores. DC stated that the blades are 45m in length and that they would be the longest load for the site. DC went on to state that RES had been working alongside South Cambridgeshire District Council to determine the transport route.

MS asked if the blades would be made in the UK. DC answered that the tower and gear box components could be made in the UK but the blades would come from abroad and shipped in either via Felixstowe or Harwich.

### **6. Planning Timetable**

DC informed the Group that the Construction Method Statement would be submitted to the South Cambridgeshire District Council in eight to ten weeks depending on communications with the County Council. MR asked DC if there were any anticipated problems for the construction of the wind farm. DC answered that there were no envisaged problems.

PA asked how large the base of the tower is likely to be. DC stated that the size varies between tower type whether it is a gravity base or pile foundation – he was unsure as to which would be used at this moment.

NB asked when the first turbine is likely to be turning. DC responded that it is likely to be early 2012 and that RES will be on site about six months prior to completion date. He was unsure whether the turbines would be 2 or 2.3MW.

### **7. Liaison Group Work Plan**

The Chair highlighted that individual issue-led CLG meetings could take place - for example discussing transport, noise and the community fund.

NB asked if there was a web site for the Wadlow site. AB informed the Group that the web site can be found at [www.wadlow-farm.co.uk](http://www.wadlow-farm.co.uk). The Chair went on to ask if the Group was happy to have the unconfirmed Minutes published on the Wadlow web site – the Group agreed that they should be published on the web site. NB stated that the unconfirmed Minutes could also be issued on the Parish notice boards and in their newsletters.

**It was agreed that:**

The unconfirmed Minutes will be published on the Wadlow web site. The Group would help issue the Minutes to the wider community.

**8. Newsletter**

AB informed the Group that the newsletter was still in draft form and that it should be issued to the Group by April, it will be circulated via email. NB asked who the best point of contact regarding the newsletter should be. The Group was informed that Amy would be the best point of contact for the newsletter.

MR questioned the circulation of the newsletter. AB stated that the newsletter would be sent to 4,000 homes.

**9. Wind Farm Visit**

AB outlined the opportunity for a visit to a working wind farm as a means for stimulating questions. AB suggested a visit to a wind farm site near March. AB questioned if the offer should be opened up to the local community to attend – this idea was rejected by some members of the Group.

JP informed AB that a weekday would be preferable for a site visit and asked when it might take place. AB stated that it could be arranged at short notice and possibly within the next month.

**10. Future Meeting Dates**

The Chair suggested that the next meeting should take place after the Group has received an update about the site in about two months time. MR suggested late May/early June for the next meeting. DC stated that he should have more information about the site by June. The Group discussed potential dates for the meeting.

**It was agreed that:**

The next CLG meeting will take place on Tuesday 15 June at West Wrattling Village Hall.

**11. Any Other Business**

DC informed the Group that he would be submitting the conditions for shadow flicker and TV signal interruption this week. DC went on to explain that shadow flicker occurs when the sun is setting behind a turbine and the blades cutting the line of the sun can cause repetitive shadows. MS stated that shadow flicker could potentially cause epileptic fits. DC stated that the worst thing RES could do was not to factor in shadow flicker into its assessments for the site. He went on to state that if shadow flicker affected any homes then the turbine would likely need to be shut down.

DC went on to highlight that RES has put aside £40,000 to correct any loss of TV signal for homes in the immediate area. MS asked if there would be interruption with a digital TV signal. DC was unsure if digital signal would be affected. DC informed the Group that RES would treat any interruption of TV signal as a matter of priority but had only heard of cases of signal loss at one wind farm site in Scotland. NB expressed a desire to ensure a contact telephone number for such issues is put in place by RES. AB assured the Group that a number would be provided.

NB went on to ask about the community fund. AB stated to the Group that RES was not going to dictate how the fund would be organised and spent. AB went on to state that the CLG was one avenue through which the community fund can be discussed and a separate meeting could be pursued to discuss the fund in greater detail. NB asked if case studies could be provided for the Group from past experiences of RES and community fund distribution. The Chair suggested that the Group discuss the fund if not at the next meeting but the one after. AB suggested that the fund should be discussed sooner rather than later – preferably at the next meeting in June.

The Chair thanked each member for their attendance and looked forward to the next meeting in June.

**The meeting closed at 7.50pm**

**The next meeting will take place on Tuesday 15 June at 7pm at West Wrattling village hall.**