

**Minutes of Special Spaldwick Parish Meeting held at 8 pm
Thursday 16 December 2010 at Spaldwick Primary School**

Purpose: To enable the Parish Council to be informed of the views of electors, prior to considering its response to Planning Application 1001741FUL – Erection of 4 wind turbines up to height of 130.5 metres and associated equipment at Woolley Hill, Ellington.

Present: Parish Councillors Plummer (Chairman), Johnson, Leach, the Parish Clerk (Mr D Stowell), Mr Graham Cooper (Woolley Hill Action Group), and 20 members of the public.

The Chairman explained the purpose of the meeting then invited Mr Cooper to speak on behalf of the Action Group opposing the application.

Mr Cooper stated that he was standing in for Ron Ward, Chairman of the Group, who had been called away on an urgent family matter.

Amongst the points raised during his talk were the following:

While he was looking at the blimp which had been positioned on the site recently to indicate the height of the turbines, 2 red kites were observed flying nearby.

The microlight club which operates from a nearby airstrip would be affected by turbulence created by the turbines – the club had not been consulted about the proposal.

RES claim 30% efficiency whereas the average is around 19.8%

The operators will receive a subsidy of £40-50m over the 25 year life.

Since the Environmental Statement was written, it has been discovered that turbines create a low frequency noise which causes sleep deprivation.

The cumulative effect of proposed wind farms at Bicton, Graveley and Hamerton should be taken into consideration. N.B. Bicton is for 4 similar sized turbines (HDC decision pending); Cotton Farm Graveley is for 8 x 127m turbines (permission granted following appeal) but is some distance away and not in Northern Wolds; Hamerton is for 2 x 25m turbines.

The close proximity of a wind farm is likely to affect the value of property and/or make selling difficult.

Open Discussion, main points raised

Routes to site during construction phase

Several people suggested that non-abnormal loads, such as those delivering concrete, and which are expected to peak at 97 per day, could be travelling through Spaldwick to cross from the westbound carriageway of the A14 to the eastbound to enter the site.

N.B. The Environmental Statement para.11.4.12 states: "It is proposed that vehicles approaching the site on the westbound carriageway would continue to junction 16 (Catworth), where they could turn around to come eastbound to junction 20. Also vehicles leaving the site would go east on the A14 avoiding Ellington and should they need to go west they can turn around at the next junction (A1/A14 roundabout)."

Although he would be concerned if these loads were to come through Spaldwick, Mr Hughes expressed the view that the Parish Council should not raise this issue as a reason for recommending refusal.

Concern was expressed at the number of wind farms currently being proposed in the locality. In addition to Bicton (4), Woolley Hill (4), Molesworth/ Bythorn (7) and Hamerton (2 small turbines), it was said that two more near Spaldwick are currently under consideration. All of these are in the Northern Wolds, which HDC's Supplementary Planning Document on Wind Power states "has a high capacity to accommodate a small scale group of turbines (up to 2 or 3 turbines)" and "There is little scope for more than one small-scale group". There seems

a strong case for demanding that HDC should state what steps they are taking to ensure compliance with the SPD.

Mr Cooper stated that the possibility of a Class Action being taken by groups across the country with a view to establishing which areas are most suitable for wind farms is under consideration and reducing applications for sites elsewhere.

In response to a statement that TV reception has been badly affected close to a Wind Farm, Mr Cooper said that once the changeover to digital is complete next year the problem will disappear – only analogue is affected

Mr Armer said that he had seen red kites and other birds of prey in the area and would be writing to HDC about the matter. He agreed to send a copy of his letter the Parish Council.

Chairman's concluding remarks

Cllr. Plummer thanked everyone for attending and confirmed that the Parish Council would note all comments made at the meeting and in any communications sent by the public to HDC and which have been copied to the Parish Council. He pointed out that it was its duty to concentrate on material planning issues when deciding the response to be made to HDC.

The meeting concluded at 9.50 pm