

**Minutes of an Extraordinary Meeting of the Parish Council**

**Held on Friday 18th May 2012 at 7.00p.m. in Kirkbride School..**

Present:

Councillors: Day (Chair), Kirk, Noblett, Tweddle, Willis.

County Councillor Fairbairn,

Public attendance: CJ Bate, JA Bate, F. Mawby, C. Mawby, G Kerr, P. Hedworth, R.Mostyn, H Mostyn,

J Stamper, M Stamper, J.Hedworth, M.Fitzgerald, D Colborn.

Clerk: M Abbs

**AGENDA**

**1Apologies for absence** and **declarations of interest.**

Apologies received from: Cllrs Hedworth, Little and Taylor. Borough Councillor Cowell.

There were no declarations of interest.

**2.1 To approve** suspension of agenda standing orders for this meeting only.

This was **agreed.**

The Chairman explained that the main the reason for calling the meeting was to enable the views of the public to be heard by the Council, which would then, if necessary, re-evaluate its previous response to Allerdale Borough Council. He had become aware that the views of the public could not be taken into account at the time the previous response was made, as many local households had only just become aware of the application, upon receipt of a letter from Allerdale Borough Council. Cllr Day explained that the consultation had been handled correctly initially under that Council’s Standing Order procedure, which exists to enable applications to be handled between meetings. At that point the Parish Council recorded ‘no objections’ but commented on the proposed location of the turbine. It was pointed out that a number of other ‘official bodies’ had raised ‘no objections’ to the proposed turbine. After pointing out that the Parish Council is only allowed to pass comment within set criteria he invited comments from the public.

**2.2 Public participation** (at chairman’s discretion).

Miss Bate notified the meeting that she had written two letters to the Parish Council and copied the Council into her response to Allerdale BC. (The clerk confirmed receipt of these letters). She informed the meeting that she had expressed her views on this issue earlier in the month at an earlier Council meeting. Miss Bate said that she felt Allerdale BC needed to formulate a clear policy on wind turbines.

Mr Bate stated that he had seen advertisements for wind turbines in the local press and expressed his concern of large scale proliferation of turbines across the landscape.

Mr Stamper pointed out that the turbine would be very close to his property and expressed the view that the currently ‘beautiful village’ would be de-valued by the turbine. He considered that the turbines could pose a danger to Whooper Swans in the Winter.

Miss Hedworth believed that the aesthetics of turbines required consideration. She expressed the view that the size of the proposed turbine dominate the landscape the landscape being far higher that the nearby hanger. Miss Hedworth asked if the Council knew the reason for the residents not being notified of the proposal earlier. The Chairman advised that he was not aware of the reason but confirmed that the matter had been raised with Allerdale by the Parish Council.

Mr Mawby expressed concern about the noise pollution from the turbine, especially at night. He believed there to be a wider economic issue about wind turbines but did not believe that this turbine would pose a significant risk to wildlife.

Mr Hedworth expressed concern that the turbine would have a negative effect on nearby property values.

Mr Colborn’s objection arose from walking locally and the effect that the turbine would have on his enjoyment of the area. He believed that there were already too many turbines in the area and understood that a further application was ‘in the pipeline’. Mr Colborn pointed out, as a representative on Boltons Parish Council, that the Council was opposed to large turbines in their area.

Mrs Fitzgerald pointed out the large number of turbines that were already visible in the area and felt that more in the Kirkbride area would be detrimental.

Mr Kerr pointed out that the nearby airfield had objected on safety grounds and was concerned for the potential economic effects of the turbine. He said that the model aircraft club could also be badly affected. At this point Mr Stamper reminded the meeting that the airfield had historically contributed financially to the local school.

The chairman thanked the contributors and a general discussion followed during which included the following comments. Cllr Willis outlined ‘noise profiles’ and commented that there were no night time profiles currently, and pointed out the possible negative effects on sleep patterns of low level noise. Cllr Tweddle commented on the effect of turbine noise from previous personal experience. Mr Mawby said that in his experience noise levels seemed to be very direction dependant. Mr Stamper alluded to evidence of television interference in other areas. Mr Colborn said that noise could be created by the wind passing between that main column and the ladder on some turbines. Miss Bate wondered if the decommissioning of turbines at the end of their working life had been fully addressed yet and said that she felt a site visit by Allerdale Planners would be beneficial.

Cllr Day then summarised the public concerns as he saw them. Notably,that there would be a significant change to the nature of the area and a real danger of subsequent proliferation if the turbine installation went ahead. He also acknowledged concern about detrimental health effects from noise.

**3. To consider** the Council’s response to the following planning application:

2/2012/0226 Erection of one Endurance wind turbine (24.6 metre to hub: 34.2 maximum blade tip height)

Sycamore House, Kirkbride Wigton.

Councillors then discussed the issues raised and expressed a desire to send a new statement to Allerdale BC in the light of the new information. The following resolution was moved to councillors by the chairman.

Kirkbride Parish Council, having regard to new information concerning the planning consultation, resolves to amend its response by making a further submission. The Council now wishes to object to the planning proposal 2/2012/0226 and withdraw its previous submission dated 25.4.2012.

This resolution was **agreed** unanimously.

(County Councillor Fairbairn arrived at this point.)

It was agreed that the Parish Council response would comment on the following:

a) the effect of low frequency noise on the health and sleep patterns of residents in nearby properties.

b) the detrimental effect of a turbine on the amenity and environment of the area which is increasingly popular with walkers, and nature lovers and borders an AONB.

c) the concern over creating a precedent triggering a proliferation of randomly sited single turbines.

**There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 7.45p.m.**