

Draft

Minutes of Meeting of  
East Lammermuir Community Council  
held on Tuesday 6 October, 2015 at  
7.30pm in Stenton Bowling Club

**Present:** Cllrs: Chris Bruce (Chair)/Janice Hanvidge/Janette MacDonald/Barbara Wyllie/Anne Lyall

**In attendance:** Ewan Walker, Environment and Consents Manager, Mainstream Renewable Power/Rosie Scurr, Environment Manager, Mainstream Renewable Power/Pauline Jaffray and two members of the public – Susan Kinnaird/Elisabeth Wilson

**Apologies:** Cllr M Veitch/Peter Armstrong/Jason Ormiston/Donna Collins

Cllr Chris Bruce welcomed everyone to the meeting and introductions were made. Ewan Walker and Rosie Scurr were invited to address the meeting and advise on the progress being made with regards to Mainstream Renewable Power Neart na Gaoithe Offshore Wind Farm.

Ewan Walker was pleased to be given this opportunity to address the meeting and provided a summary of the situation.

The site of the Neart na Gaoithe (NnG) offshore wind farm is located 15.5km from Fife Ness and 28km from Torness. The project will comprise a maximum of 75 turbines and will connect to the national grid at Crystal Rig. In October 2014, Scottish Ministers awarded consent to build and operate the NnG after several years of environmental surveys, environmental assessments, engineering design work etc. The offshore consent has a number of associated conditions and work to prepare this information is currently underway.

Soon after NnG was awarded consent, the RSPB raised a request for a Judicial Review of the Scottish Government's decision-making process relating to NnG and three other offshore wind farm projects, which were consented at the same time. These challenges were heard at the Court of Session and a decision is expected later this year.

The RSPB object to all offshore projects in Scotland as they are unsure how birds interact with offshore wind turbines; they are also concerned about the accumulative affects, any possible displacement and the impact on birds. The government and renewable companies are funding independent research and hope to have the completed report available in 2016.

An application for a minor variation to the offshore consent was recently submitted to the Scottish Government, to include flexibility to use different turbine to those stated in the

consent. The turbines would be the same dimensions as those originally consented but this change would allow the use of turbines with a higher individual generation capacity, thereby enabling the same overall output (approx. 450MW) for the project with fewer turbines. This would reduce the number of turbines built to 64 instead of the original 75 noted in the planning proposals.

East Lothian Council granted planning permission in June, 2013 for the onshore works, which include the buried onshore cables and a new onshore substation to enable the wind farm to connect to the national grid. The cables would come onshore at Thorntonloch and be directed to Crystal Rig substation. The planning permission includes various conditions which must be discharged prior to construction. Further environmental surveys will be carried out in a stage approach along the cable route and substation area and it is hoped work will commence in June 2016 at Crystal Rig substation. Mainstream have opened a supplier registration and all interest are encouraged to register: [www.nngsupplierdatabase.com](http://www.nngsupplierdatabase.com).

Mainstream are currently working with other organisations and funders, who will eventually own the project and they were one of only two offshore wind farms in the UK in securing a Contract for Difference (CfD). The contract gives a degree of certainty to the project.

Following a series of questions and answers, Cllr Bruce thanked Ewan Walker and Rosie Scurr for the information provided. The Community Council will continue to be informed of progress, including any proposals for Community Benefits associated with NnG.

**2:00 Approval of Minutes:** The minutes of 18 August, 2015 were approved subject to the following amendments:

Item 5:00 The Treasurer's Report balance should read £447.00

Item 7:00 Viridor Credits: The figure of £150k per year, should read £150k per quarter.  
Spott: Sponsored wall should read Sponsored walk

**3:00 Any other business to be added to agenda:** None

**4:00 Police Business:** No report available

**5:00 Treasurer's Report:** The balance as of 6 October, 2015 stands at £1139.17. The year end accounts have been prepared and are being passed to Andrew Mallen for auditing via JMcD.

**6:00 Matters Arising (Previous):**

**A1 Expressway:** Following the concerns raised by PC Gavin Ross with regards to the large increase in incidents further communication has taken place between PC Ross, Cllrs M Veitch, Chris Bruce, Jacque Bell (as Chair of CAPP) with BEAR Scotland re problems on the A1 Expressway

**Broadband:** Cllr BW has met with Lothian Broadband (LB) who advised the installation of the Garleton mast is underway and the company would like to use Ruchlaw mast to assist in establishing a broadband service for the Stenton area. LB had offered advice on the course of action ELCC should follow. An approach should be made to Community Broadband Scotland (CBS), who on receipt of a survey to ascertain the demand for rural broadband (carried out by ELCC) would then commission a feasibility study. CBS would pay 89% of the costs involved, which included a box for each interested property.

Cllr CB had received further communication from Stuart Gibb (Manager, Dunbar & Haddington Area Partnership) on 29 September, 2015 advising he had met with Zoe Laid, Director, Community Broadband Scotland, on this date. She has agreed they will now start work on a project to explore a solution (or a number of solutions) across the most of the areas of East Lothian that are not covered by existing rollout programmes. Zoe explained the process that needs to be followed and which is quite detailed. First stage is to identify those postcodes that could be included in a possible project and CBS are now starting work on this. There is quite a lot involved in this work and it is subject to a commercial consultation (carried out by CBS) which may affect the final postcodes to be covered. Hopefully however, by early next year, this work will be complete and a decision will then be taken as to whether this project should be aggregated across all of East Lothian or delivered as a series of smaller community led projects. It is early days and we cannot at this stage speculate what will, or will not, be covered or how this will happen. ELC hope to issue a press release in the next few weeks.

Summing up the information CB advised we have three possible options:

- 1) Public sector survey proposal – agree process
- 2) Working direct with Lothian Broadband
- 3) Community Windpower provider – Speednet Scotland – will provide a proposal.

The meeting agreed to gauge the response from the four ELCC villages at their next Community Association village meetings. It may be sensible to progress with different solutions for each of the four villages.

BW will email a note of Lothian Broadbands home tariff to all councillors.

Speeds	Fast	Super-Fast
Monthly Date	10Mb/s download 2Mb/s upload	25Mb/s download 5Mb/s upload
40GB	£ 25	£ 30
80GB	£ 35	£ 40
120GB	£ 40	£ 55

Extra usage charged at £1 per GB. Contract duration 12 months. All services subject to Terms & Conditions and a site survey. Standard installation £150 inclusive of subscriber module and wireless router.

## **7:00 Councillors' Reports**

**Action:**

The autumn **ELCC Newsletter** has been circulated. Congratulations to Cllr MacDonald for a superb job.

**Viridor Credits** Panel would next meet on 9 December, 2015.

**BW**

**Innerwick:** As outlined in the ELC Main Issues Report report, 16 new houses have been allocated to be built in the north side of the village (behind Kirk Brae). Cllr Bruce commented these houses may benefit from the heat plan system outlined in the pre-planning documents for Viridor Waste Management.

Dr Elisabeth Wilson has recently moved to live in Innerwick and is keen to become involved in local matters. ELCC proposed she be co-opted on to ELCC to assist with Innerwick parish matters. Dr Wilson accepted.

**Oldhamstocks:** The Bridge opening celebrations will take place at 3pm on Friday, 23 October, 2015. All ELCC members warmly invited to attend.

**Spott:** Cllr Lyle advised a number of heavy lorries are going up to the weighbridge behind Spott. This is potentially dangerous for motorists and pedestrians as the road up to Spott is narrow with no pavement and it is damaging the roads. AL to report to Cllr MV. **AL**

**Stenton:** The metal barrier opposite the church leading to the pedestrian access to The Crofts (which was reported in the minutes of 16 June) has been replaced.

**Mobile telephone signal:** Those present agreed that this is perhaps a more significant problem than is the poor broadband service in the ELCC area. This would be discussed at the November meeting, with any intelligence gratefully received.

**Natural Power, Crystal Rig III** - Planning permission has been granted and further funding would be available for the East Lammermuir area. Chris is in early discussion with Chair of Garvald & Morham CC as to the appropriate split of these benefits.

Sue Northropp, Dementia Friendly East Lothian, has agreed to attend our November meeting to update us on their work.

Area Plan Chair, Pippa Swan to be invited to address our January meeting. Date to be confirmed. **CB** to organise

## **8:00 Correspondence:**

MSP, Ian Gray has written thanking ELCC for their hard work and involvement in the community and is happy to attend a future meeting of ELCC.

**9:00 Date of Next Meeting: 24 November, 2015 – Spott Village Hall**