



COMMUNITY RENEWABLE ENERGY

APPLETON AND SPAUNTON COMMUNITY ENERGY GROUP

Notes of Meeting

Tuesday 6th March 2007
Village Hall, Appleton-le-Moors

Present

Alistair Barker, John Cawley, Alison Dogson, Paul Elsome, Jill Farrant, Libby Fryday, Mark Grayson, Dave Grewer, Judie Holliday, Peter Jones, Barbara Myers, Nicola Oldroyd. Dave Rawlings, Nelly Trevelyan, Eddie Ward

Apologies

Jonathan Allison. Jim Hall, George Winn-Darley

Welcome and Background to Group

Dave Rawlings (Chairman) welcomed all to the meeting and expressed delight at the number of people attending for the first time. He explained the background of the group, that it had been formed around two and a half years ago and have been gathering information about renewable energy since formation. Last year an energy event was held to disseminate this information. Recently the group had concentrated on three projects, these are, Energy Efficiency, District Heating and a Community Wind Turbine. A community interest company has been formed as this was thought to be the best type of group for accessing funding.

This meeting had been called to formally wind up the energy group and hand over the projects to the community interest company.

The general meeting was opened.

Dave R reported that there were no accounts prepared, however there was a balance in the bank account of £147. This was left over from the grants obtained from the SDF for the funding of the visit to local schools by the Nutmeg Theatre Company, the Energy Fair held last year and the initial wind turbine feasibility study. Nelly proposed that the group should be wound up and all matters transferred to the Appleton and Spaunton Community Energy Community Interest Company, this was seconded by Dave G and passed unanimously.

Response from Questionnaires

The newsletter with questionnaires was hand delivered to every household during the previous fortnight and around 50% had since been collected. The information is required by the consultant who is carrying out the district heating scheme feasibility study. The second

questionnaire would help the group find opportunities to help householders to be more energy efficient.

Community Wind Turbine Project

Last year the group commissioned a pre-feasibility study to look at the feasibility of a community wind turbine, the report is still on the village web site. Dave R and Nelly have had an informal meeting with the Chief Planning Officer from the National Park to ascertain what information would be needed if a planning application were to be submitted by the group. The feasibility study concluded that one or two turbines, 30 metres tall would produce enough electricity, equal to the needs of the community. This size of turbine is as high as the church tower, that is not the same scale as the turbines on a wind farm, but considerably larger than the small scale domestic turbines. The chief planning officer is to ask the chair of the planning committee whether it would be appropriate to allow the group to give a pre-planning application presentation to the committee, as had been done recently with another contentious application. It would be a complex issue as the turbine/s would be a community project ie any profits made would belong to the community and not an outside firm coming in to make money and take it out of the community. If this project was to go ahead it would need to have the support of the community as a whole.

There was a concern among some of those attending the meeting that there had been insufficient consultation, that a precedent would be set whereby other turbines could be installed in the area at a later date and that it would be noisy and would have a detrimental impact on the landscape.

There followed a discussion about the specifics of the project

Various suggestions were put forward and the group will try to follow up on these points.

The suggestions included, producing a photo montage, circulating it around the households in the village so that residents would have an idea of what the turbine would look like, visiting a turbine of a similar design and size, analysing and publicising on the web site, the results of the questionnaires, and more consultation with the community.

District Heating Scheme

Sustainable Development funding had been obtained to undertake a feasibility study to look at the possibility of developing a wood fired district heating scheme. Dave R described the system. When the results are available they will be published on the village web site.

Energy Efficiency Day

Two members of the group are hoping to become sufficiently trained in energy efficiency to be able to give advice to households. Members of the group have already attended one session and another has been organised for 23rd March in the village hall at Appleton. Nick Coakley from Ryedale District Council will lead this course. It is important to get all the houses in the community to be energy efficient as this will be a condition of any grants awarded to the group.

Grants

As the group is now a CIC it is eligible to apply for grants from the NYFVO, who can supply funding for help with the administration costs associated with the next stage of the wind turbine project, also to help with the purchasing of items to help the community with its energy efficiency such as a thermal imaging camera, low energy light bulbs and appliance meters.

AOB - Schools

Nelly is keen to involve the local schools and now has a link with Norton College who are very interested in environmental issues and are piloting a planning workshop about the arguments

for and against wind turbines, to take place at the moors centre. The local primary schools are interested in being informed about any technologies put in place in the community.

Dave Rawlings thanked all for attending, anyone interested in being kept informed of the work of the group should get in touch with Judie Holliday at the National Park office to pass on their contact details so that they can be added to the circulation list.

Date of next meeting

Tuesday 3rd April in Appleton Village Hall