



COMMUNITY RENEWABLE ENERGY

APPLETON AND SPAUNTON COMMUNITY ENERGY GROUP

Notes of Meeting

Tuesday 10th April 2007
Village Hall, Appleton-le-Moors

Present

Helen Beaumont, Kian Brewster, Emma Brown, Chris Cawley, John Cawley, Alison Dodgson, Paul Elsome, Dave Hall, Jim Hall, G. LeGallez, Mark Grayson, Judie Holliday, Peter Jones, Steve Lonsdale, John Marsden, Barbara Myers, Nicola Oldroyd. Dave Rawlings, Nelly Trevelyan

Apologies

Eddie Ward, Penny Ward

Agenda

As there was no agenda it was agreed to discuss, the District Heating Scheme, the Wind Turbine Proposal, Insulation/Energy Efficiency and Changes to Permitted Development for Micro-generation.

District Heating Scheme

The consultants have now started work on the feasibility study. Information has been collected and sent to them. It is hoped that there would be some results by the next meeting. Peter Jones explained about how the district heating scheme would work. There was some discussion about whether a better proposition would be to encourage the use of individual pellet boilers. Peter explained the situation regarding the current supply chain for pellets and that Yorwoods have now employed a project officer for this area to look at the supply chain for biomass fuels. It was explained that it was hoped that there would be grant funding for a district heating scheme and that the heat would be charged to individual properties and would be comparative to current oil prices.

Energy Efficiency

The second training session has been held with Nick Coakley from Ryedale District Council. During this training session attendees visited two houses in the community to see how householders could save energy and money. The group would like to expand on this and are keen to advise anyone in the community on energy efficiency. The easiest hit is the installation of low energy light bulbs. The group is looking into the possibility of using the Community

Interest Company to purchase a stock of energy efficient bulbs to sell on to householders at a low price.

It is worth noting that if any grants are sought for renewable energy installations, it is likely to be a condition of the grant that the households should be as energy efficient as possible.

Community Wind Turbine Project

An initial feasibility study was done for a community wind turbine/s last year (available on the village website). This study recommended one or two 225kw second hand Vestas wind turbines, with a total height to tip of 46.5m (152ft) which would produce enough electricity to offset the usage of the two villages. The electricity would be sold to a utility company and fed into the national grid. Two sites were identified, one on the common and the second just above the quarry, the common site being better for the wind speed, but the quarry site being better for the visual impact. Including the ROC payments, and an amount set aside for maintenance, the income from the sale of the electricity would be between £30, 000 and £50,000. This money could be used for a wide variety of community projects including further renewable energy projects such as the funding of solar hot water panels.

An initial photo-montage has been produced and was displayed at the energy efficiency fair, and circulated after the meeting. It is hoped that more photographs could be produced which would show how the turbines would look from the main roads and the villages

A number of concerns were expressed including:-

Precedent – would utility companies try to have turbines erected if planning permission was granted for a community turbine?

Noise – would the noise from the turbine be heard from households?

Visual intrusion – some people disliked turbines in any situation, whilst others had issues with turbines in a protected landscape.

Consultation – some people expressed concern that they had not been consulted

Financial – that the turbine would cost residents, and they would not see the benefits

To address some of these issues and mis-information which is spreading through the community it was decided to:

Produce another newsletter, setting out the proposal in more detail and showing the advantages and disadvantages of a wind turbine.

Ask the NY Forum for Voluntary Organisations for suggestions as to how the public consultation should be carried out

Produce further photo-montages

Organise a trip to visit a similar wind turbine (no one came forward for this visit, so the project team plan to visit and use a video recorder to record the turbine and show at a public meeting)

Hold a public meeting

The Chairman had received letters from Penny and Eddie Ward. These were not read out at the meeting but are attached to these minutes

To: Dave Rawlings (Chair) and Nelly Trevelyan (Secretary)
Appleton & Spaunton Community Energy Group

From: Penny Ward, Sunnyside Cottage, Appleton le Moors

Date: 30th March 2007

- 1 I am writing to you as I am away on holiday and wish my comments to be noted at the meeting on Tuesday 3rd April 2007. Please would you give my apologies to the meeting
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- 2 My comments for the meeting regarding the proposed installation of a wind turbine are as follows and I would be grateful if these could be read on my behalf:
- Having read the Spring 2007 Newsletter and completed the questionnaire I visited the village website and accessed the Feasibility Study Report, Minutes of previous meetings and the Group Action Plan.
 - Regarding the possible installation of a Wind Turbine on the common at Appleton le Moors. **I feel that there is an urgent need to have a full and proper consultation on this proposal with all residents in both Appleton and Spaunton villages.**
 - Despite references in Newsletters and Reports (*see below*) the group, to date, has not carried out a full and proper consultation exercise. I ask just when will a full consultation exercise be a priority for the group and how much more information is considered necessary to enable residents to make a "yes" or "no" decision?
 - **Community Energy Action Plan (updated 11 Jan 06)** has no actions recorded for consulting the community?
 - **Feasibility Study Report (dated May 2006)**: Conclusions on page 22 **Next Step -** Number 1 clearly states *Quote: "discussions within the local community to get community to 'buy in'"*
 - **Minutes of Meeting 12 June 06** – reports that *Quote: "Nellie felt that the next step would be to gauge community support for scheme, it was felt that it would not be able to gauge the support without more detailed information and would need a more detailed feasibility study..."*
 - **Newsletter (Summer 2006)** *Quote: Wind Power – Next Steps "investigate local support for a turbine..."*
 - **Newsletter (Spring 2007)**
Quote: Wind Turbine Project "Nothing will happen without community support and consultation"
Quote: What is happening next? - community consultation does not feature at all as a priority in this section
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- 3 **Access to Minutes of previous meetings:** despite having been advised to obtain information from the website I have been unable to find any minutes of meetings, action plans and reports beyond those of June 2006. Please could all information relating to the group be made available to residents in the village via the website.

To: Dave Rawlings (Chair) and Nelly Trevelyan (Secretary)
Appleton & Spaunton Community Energy Group

From: Eddie Ward, Sunnyside Cottage, Appleton le Moors

Date: 30th March 2007

- 1 Next Meeting Tuesday 3rd April 2007 – As I am away on holiday please would you give my apologies to the meeting.
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- 2 Having made my apologies there are a number of points I would like to bring to the attention of the meeting and would be grateful if you would present these on my behalf:
- Minutes of meeting held on 6 March 07:**
Re: formation of new company – whilst Nellie proposed and Dave G seconded this, the statement in the minutes "*passed unanimously*" does not accurately record what happened at the meeting.
- Matters Arising from the minutes:**
Re: Community Wind Turbine Project –
- a) Members will recall that the concern I expressed at the meeting was that of members consulting with the Chief Planning Officer prior to full consultation with the residents of Appleton and Spaunton.
 - b) I am equally concerned that 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*" yet again prior to full consultation with residents.
 - c) Regarding the "*concerns about insufficient consultation and the need to have the support of the community*". The action for the group in the minutes: "*will try to follow up these points*" is too vague and should have specific action points which clearly state how, when and where a full consultation will take place with all residents in Appleton and Spaunton villages.
 - d) I would request that, as a matter of priority, serious consideration is given to what action the group intends to take to ensure that a full and proper consultation takes place with all residents in Appleton and Spaunton villages on the Wind Turbine Project.
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- All the above points refer to the Wind Turbine Project in the minutes of the meeting on 6 March 2007 this being the item most widely discussed at that meeting. I would welcome the opportunity to discuss at a future meeting how the group plans to develop Energy Efficiency outside the scope District Heating and Wind Turbine.

Changes to Permitted Development for Micro-generation

Peter Jones explained that a draft amendment to the General Permitted Development Order with respect to micro-generation has been produced. The consultation papers are available at www.communities.gov.uk

Date of next meeting

Dave will produce a list of meeting dates to be circulated later.