

Spaunton and Appleton Community Action for Energy  
Minutes of meeting held November 10 2004,7.30pm

Venue: Appleton –le moors reading room

Present: Nelly Trevelyan, Richard Hardisty, David Hall, Dave Rawlings, David Grewer, April Marsden

Apologies from Vicky Shaw, Jim Hall, Jonathan Allison

A description of the issues and discussions raised at the last meeting was read to put newcomers into the picture.

The lantern Parade that was proposed at that last meeting in order to draw attention to the project had happened and had involved a lot of people in the both villages who had taken part in workshops, both in the village hall and at Sinnington School. This will be followed up with Vicky Shaw going to the school to explain about renewable energy to the children.

Nelly proposed that the group be formalised with the appointment of a chairperson, secretary, and treasurer, because any applications to have a feasibility study done would need to come from a properly constituted group. It was understood that the group now being formed may not be a permanent structure, if and when a community project is undertaken. At that point we may need to reform as a company or a co-operative, or some new structure to be agreed. It was also understood that more people would be necessary in order to reach 'critical mass'

David Grewer was duly elected treasurer. At the moment the only funds that the group has is a cheque for £100 from the district council which has in effect already been spent on the materials for the lantern parade by Nelly Trevelyan.

David Rawlings agreed to be Chairman, and Nelly Trevelyan agreed to be secretary. Both were duly elected.

We then discussed the idea of getting a feasibility study commissioned, and the idea that we should invite consultants to tender for this work. From information supplied by Vicky we understood that a full study would cost in the region of £10,000, but that there was a considerable amount of funding available to do this from various government sources. We needed to be clear about what we wanted from the feasibility study. What were the boundaries?

- • In terms of production? At the moment we agreed that it should be the parish boundaries of Appleton-le Moors and Spaunton.
- • In terms of use of power generated? Here there would be likely to be different answers for each technology. For community heating and hot water schemes it would be likely that it would be restricted to clusters of house that were in close proximity. There may also be individual house technologies, such as solar panels, etc.
- • In terms of financial/interest involvement? Here it might be useful to involve more people from a wider area.

The feasibility study would also need to address questions of motivation. We would need to compare the benefits in terms of long and short term economics. How would it perform as regards environmental and climate change issues? Would there be overall decrease in co2 emissions? How would the technology score on energy security? It is clear that sometimes, in order to gain in one area

you can loose out in another. For example: if we were to have a windmill and use the power ourselves it would be less efficient in terms of co2 emissions than if we were to put the power generated straight into the grid, but it might be better in terms of energy security and self- sufficiency.

We would also like to be able to understand about efficiencies of scale. How might a group project compare with individual house projects? What sized project would make most sense, technically and financially?

Also raised was the idea of a project that grew, and where the best starting place would be, and how we could add to it as we went along. If individuals wanted to embark on , eg, solar panels for hot water, it would be a shame if they went to enormous expense and then a community hot water project came in afterwards, that they could have bought into instead.

This brought us back to the 'chicken and egg problem' of getting enough people seriously involved. It was suggested that some people may be put off until they have more figures about output and cash. We agreed that we should try to find some one who could give us this more concrete information, and it was suggested that one of the firms suggested by Vicky could be asked to do a presentation as part of the tendering process.

Those present, thought that a trip to look at some existing projects would be useful, such as the wind turbine at Nidderdale school, and or the heat pumps at Danby. We also considered inviting Bioflame to tell us if their technology might have something to offer us, especially in the light of information that Jonathan Allison has big supplies of wood available.

The meeting closed with everybody saying that they would try to talk to three other people in the village.

The next meeting is planned for Dec 7 (Tuesday). Venue to be confirmed. Please phone Nelly Trevelyan for more details on 01751 417799 or e-mail [trevelyan@btinternet.com](mailto:trevelyan@btinternet.com)