

SEBERGHAM PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF 1 MAY 2012
HELD IN WELTON VILLAGE HALL

PRESENT

Mr J S Hollins-Gibson
Mr M Stockdale
Mr P Pearson
Mr A Bell
Mr A V Rule
Mr M Hilton

Ms P L Gauntlett Clerk

1. APOLOGIES

Mr G Gash

IN ATTENDANCE

Collr D Fairbairn
36 members of the public were present.

The meeting was called to discuss planning applications 2/2012/0240 and 2/2012/0241 which are for 2 wind turbines on land at Ling Farm Welton.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Mr A Rule and Mr P Pearson declared a personal interest. Mr A Bell declared a personal and possibly prejudicial interest.

3. ADJOURNMENT OF MEETING

The Chairman gave an explanation to the members of the public re the planning application process and advised that personal objections to the applications should be submitted directly to Allerdale Borough Council in addition to the PCs comments.

Members of the public in attendance were invited to make their comments. The objections made were as follows:-

- I. Several properties in the area have had solar panels installed recently. The flicker from the turbine will disrupt the workings of the panels.
- II. The turbines will impact on the landscape, on wildlife and on surrounding properties. There are 14 businesses involved in tourism in the locality.
- III. The turbines are very close to neighbouring properties. There are livestock and horses in adjacent fields. It has been proved that horses are affected by the flicker and the noise from the turbine sails. There is also a free range egg producer less than 600m from the proposed turbine and it is not known what effect the flicker and noise could have on the poultry.
- IV. The proposed turbines are not the most modern on the market. They could be considered to be antiquated technology. This particular type are known to be noisy
- V. The noise and the flicker from the turbines affects people who suffer from Tinnatus. A near neighbour has health problems and she is concerned that these may be made worse by the proximity of the turbines to her home.
- VI. Concerns were expressed that if this application were allowed it could open the door to other applications. It is known that there are applications currently being prepared for another 18 turbines in surrounding Parishes. The area will become dominated by turbines creating a sequential planning effect as one drives through the area. This will be detrimental to the tourist trade.

- VII. Digital TV and mobile phone reception will be affected to the properties that lie in a line between the mast at Caldbeck and the turbines.
- VIII. If the turbines are installed no one knows what the plans are for the area once they have reached the end of their useful life. The PC was requested to ask Allerdale to clarify their position on this and to suggest that a bond is obtained from the turbine company so that, in the event of their bankruptcy Allerdale have the financial resources to return the area to its previous state.
- IX. It is understood that Rory Stewart MP is opposed to the wind farms and he is prepared to write to Allerdale BC in support of our objections.

4. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

After listening to the comments from the floor the Parish Council voted on the applications. No one was in favour and it was resolved that they would object to the applications. The Clerk will submit a formal response in the next few days. It was also agreed that Allerdale will be asked to obtain an Environmental Impact Assessment due to the amount of wild life in the area. The applications have been "called in" by the Development Panel at Allerdale BC. The Clerk will ask that the Development Panel members undertake a site visit prior to making their decision.

The meeting was closed at 20.30

Mr J S Hollins-Gibson