

**SEBERGHAM PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF 17 JULY 2013**

PRESENT

Mr JS Hollins-Gibson
Mr P Pearson
Mr AV Rule
Mr M Hilton
Ms PL Gauntlett (Clerk)

APOLOGIES

Mr G Gash
Mr M Stockdale
Mrs S Reid

IN ATTENDANCE

Councillor D Fairbairn
22 members of the public

The meeting was joined by Mr Mather Development Manager for Wind Direct and Mr Nigel Forsythe from Steadmans who gave a presentation on Steadmans proposals to erect a turbine on their land to provide the factory with electricity.

Both speakers stressed that at the moment these are just discussions to see whether or not this scheme is feasible. All residents living within 1km of the proposed turbine should have received a letter from Wind Direct explaining their plans. Anyone who had not received a letter was asked to let Mr Mather know. Steadmans need to reduce cost savings and a turbine will considerably reduce the amount they pay for power (which runs at around £10k per month). The site is no good for solar panels for a variety of reasons and heat source pumps would cover a vast area and still not provide all the power that is required. There is no suitable waste on site to utilise a biomass scheme. 120m is the highest turbine that would be installed. Noise studies will be conducted for all properties within an 88m radius. Wind Direct do recognise that, if the Allerdale Local Plan is passed with an 800m distance from turbines requirement they will be required to amend their plans. Once the plans are ready for submission Wind Direct will contact all telecom providers to see if they object to the turbine as it might disrupt the signal from the Caldbeck mast. Questions from the floor were about the feasibility of solar panels, the efficiency level of turbines, the amount of Government subsidy that is being paid. The point was made that the audience were more sympathetic to a development for a local business rather than those for individuals.

Both speakers undertook to return to speak at a later meeting if plans for a turbine were to be submitted to Allerdale Borough Council.

2. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting of 15 May 2013 were agreed and signed as a true record.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Mr Rule & Mr Pearson declared personal interests as the turbines under discussion will be in view from their properties.

4. ADJOURNMENT OF MEETING

A member of the public stated that, the pub looks as if it is being systematically run down and is being badly managed. They asked if the PC would write to Jennings voicing our concerns

5. MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

All covered elsewhere.

6. CORRESPONDENCE

Clerks & Councils Direct noted
Rural Futures noted

7. WIND TURBINES

Fell Hill Scoping opinion request for proposed wind turbine. SCO/2013/0010

It was agreed that the Clerk would request an Environmental Impact Assessment for this proposal. The grounds include:- the effect of the turbine on wildlife, its visual impact, the proximity of dwellings, the effect of flicker and noise from the turbines, disruption to mobile/broadband signals coming from the Caldbeck mast, tourist trade in the area, water courses both over and underground and the cumulative impact of so many turbines on the landscape.

Steadmans Scoping opinion request for proposed wind turbine.

As above.

8. HIGHWAYS MATTERS

The road into Churchtown is breaking up and has several potholes. In addition water running off the road is causing localised flooding.

The road markings on one side of Doctors Brow have been re done but the other side and Goose Green crossroads still need to be painted. (done 25/7/2013).

9. NORTHERN FELS BROADBAND

NFB is now confident that many of its households and businesses will soon be able to access broadband speeds in the region of 20mbs and that within two years everyone will be able to access a minimum of 2mbs. There are 4 separate projects currently taking place which will affect the service in our area and these are as follows:

1. EE will launch a 4G broadband service in the northern fells in Sept/Oct this year. This is a commercial initiative and independent of any other service or project.

EE is currently investing £1.5 million in a project to convert its existing masts to deliver a broadband service to homes and businesses (rather than simply to mobile devices). The company is able to estimate which buildings will be able to receive the service and suggests that 85% of homes in the northern fells will be able to receive broadband via this service with anticipated speeds of around 20mbs. Once the masts have been converted they will be in a position to confirm availability at any given location in the area.

2. CCC has announced its roll-out of superfast broadband throughout the county and its plans can be seen on the Connecting Cumbria website. Its goal is to deliver superfast broadband to 93% of properties within 2.5 years but it is not clear yet as to which areas will make up the remaining 7%. We do know that our regional exchanges will be amongst the last to be considered.

CCC has made a commitment to deliver a minimum of 2mbs to 100% of properties within the county and this will be completed in 2015.

3. Our own bid for state funding has now been handed over to a team from CCC to manage. There were a number of reasons for this, including issues of trading records and matched funding, and we are confident that CCC is in a much better position to succeed with this project.

The bid should be completed by October and then we will wait for a response from DEFRA. If the project is successful it will deliver superfast broadband into other areas of the northern fells. The bid will be for delivery to some 85% of the area as BT has indicated that it will deliver a service to 15% of our region under the umbrella of the Connecting Cumbria roll-out. We are holding regular meetings with CCC and continuing to support the bid to access this funding for the region.

There is a further tranche of state aid available for mobile phone masts and both Rory Stewart and CCC are lobbying for some of this money to be spent on 3 additional masts in the region to supplement those that EE currently have. EE's research suggests that access to 3 additional masts would enable complete coverage of the northern fells with 4G broadband

10. ALLERDALE/NEIGHBOURHOOD/PARISH PLAN

Nothing to report.

11. PROCEDURES & STANDING ORDERS

Hold over to next meeting due to shortage of time.

12. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

None

12. ACCOUNTS

The following cheques were approved and signed by 2 signatories.

56 JC Leece internal auditor	30.00
53 Website hosting	41.99

13. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Wednesday 18 September

Meeting closed at 21.38

J S Hollins Gibson
Chairman.