

Lindal and Marton Parish Council

Chairman
A Waite
4 Silver Street
Marton
Nr Ulverston
Cumbria LA12 0NQ
Tel 01229 462922

Clerk
J Smith
7 East View
Lindal-in-Furness
Cumbria LA12 0LG
Tel 01229 467261

Councillors:-
Mr A Waite (462922) Mr R Lord (464034) Mrs S Glover (462383) Mr D Howarth (463304) Mrs S Kelly (465343)

Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday, 6th October 2011 at 7.30 pm in the Buccleuch Hall, Lindal.

Present:-

Councillors A Waite (Chairman); R Lord; D Howarth; Mrs S Glover; Mrs S Kelly.

Also present:- 3 members of the public.

In attendance:- PCSO Louise Perry, Cumbria Constabulary.

98/11 Urgent business. Items normally needing to be publicised but received too late for the agenda. (Section 100B (4) (b) Local Government Act 1972)

None.

99/11 Disclosure of interests.

Councillor Lord declared an interest in Agenda item 10 (a) in that his wife was a shareholder in Baywind, the operators of the Harlock Hill wind farm.

Councillor Mrs Glover declared an interest in Agenda item 12 (c) in that she was a member of St Peter's Church Parochial Church Council.

100/11 Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday, 1st September 2011.

The minutes of the meeting held on Thursday, 1st September 2011, were taken as read, and APPROVED.

PROPOSED:- Councillor Lord. SECONDED:- Councillor Mrs Glover .
Carried unanimously.

101/11 Matters arising.

- a) 88/11 (a) Councillor Lord enquired as to the proposals for beacons to mark the Queen's Diamond Jubilee in 2012 and the Clerk confirmed that no further information had arrived. Councillor Howarth indicated that the Buccleuch Hall Management Committee had yet to discuss the matter .
- b) 88/11 (b) Councillor Lord asked whether there had been any further comments from the planning department on the question of the proposed wind turbine at Lindal Cote farm

and the adjacent footpath. The Clerk confirmed that nothing had been heard and that it was unlikely that any further information would be forthcoming.

102/11 Attendance of Officer from Cumbria Constabulary.

PCSO Perry reported that there had been an incident involving a break-in to a shed to the rear of a house on Lindal Green although nothing had been stolen. In addition, damage to window boxes outside Kurly's hairdressing salon had been reported.

From the floor came a further report regarding speeding vehicles through Marton, with farm tractors being the main culprits. (*vide minute 89/11 September 2011*). PCSO Perry agreed to raise the matter personally with the local farming community and also to discuss the matter with her colleagues with a view to radar speed guns being used.

103/11. Report of School Governors. Submission of minutes, if any.

The minutes of the meeting held on Monday, 28th June 2011 were NOTED.

104/11 Barrow Borough Council. Key Priorities and Budget Strategy.

Barrow Council's key priorities for the period 2011–2015 were NOTED as:-

- *Provide good quality, efficient and cost-effective services while reducing overall expenditure.*
- *Continue to support housing market renewal including an increase in the choice and quality of housing stock and the regeneration of our oldest and poorest housing.*
- *Work to mitigate the effects of the recession and cuts in public expenditure and their impact on the local economy and secure a sustainable and long-term economic recovery for our community.*
- *Continue to improve and enhance the built environment and public realm, working with key partners to secure regeneration of derelict and underused land and buildings in the Borough.*

It was PROPOSED by Councillor Lord and SECONDED by Councillor Howarth that such priorities be NOTED. Carried unanimously.

The Borough Council's budget strategy for the period up to 2014-2015 was also considered, details having already been forwarded to Parish Councillors.

It was PROPOSED by Councillor Howarth and SECONDED by Councillor Lord that the budget proposals be NOTED and that the Borough's Director of Finance be advised that the provision of a simple summary of the proposals and the various implications would have been helpful in enabling the Parish Council to fully understand the financial intricacies of the 23 pages of information provided. Carried unanimously.

105.11 Annual Assessment of Standing Orders; Risk Management Policy; Internal audit arrangements.

Copies of the current Standing Orders and Risk Management Policy having already been circulated for consideration, and Councillor Howarth having satisfied himself that the internal audit arrangements were entirely satisfactory, it was PROPOSED by Councillor Waite and SECONDED by Councillor Lord that no amendments were necessary and that all current policies be APPROVED. Carried unanimously.

106/11 Planning applications relating to the Parish.

- a) *Final application from Infinergy re Furness Wind Farm. Change of turbines from 5 small to 3 large at existing Harlock Hill Wind Farm and additional 3 large turbines on the adjoining site - 5 in total. NB all of the site is outside the Parish boundary.*

The Clerk briefly summarised the history of this application which dated back to 2008 and which was originally to be an independent development on land (Mean Moor) adjacent to the existing Harlock Hill site operated by Bay Wind. The current application now envisaged the removal of the existing 5 turbines on Harlock Hill (each of .5mw capacity and tip height of 53.5m) with these being replaced by 2 new, larger, turbines (each of 2.3mw capacity and tip height of 99.5m). The Mean Moor site would see the installation of 3 of these larger turbines and whilst the two sites would be owned and operated independently, the site as a whole would be 5 turbines, to be called the Furness Wind Farm.

During the ensuing discussion, *involving the floor*, it was clear that there was much scepticism about the overall principle of wind farms, doubts being cast on the economics of such installations when taking into account the thousands of turbines needed to meet the country's electricity requirements and the vast subsidies involved, together with the need for sufficient back-up generating facilities during unsuitable weather conditions.

In addition, the impact on wild and open moorland, by this and other such installations would be considerable. Even though there were 5 turbines already operating at Harlock Hill, the 2 proposed replacements would be almost twice the size.

Nevertheless, it was accepted that government policy was firmly in favour of such developments and that applications such as this were unlikely to be rejected unless there were, for example, major environmental concerns. In this context it was noted that Infinergy had submitted comprehensive documentation which appeared to cover all the relevant points and that this would be subject to critical scrutiny by the Borough's planning department.

However, it was also accepted that the development was outside the parish (within Askam and Ireleth) and that the major impact on local residents was likely to be limited to the route to be used for both the transportation of the turbine materials to the site and also the construction traffic during the construction period. The preferred route had already been discussed with County and Borough Officials, together with the Highways Agency and this would incorporate the A590 from Barrow Docks, through Lindal, with a left-turn onto the Marton Road and up past Whinfield to the Snipe Ghyll junction in Marton. A right turn would then see the route carry on along the Horace road to the Harlock Hill site. Whilst it was, perhaps, the least problematic of any of the possible ways of reaching the site it was noted with some concern that the Parish Council had not been included in the deliberations on the most appropriate route.

However, it was also noted in Infinergy's *Non Technical Summary*, paragraph 1.120, that "*Should the...Wind Farm receive planning consent, further consultation will be undertaken with the relevant authorities.....(for) the production of a Traffic Management Plan.*"

It was then PROPOSED by Councillor Waite and SECONDED by Councillor Mrs Glover that the Council confirm its reluctance to support this application, being unconvinced that it was in the best interests of the community as a whole, and that its response be limited to "no comment". However, should planning consent be given, the Parish Council requested that 1) a condition of such consent be the need for construction traffic (as opposed to the transportation of the turbines) being required to only use the designated route as laid down for the turbine movements and 2) the Parish Council be invited to participate in the creation of the Traffic Management Plan.

Carried unanimously. (Councillor Lord took no part in the discussions or vote.)

- b) 6/2011/0664 Amended submission re erection of detached garage/workshop, The Old Chapel, Marton.

It was pointed out that whilst the amendment provided for a minor amendment to the proposed porch at the front of the property, in the form of a half-metre-high planter running along the front of the building, the most significant alteration involved the re-siting of the proposed work-shop/garage further behind the existing front boundary wall and half a metre lower in the ground. The building would thus be less prominent from the road. It was PROPOSED by Councillor Lord and SECONDED by Councillor Mrs Glover that the Council express “no comment”. Carried unanimously.

107/11 Correspondence.

- a) Planning applications relating to the whole of the Borough. NOTED.
- b) Cumbria Police Authority. Independent Custody Visiting Scheme. It was NOTED that the Police Authority was seeking to recruit volunteers to serve as visitors to police custody suites in order to confirm that inmates were being treated appropriately. Interested persons should contact Emily Pratt on 01768 217733 or email policeauthority@cumbria.police.uk
- c) Morecambe Bay Partnership. AGM, 8th October 2011. NOTED.
- d) Campaign to Protect Rural England. *How to respond to planning applications*”. NOTED.
- e) Cumbria Playing Fields Association. Annual Report. NOTED.

108/11 Finance.

- a) Cash balances:- Current account - £50. Reserve account - £2194.49.
- b) Information Points (ex-BT phone boxes). The requirement for volunteers to look after the Information Points, together with a modest financial inducement (*vide minute 95/11 (c) September 2011*) had been published in the last copy of “Aspects” but no names were, as yet, forthcoming.
- c) St Peter’s Church financial crisis. The suggestion that the Parish Council might wish to make a financial contribution to St Peter’s funds (*vide minute 95/11 (d) September 2011*) had been publicised in the last copy of “Aspects” in order for those with an interest in the topic to attend this October meeting. During the ensuing discussion, *involving the floor, including the Treasurer of the Church Parochial Council*, it was agreed that a donation could be made as a one-off contribution to specific projects, the Church having many outstanding minor repairs without having sufficient funds to cover everything. Accordingly, it was PROPOSED by Councillor Lord and SECONDED by Councillor Howarth that an amount of £350 be made available and that it be left to the Church treasurer and the Clerk to clarify the details. Carried unanimously. (Councillor Mrs Glover took no part in the discussion or the vote.)

109/11 Any Other Business.

Nothing.

110/11 Date and Time of Next Meeting.

It was AGREED that the next meeting of the Parish Council would take place on Thursday, 3rd November 2011, at 7.30 pm in the Buccleuch Hall, Lindal.

(All residents of the Parish are reminded that the Council meetings are open to the public and that all are welcome to attend.)