

AINSTABLE PARISH COUNCIL

CHAIRMAN: CLLR NIGEL VEAR,
AINSTABLE. TEL (01768) 896360 ~ chairman@ainstable.org.uk

**Extraordinary meeting of Ainstable Parish Council held in Ainstable Church Institute
7.30pm on 6th May, 2014.**

PRESENT: Cllr Vear, Cllr Findlay, Cllr Thirwall, Cllr Guise, Cllr Collinge, Cllr Bellis, Cllr Smith, County & District Cllr Robinson

Members of the public present: 45

MINUTES

EXTRAORDINARY OPEN PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

1. **Declaration of interests-** All councillors live in the parish and own property within it.
2. **To receive apologies for absence-** Cllr Miller (injured) & Cllr Findlay (away)
3. **To discuss the proposed wind turbine near Ainstable village**

The Chair of the Parish Council, Cllr Vear welcomed everyone to the meeting. He used a presentation to show a map of the parish and give a description of the parish area, and also mentioned the need for new councillors in the Croglin & Newbiggin ward.

OPEN MEETING

The Chair of the Parish Council, Cllr Vear welcomed everyone to the meeting to discuss and for the parish council to vote on:

Planning application number: 14/0281

Applicants: R&C Bowman of Castle Rigg Farm, Armathwaite.
Description: Erection of a 77 metre wind turbine,
land to the South East of Ainstable

The proposed site is grid reference : NY 53620 45549, nearest properties being Norman Cross and Mr and Mrs Thompson. The Ainstable crossroads is about 860 metres away, Bascodyke is 910 and Ruckcroft is 1320.

Questions/comments from the public:

Cllr Mary Robinson asked “How many miles will it be visible for?”

Cllr Vear replied that Helvellyn, the Solway Coast and the Hartside Café can all be seen from the proposed turbine site and so presumably the turbine would be able to be seen from all of those places. Cllr Vear also stated that the AONB will have been notified.

John Woodman asked how far Mr Bowman had consulted with the villagers.

Cllr Vear explained that Mr Bowman has complied with the minimum requirements only ie had sent a letter to a number of properties and put an advert in the paper. As the Parish Council felt that he had not consulted the villagers properly a public meeting was held on the 13th March which was attended by 98 members of the public.

Karen Hardon stated that she has been speaking to the Environmental Health Officer and that there are a lot of health issues that are going to be considered- not just those related to noise. This together with the fact that the Case Planning Officer, Mr Addis is now on holiday for three weeks may mean that the decision could be delayed until July.

Linda Bussey asked who is actually going to benefit from this energy and would the community be getting any of it.

Cllr Vear replied that it would be Mr Bowman benefitting and that we have had no indication at all what is going to happen to the electricity once it has been produced. How is it going to be connected to the grid? It has been suggested that the nearest connection point for such a large voltage would be Kirkoswald perhaps by underground cable.

Clive Alcock added that Northumberland County Council ran a cable along the road system for one wind farm, which caused major roadworks and major disruption.

Cllr Vear replied that a feasibility study needs to be done as Mr Bowman seems to think that he can connect to the Bramery Farm cable but this is clearly not the case. An estimate of the cost of connection could be around £450-£500,000.

Dudley Smith commented that he is worried in case we don't take this application seriously enough, that we must not take it lightly and that we're not lulled into a false sense of security.

Cllr Vear affirmed that it is being taken seriously and that there are a lot of people working in the background. He mentioned the government website which gives advice to people wanting a wind turbine and also advice on how to object. This website re-directs to a Scottish website that states that turbines should not be placed on skylines overlooking villages.

John Kirby of Scale Rigg stated that the one at Bowscar is on a ridge and that more are proposed for this site. Also he thinks that Mr Bowman has "done his homework" as he told him that this was the biggest turbine he could possibly get on this site which he need in order to generate enough income as the cost of connecting to the grid would be so high.

Clive Alcock added that he had been to the Mansion House and seen e-mails between Mr Bowman and a polish gentleman from a Wind Energy company which indicates he has been getting professional advice.

Linda Bussey said that she would be interested to know how the turbine would be transported to the site and had this been taken into consideration.

Cllr Vear explained about the feasibility study in the Planning Application and that the Highways Authority has said that the bridge in Armathwaite doesn't have a weight limit and should be okay. They were rather more sceptical about the fact that the lorries would have to reverse up Highmoor lane, though. Cllr Vear stressed that the difficulty of the transportation would have no bearing on the planning decision.

Close of public meeting

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Cllr Vear invited the Parish Councillors to speak.

Cllr Collinge summarised his objection letter as follows:

- a) This area is one of the few remaining parts of the country with an active Barn Owl population and wind turbines are known to cause problems for birds of prey
- b) This proposal does not take into consideration the economic value of the current unspoiled landscape which in the past has been used for filming "The Monocled Mutineer" and could have further potential in this respect as is the case in Yorkshire which has done well attracting film companies to its unspoilt landscape. A giant wind turbine would detract from this scenic value;
- c) Noise would be a problem. Cllr Collinge said that he has witnessed first hand the levels of noise emitted by WT's and he believes the noise is much worse than the consultant's report for the planning application makes out. Also because Ainstable does not have any noise pollution at all it would be all the more apparent.

He also said that he would be surprised if the RAF didn't object as the WT would be in the way of their training operations.

Cllr Smith explained that he is compiling an "Objection File", not just a letter which includes lots of photographs from the surrounding area, which show that Mr Bowman's photomontages are very, very misleading. He added that the photograph taken from the Heather Glen which was included in the application was also not accurate. Also Mr Bowman's estimates of the distances to the village are inaccurate.

He further expressed his annoyance with Mr Bowman for turning down the offer of holding a public consultation at the Heather Glen.

Concern was expressed as to whether or not Mr Bowman is adding further information to his plan which cannot be accessed on-line and can only be seen at the Mansion House.

Cllr Guise said that all her points had already been raised by the other councillors.

Cllr Bellis stated that his objection letter had already been sent.

Cllr Vear stated that he is not against small, feeder turbines in the right place ie supplying a farm but that this one is too large and in too obvious a position. The proposed turbine would affect tourists who come here for the beauty and peace and we need to support the businesses that rely on tourism.

The Parish Plan 2012 states that we are against large Wind Turbine Development but would support small ones.

The vote on the planning application 14/0281 was then undertaken and the verdict was unanimous to object to the application.

Cllr Vear reminded everybody about the wind turbine action group ATAC which was to hold a meeting immediately following the Parish Council Meeting.

The next meeting of the Parish council would be the AGM, on 7:30pm Tuesday 20th May at Croglin Village Hall.

There are vacancies on the Parish Council- 1 for Croglin and 2 for Newbiggin.

Cllr Vear would be attending the Lazonby PC meeting on Wednesday 7th May, where they would be discussing our turbine.

Cllr Vear proposed that the parish council resolved to strongly object to the application. Cllr Collinge seconded this and councillors voted unanimously in favour of doing so.

Cllr Robinson asked on what grounds were the Parish Council going to object to the turbine.

Cllr Vear answered: Location, damage to the environment, damage to businesses, lack of consultation, closeness to village, noise and health issues.

Cllr Robinson asked if she could be "copied in".

Cllr Vear agreed and added that it would be made public on the PC Website as well.

Karen Hardon asked what objections were being put forward on health grounds.

The answer was "sound and light flicker"

Karen added that there is lots more info on-line of various health issues and that the findings of Dr N. Piermont were worth looking at.

No further comments.

4. **Date of the next meeting:** Annual General Meeting followed by an ordinary parish council meeting- 7.30pm on Tuesday 20th May, 2014 in Croglin Village Hall

Signed: R.E. Lytollis

Clerk to Ainstable Parish Council

15.05.14