

CASTLE SOWERBY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Parish Council meeting held on Thursday 14th April 2011 in Millhouse Village Hall

Present:

Councillors: J Foster (Chairman)
Mrs J. Wetherell (Vice Chairman)
Mrs C. Johnson
R. Little
S. Asbridge
B. Mallinson
J. Stalker
G. Bainbridge
M. Strong
Clerk: H. Eastwood
7 Parishioners

1. Chairman's Introduction

Mr Foster welcomed Councillors and seven members of the public to the special meeting in order to discuss the recent application (11/0225 – J Stobart & Sons, erection of wind turbine – 57 metres to blade tip – and associated infrastructure; land adjacent to Newlands Mill, Hesket Newmarket). He said that the meeting would welcome the views of parishioners, including Peter Stobart who represented the applicant.

Peter Stobart addressed the meeting and answered a number of questions about the proposal from Councillors and members of the public. He said that the proposal was to replace the existing turbine which had stood on the site since 1992. The foundations and infrastructure were on site although the proposal was to move the new turbine further down the field to lower ground towards Southernby. The current turbine had reached the end of its useful life and would be taken down before the replacement was erected. He said that the old turbine, a WD34, was 5 metres shorter to blade tip than the proposed turbine. The overall height of the new turbine had not been finally decided but would not be higher than 57 metres to blade tip.

Comments from parishioners and Councillors included the non-specific nature of the height and location of the application, the likely visual impact of the larger replacement turbine, there were other non-intrusive solutions to electricity generation, the benefits to local agriculture in keeping costs down, the employment of 8 local people living within 8 miles of the factory, the expansion of the feed-mill, and the suggestion of funding local projects by the Company should the application be supported via a Section 106 agreement. The Chairman thanked Mr Stobart and parishioners for their input and asked

the public to leave the meeting so that a full discussion of the application could take place by Council members and a recommendation made.

2. Apologies for Absence

None

3. Declarations of Interest

Councillor Bainbridge declared a personal interest although a non-prejudicial interest in that a family member was related to the proposer.

4. Decision

The meeting discussed and considered 3 options:

- a) "Refuse on the basis that the application is not detailed enough" (proposed Cllr Johnson, no seconder) – the motion was lost
- b) "Support the application with conditions" (proposed Cllr Asbridge, seconded Cllr Johnson) – the motion was lost
- c) "Support the application as specified in 11/0225" - the maximum height to the blade tip being no more than 57 metres. (all councillors in favour – the motion was carried. The Clerk was asked to notify EDC.

5. Date and Time of Next Meeting

Thursday 19th May 2011 (Annual Parish Meeting). Councillors were provided with individual agendas for the Annual Parish and Business Meeting by the Clerk.