

Snape Parish Council

Minutes of the Council Meeting held on Friday 8 March 2019 at 6.00pm at the Village Hall, Snape

Present: Cllr Tim Beach (Chair), Cllr Mike Hill, Cllr Bill Hough, Cllr Helen Stuart, Cllr Russ Rainger, Cllr Charles Farrant, Cllr Mary James and Cllr Graham Woodcock

Attendance: Marie Backhouse (Parish Clerk)
60 members of the public

1 Apologies and Approval of Absences

Apologies were received from Cllr Thurston. Her absence was approved.

2 Declarations of Pecuniary or Non-Pecuniary Interests by Members

None

3 Contributions by Members of the Public

Presentation by Scottish Power Renewables.

Cllr Beach welcomed everyone to the Parish Council meeting. Scottish Power renewables would do a presentation to us regarding the proposed work around Thorpeness and Friston. The meeting is going to be audio recorded. If anyone has a problem with that could they please say. Cllr Rainger asked for permission to take photographs. This was permitted. Scottish Power Renewables representatives introduced themselves; Joanna Young, Ian MacKay and Alex Hampson.

Ian MacKay reported that Scottish Power Renewables (SPR) were linked to East Anglian 1 North windfarm, East Anglian 2 windfarm, which are two separate items. For a connection to the National Grid in the Leiston and Sizewell area two onshore sub-stations would need to be constructed in that area. SPR need to obtain a Development Consent Order for this work to commence, this has a number of planning conditions. The Landfall would take place to the North of Thorpeness, where a cable would be placed under the beach. This cable would run North across the Sandlings SPA and the Aldeburgh road to Friston. A map of the route was shown. Currently the development is at Phase 4, (Section 42); there has already been leaflets sent to households, and there is an open event at Leiston tomorrow. The submission from SPR will include paperwork from Sizewell C.

Alex Hampson reported that there is concern for the environmental aspect relating to the traffic and transport. Chapter 26 of the report shows the potential traffic flow, and how to reduce the impact. SCC Highways and Highways England are assisting with the with the work and the proposed routes for the traffic have been discussed with them. A map of the proposed routes was shown. The proposed option is from the A12, along the A1094, and then left to Knodishall. HGV's will use the main road until the cable site then they will go onto temporary haul roads. Any road surveys have been completed with the assistance of Highways department, the data collected has then been modelled onto the roads. If there is a significant % increase then further work will be completed. There will be no use of the road through the village only the A1094. It is difficult to predict the amount of traffic as it will vary due to the stage of construction. The model also takes into consideration the amount of space needed by a and HGV. In the document Snape is referred to as Link 6 – A12- A1094- B1069. There is a possibility of 425 HGV movements, this would be a 70% increase on the roads. The solution to this is a traffic management which would ensure the HGV's follow a

set route. The junctions along this route are to be improved to allow better movement. The conditions for the agreement will include a Workers Traffic Plan and a HGV Traffic Movement Plan. SCC Highways will have the final say on what happens, at the moment they agree but more advance planning is needed. The roads will be stated to the contractors that they use only those. The overlap with the development at Sizewell is important and they will aim to work together.

Ian MacKay said that the date to receive feedback is the 26/3/19. The process is very long and construction will not start until 2027. All the information needed can be found on the website.

Open questions from members of the public.

Cllr Beach commented that the A1094 has already been mentioned and the impact on the B1069. The junction at the church is a major concern.

A parishioner said that no widening programme had been put in place for the A1094, this road will need widening to enable two HGV's to pass.

A parishioner commented that Snape is integral in your plans, why did the Parish Council have difficulty in obtaining a visit from you.

Ian MacKay said that it was not the intention of SPR to ignore Snape, there has been many open events locally and there is one tomorrow at Leiston.

A parishioner asked if the haul roads could be linked together to create a one-way system out through Theberton and Yoxford.

Alex Hampson said that is a good idea to have a one-way system, this will be suggested to the Engineers for consideration. There will be multiple access points to the haul road, this allows the construction to be undertaken in phases.

A parishioner thanked SPR for the presentation, but wondered why such large industrial buildings and a long construction process should be placed in our area.

Ian MacKay said that the National Grid states the areas where the electricity may be connected to the main grid.

A parishioner asked why these cables could not come through the Bawdsey site where some had already been placed.

Joanna Young said that the connection points are suggested by the National Grid, who have looked into specific areas for suitability. Sizewell is the most economic area for this development. The cables from Bawdsey to Bramford are not suitable to take this amount of electricity.

A parishioner asked why Friston? Could a brownfield site have been used?

Ian MacKay said that a range of zones were considered. Chapter 4 on the website lays out the site selection.

A parishioner asked if the drop-in tourism will be compensated for, Aldeburgh, Thorpeness and Snape Maltings will be affected.

Alex Hampson said that there is a document that looks into the social economics and tourism. It looks at the benefits of employment to the area, they are looking into helping tourism.

A parishioner said that he was referring to the smaller businesses, maybe the rates for the shop owners could be reduced.

Alex Hampson said that he had looked into areas in a similar situation, in the long term the tourism does return.

Ian MacKay commented that compensation and community benefits are all being considered.

A parishioner said that improvements to Leiston have been looked at, what about the Church junction, you can spend a long time trying to cross this now, that is without the additional traffic.

A parishioner commented that there will potentially be 5 major projects in this area, this area will not be able to sustain all this.

Alex Hampson said that all the information will be considered, and they will need to look at the new information coming through concerning these projects.

Cllr Rainger commented that the National Grid is to meet with the District and County Councillors next week. They will also be asking 'why here'.

Cllr Beach said that the cumulative impact of all the projects on this area are a great concern, and the long-term impact should be considered.

A parishioner said that we all require information regarding this project.

Cllr Beach said that the information and presentation from this evening would be placed on the Snape website.

A parishioner reported that the Law passed in 2008 (INSIP) means that if SPR fulfil all their obligations this development is on track to happen. It may only be stopped by the planning inspectorate.

Alex Hampson said that the Secretary of State has the final decision.

Cllr Beach said that people need to respond to this both the Parish Council and the parishioners as individuals.

A parishioner asked if SPR thought they had the support of the community for this project.

Cllr Hill said that the impact on the wildlife should be considered between Sizewell and Friston, why not stop at Sizewell.

Ian MacKay said that the effect on wildlife comes down to site selection again; other sites have their own issues.

A parishioner said the road improvements on this road to Tunstall should be looked at.

Alex Hampson said that he would take the concerns regarding the roads back to the transport engineers for consideration.

A parishioner asked what the size of the sub stations would be and what impact will this have on Friston.

Alex Hampson replied that the size information is available online. There potentially will be 2 sub-stations 190m x 190m, and the National Grid sub-station will be 325m x 140m. This means two sub stations equivalent to 5 football pitches and one equivalent to 6 football pitches. These building will be the height of 80m. Once operational these sites will not be manned.

Cllr Rainger reported that a response had been sent from the County and District Council which states that they do not support this project, more information and detail is requested. What will the impact be on the AONB and the off shore?

Alex Hampson commented that the working week will be Monday – Saturday, 7am – 7pm. Occasionally drilling may need to be continuous 24 hours.

4 Parish Council Business

Consideration of the proposal from Scottish Power Renewables.

Cllr Beach commented that the Parish Council would take away all the comments that had been made this evening. There would be two areas of concern;

- a) The wider scheme impact on the village.
- b) Traffic management

Scottish Power Renewables representatives were thanked for presentation and the chance to ask questions.

5 Matters for consideration at the meeting on 26 March 2019

Review of Annual Risk Assessment 2019/20.

6 Dates of the Next Meeting

26 March 2019

23 April 2019 (Urgent items only & Annual Parish Meeting)

Meeting Closed – 8.00pm.

Marie Backhouse, Parish Clerk

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8 March 2019