

**Tullo Community Liaison Group
Arbuthnott Village Hall 3rd August 2010
Minutes of Meeting**

Attendees

Judith Barclay	Tullo Farm Landowners	JB
Evelyn Barclay	Tullo Farm Landowners	EB
Isabella Williamson	Kincardine and Mearns Area Partnership	IW
Chris Greene	Benholm & Johnshaven CC	CG
Cllr Jean Dick	Aberdeenshire Council	JD
Cllr George Carr	Aberdeenshire Council	GK
Susie Brown	Mearns Area Partnership	SB
Guy Madgwick	Eneco Wind UK	GM
Stuart Grant	Eneco Wind UK	NM
John Dykes	Natural Power	JD
Eryl Roberts	Jones Bros	ER
Barrie Hedges	Daybreak Communications	BH

Apologies

Cllr Bill Howatson	Aberdeenshire Council
Marjorie Stewart	Mearns Community Council
Helen Cassini	Eneco Wind UK

Introduction

- GM opened the meeting
- This was the fifth of six scheduled meetings but GM said Eneco Wind UK would continue if community representatives felt there would be a longer term benefit
- Introductions were made by all present.

Presentation by Natural Power

JD provided an update on the construction and explained how wind turbines work.

Feedback from the Community

CG: Asked about wind speeds

JD: Approx 14 metres per second (around 32mph)

SB: The blades are turning – are you connected to the Grid?

JD: Yes, the farm has been connected during commissioning and had generated around 1MW.

CG: How much maintenance do the turbines require?

JD: Maintenance is scheduled twice-yearly but turbines may also need unscheduled work.

SG: Two technicians have been employed locally by Nordex, who will initially work full time at Tullo.

GC: Others wind farms are planned in the area. Will they also be employing Nordex?

GM: Aware that other operators had considered Nordex who would obviously welcome the economy of scale of a group of farms in one area.

GC: What percentage of the time will the farm be generating at full rate?

JD: It is very site specific, but as a generalisation, a modern wind turbine will generate about 30% of its maximum rated output.

Garvock Picnic Area

ER reported on the plans for renovation of the picnic area, which would be handled by a locally appointed contractor and would take place within the next two to three weeks. The work would involve resurfacing and replacement of perimeter bollards. The original intention had been to replace three existing picnic benches but these appeared still to be in good condition. The meeting accepted his suggestion that equivalent funding should be added to the Community Fund with a view to the benches being replaced in future years.

BH reported that the new interpretation board for the picnic area had been offered for comment locally and accepted. It was now in production.

JD commented on the need to replace the direction sign to the Garvock Picnic Area from the A90. It appeared that the work, if undertaken, would necessitate closure of the A90.

Inauguration

BH reported that plans were in hand for the inauguration of the wind farm at an event to be held on site at lunchtime on Wednesday 29th September. Invitations would be distributed shortly. Additionally, Eneco Wind UK had invited children from Laurencekirk and Redmyre schools who had participated in education sessions over recent months. As part of their activities, the children had taken part in a painting competition. The winner would switch on the turbines; and she and six runners-up would have turbines named after them.

SB: Asked if it would be possible to have an open day at some time in the future so that interested members of the public could visit the wind farm in an organised way.

GM: The idea was a good one and might be pursued as part of National Wind Week. The matter would be discussed with the landowner but clearly there were some constraints given that the wind farm existed within a working (agricultural) farm. The wind farm was also governed by health and safety constraints.

GC: Asked about what appeared to be a right of way running towards the site from the Garvock Picnic Area. The status of this route will be investigated.

BH: Advised that a video telling the story of the wind farm was being produced for use at the inauguration and would be made available beyond that date for those unable to attend.

Tullo Wind Farm Community Fund

SB provided an update on the fund. Some minor amendments were needed to the guidelines and a meeting of the grants panel was then needed to agree a timetable for the first year of operation. It might be sensible for the fund to operate from January to December, though it was helpful if applications could be sought well ahead of the Christmas period.

AOB

SG: In response to a question raised outside the meeting, advised that the total local spend on the civil engineering side of the construction of the farm was approx £1.3 million. This included aggregates and concrete, and use of local contractors wherever possible. This figure constituted about 35% of the total cost of civils. In addition, local suppliers were being used wherever possible for the inauguration.

The next meeting will be held in about six months time, at which point the future of the group will be agreed.