

SHALFLEET PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a Public Meeting convened by Shalfleet Parish Council and Extraordinary Meeting of the Council to formulate a response to Planning Application P/00706/11 Proposed Vectis Wind Farm at Wellow.

Present:- Cllr C.Hedgley Chairman. Cllr Mrs B.Baxandall Vice Chairman.

Councillors:-Mrs P Broadhead, Mrs.H.Hewston, W. Burt.

In attendance:- J.A.H.Whitney Deputy Clerk, Andrew Turner MP.

There were 53 members of the public present.

The Chairman welcomed all present and explained the way the meeting would be conducted with depositions being received by the Council **for** and **against** application P/00706/11. Cllr Hedgley explained that members of the council would not give their personal opinions regarding the application until all depositions had been heard and that the Council is charged by planning law and policy to formulate the main thrust of its recommendations to the Local Planning Authority (IWC) round a published list of material considerations. The Chairman did however pledge with regard to this important application the Parish Council **would acknowledge** in its recommendations a number of pertinent but non-material considerations.

The Chairman then invited the public to present their individual depositions commencing with those in favour of the application, **in this category no depositions were made.** The Chairman then invited those who **object** to the application to make their depositions and the following depositions were received as listed below:-

1. Concern regarding the fate of the turbines and site should Infinergy go into liquidation and a suggestion that landowners might be required to accept restoration conditions.
2. Concern over noise, particularly from turbines 1 & 3 that are within 750 m of residences.
3. Concern that vibration through the foundations could disturb or contaminate the aquifers
4. Concern on a possible negative effect on Island tourism and West Wight in particular.
5. Concern on the visual aspect of the turbines and site, particularly with regard to it being situated in a corridor between two AONB areas and an Osprey flight path.
6. Traffic considerations and problems caused by interaction with other traffic (busses etc)
7. Possible flooding problems caused by site disturbance of the natural aquifers.
8. Concern that a badger set at the entrance to Broad Lane will be disturbed by the works.
9. Concern that Infinergy will be working in liaison with Vestas Blades for R & D and the site will become an industrial park.
10. Concern that turbine failure could be a hazard to ramblers and effect local "rights of way".
11. Concern regarding the "flicker effect" and low frequency noise transmission on human and animal health.
12. Concern over anxiety and negative effects on human wellbeing caused by this and the previous application.

When all the public depositions had been heard the Chairman closed the public meeting at 1945 hrs and the council went into formal planning session to determine its response to the LPA.

1. The Clerk read out the application number and scope of the proposals.
2. The Vice Chairman Cllr Mrs Baxandall declared a personal interest regarding working associations with the land owner.
3. The Chairman opened the debate by saying he opposed the application on grounds of its effect on the wider landscape and because of a number of non-material considerations. A lengthy debate followed where councillors made objections to the application which are listed in two categories (A) Objections under material planning considerations and (B) objections made under non-material considerations.

The debate objection items are listed hereunder:-

(A) **Material considerations**

Detrimental visual effects on wider landscape.

Noise,vibration , flicker , and other effects causing inconvenience to nearby residents.

Inconvenience to residents and damage to roads by site traffic.

The site is close to a previous failed wind turbine application.

(B) **Non-material considerations**

Many of this Council's and indeed the electors of the Parish objections come under the heading of "non material considerations" but this council believes that "Wellbeing of our Community" is an overriding responsibility of not only Shalfleet Parish Council but also that of the Isle of Wight Council (Local Planning Authority) and its employees.

The existence of this application has caused stress and unhappiness to many families and residents that would live in close proximity to these turbines should the application be successful.

Already the application has had an adverse effect on the sale of a home close to the proposed wind farm (proof held by Shalfleet Parish Council)

The concern regarding the welfare of wildlife is real and strongly felt. It is not just a case of a few bird lovers getting into a flat spin, but the vast majority of residents voicing their concern over the environment in which they live including those who live amongst us that have no voice.

It is felt by many residents that insufficient research has been carried out on possible detrimental tourism effects regarding local accommodation booking revenue and general visitor figures. It is felt that the Islands economy could suffer as a result of this application.

4. On the conclusion of the debate the Chairman called for a resolution:

RESOLUTION *That Shalfleet Parish Council strongly objects to this application and recommends refusal on non-compatibility with the aforementioned material and non-material considerations .*

Proposed Cllr Burt.
unanimously.

Seconded Cllr Mrs Broadhead

Passed

THERE BEING NO OTHER BUSINESS THE COUNCIL ROSE AT A 2038hrs

.....Chairman

Dated.....

