

Meeting Minutes

Doc No	LN000046-COM-CA-MOM-0023 CLG Minutes	
Meeting Title:	Viking Community Liaison Group	
Date/Time/Venue:	13/02/2024 at 7.00pm – Microsoft Teams	
Issue Date:		
Attendees:	Chair Andrew Archer, AA (Tingwall, Whiteness & Weisdale CC)	Neil Leask, NL (Tingwall, Whiteness and Weisdale CC)
Pauline McGinty PMcG (SSE Renewables)	Chloe Irvine (Guest)	Weatherspoon, Robert (Distribution)
Gerry Hamill GH (Civils & Construction Interface Manager SSER)	Scholes, Corinna	Thea Groat, TG (Community Liaison Manager (Shetland Projects SSEN Transmission))
Joe Connell JC (Assistant Manager SSEN)	Jamieson, Haydn	Wilson, Carolyn (Head of onshore consents)
McHardy, Cameron	Farquharson, Kevin	Jarred Deeney JD (Project Manager SSEN)
Aimi Munro AM (Consents Advisor SSER)	Hans Marter HM (SHETNEWS)	Kevin Mclean KMcl (Project Manager SSEN Transmission)

Item	Agenda Item	Action	Due
1.0	Welcome and introductions - Group Chair Andrew Archer presided.		
2.0	Apologies Liz Peterson, Lorraine Wallington		
3.0	Approval of previous minutes - Formally approved.		
4.0	Matters Arising: No Issues Raised		

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5.0	<p>Project update presentations by Viking/SSER and SSEN Transmission</p> <p>SSEN Transmission Thea Groat TG Introduced herself and the SSEN team</p> <p>SSEN Transmission update on construction of the HVDC Converter Station. BAM Nuttall Civils –</p> <p>Kevin Farquharson (KF) gave an update for the HVDC Station.</p> <p>KF noted that the remaining civils works are ongoing, including landscaping, snagging and finishing works.</p> <p>With Health & Safety -KF noted that risk assessments, toolbox talks, and safety observations are undertaken to reduce risk and prevent incidents from occurring</p> <p>KF further noted that Mechanical & Electrical fitout of building - final commissioning items and final snagging ongoing and he confirmed that Upcoming works -included ducts, drainage, final landscaping are ongoing under SSEN rules at the end of February.</p> <p>Hitachi Energy HVDC KF further updated that final HVDC equipment installation was complete and Sub-System testing being completed.</p> <p>He also confirmed that 132kV cable installation is completed as is HV tests all completed.</p> <p>KF confirmed that, SSEN & HE have been working collaboratively on commissioning activities to complete Stage 1 Commissioning in readiness for Stage 2.</p> <p>And with upcoming works that Kergord station is advancing into Stage 2 commissioning and alignment with VEFW commissioning activities taking the project through to energisation of the HVDC Link in July 2024.</p> <p>Siemens + Bam: AC Substation KF then updated on AC Substation noting GIS installation is 100% complete and fully HV tested with successful pass. All 132kV Circuits (HVDC & 4 x VEFW Circuits) fully connected to GIS and fully tested. Confirming that Protection & Control Panel cabling, glanding & terminations are ongoing with commissioning progressing. Stage 1 Commissioning moving to the final stages in preparation for stage 2 energization works.</p>		

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5.0	<p>On upcoming works KF confirmed the completion of interface testing between the HVDC Station & Substation to ensure all Protection & Control is fully operational. Testing of all Clean Air Gas within the GIS prior to energisation/stage & completion of minor snagging works.</p> <p>AA asked, when you say, “energization of the cable”, what does that mean?</p> <p>Cameron McHardy (CMcH) replied – This date is the official handover date for handing over the link operations to national grid ESO, we will be energising the cable to the Island and starting our stage 2 commissioning and when we will first HV energise the equipment, starting this early March and working a joint program with Viking Energy Wind Farm through a number of months and then handing the link over on 01.4.24 to National Grid for their operation</p> <p>HVDC Cable Installation Update: Land Cables</p> <p>Offshore & Marine Joe Connell (JC) (Assistant Manager SSEN)) gave an update on HVDC cable installation progress.</p> <p>JC Noted that from the previous meeting, some remedial works had to be done on the Weisdale voe area, this work is now competed, and rock placement work was finished prior to Christmas.</p> <p>He also noted that things on campaign 1,2,&3 are completed and that a HV test has taken place on both ends and that this was successful.</p> <p>JC noted that on the land side, that the Cott Road resurfacing has been handed over to SIC and they are taking the lead on this, and aiming for springtime 2024</p> <p>TG then introduced Kevin McLean (KMcL) Project Manager and Robert Weatherspoon (RW) Project Manager Kergord - Grimista Connection</p> <p>Overhead Line update: KMcL updated that Norpower continue to make great progress, noting that 131 out of 275 pole structures installed.</p> <p>He noted that, wiring works are underway with spans KG1 – 6 wired following Christmas, and that weather in</p>		

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5.0	<p>mid-January had impacted progress, with Helicopter use significantly limited by the weather.</p> <p>KMcL confirmed that, wiring and erection works are to continue in February.</p> <p>Underground Cable update: On the underground cable KMCL updated that the access track installation in the Sandwater/Kergord area is nearing completion, with over 6km of the temporary access tracks installed.</p> <p>KMcL then noted that duct installation near Kergord is progressing well with over 1450m completed to date.</p> <p>He further noted that the First HDD under the Weisdale Burn was now completed and second bore has started.</p> <p>Moving forward KMCL noted that they have commenced Section 3 duct installation. And 132kV cables have finished manufacturing and testing in February with first cable batch to the UK in March.</p> <p>AA asked, what is HDD?</p> <p>KMcL replied – Horizontal directional drill</p> <p>AA asked, what does KG1 TO 6 mean in terms of distance?</p> <p>KMcL replied – that this is the first 6 poles from the Sandwater section</p> <p>AA asked, I am assuming that this link is intended to be in place by the end of this year, is that still on track?</p> <p>KMcL replied, that the connection date will be next year and that the bulk of the installation work for the overhead line will be completed this year along with the underground cable installation, with some substation work to finish off.</p> <p>VIKING/SSER Update Gerry Hamill (GH) (Project Manager) introduced himself to the group. He then ran through a timeline slide showing the progress and status to date of the project. GH gave a brief update to each section of the windfarm and confirmed the following information,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The main elements of the site construction and all 103 turbines are now complete and noted that this was a massive milestone for the project 		

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5.0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Beyond October 2023, the project is on track for completion of the Sandwater Rd ○ Commissioning is expected to be complete in spring 2024, due to works moving forward this work has started earlier than first planned ○ Sept 2024 – Wind farm completed <p>GH then gave a Project Update noting the points below,</p> <p>Civil</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Works largely complete, with reinstatement and snagging works currently ongoing. ○ Sandwater Road – upfill to underside of surfacing complete, surfacing to take place late Q2 2024 with public handover in Summer 2024 <p>Electrical</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ All internal cabling is complete across the full site, tested and backfilled. ○ Cable terminations and testing complete with all cabling now energised. <p>WTG's</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Commissioning of turbines ongoing with 88 turbines commissioned. <p>Environmental</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Peat reinstatement scope and wider HMP Peatland Restoration continues. ○ HMP Ornithological scope is being scheduled. ○ Operational phase environmental resource appointed. <p>Other</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Sept 2024 – Wind farm completed024 – Wind farm completed ? <p>GH updated on the figures for the Local Supply Chain was now at circa £76m and that RJM,SSER staff are on a downturn</p> <p>GH then introduced Corinna Scholes (CS)(Onshore stakeholder engagement)</p> <p>CS gave an update on community benefit, noting that spend was now close to 1 million pounds, supporting 314 grants, and continued to update the following, as we come towards the end of construction, we a will be looking towards the launch of the fund, which will take place as we hand over the project into operation stage, we will be taking on a new role within the fund and looking to support the delivery of the action plan that has been developed around the fund and doing a little bit</p>		

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6.0	<p>more on what the process will be and the launch of the fund will be as we come to hand over to operations as nearer the summer.</p> <p>CS updated on community engagement, noting that it has been a busy time supporting a number of events including “Make some noise” and donating items, such as TV’s and AED’s to local communities along with birdboxes to every school</p> <p>CS then updated on the Look Ahead to 2024, noting the below items</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Wooden Benches for all Community Councils ○ Yell Woodland – 3000 trees ○ Skerries Woodland tree planting ○ Support for UHA – Lerwick & Nesting and Girlsta ○ Build a virtual wind farm workshops ○ School competition ○ All terrain wheelchair – Ability Shetland <p>Corinna Scholes (CS) then introduce Haydn Jamieson (HJ) (Operations Manager)</p> <p>HJ introduced himself to the group and ran through an update as below.</p> <p>On SSER Operations site team</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ HJ updated that a new Electrical engineer took post W/C 12.02.24 along with site supervisor and environmental supervisor, and he is currently looking to recruit additional site supervisors and that campaign is ongoing at the moment <p>Framework agreements for operational maintenance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ HJ noted that this will involve engaging with existing and local suppliers and generally ensuring that site is ready for handover to SSE Operations and that the required training, documentation and competencies are in place for the handover date. <p>This ended the SSER presentation and Corinna Scholes asked for any questions</p> <p>AA Asked – On 1 of the slides, it spoke about the HMP Ornithological report, can you tell us anymore?</p> <p>GH replied - that he would take the question away and speak with David McGinty for a more detailed reply</p>	<p>Gerry Hamill to rely to AA with reply to question regarding Ornithological report</p>	

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	<p>AA then asked – on water quality, after a lot of work done on BP2 last year, the improvement seemed to stall a bit and I am wondering what the current situation is .</p> <p>GH replied – that throughout the construction we have been in contact with SEPA, to make sure that we are adhering to any regulations and standards that they have. In terms of a permanent fix, we are investigating a number of different options, obviously we do not want to be considering this as a temporary solution to then leave the wind farm for it to worsen over time, so we do have a few options for a permanent solution, my understanding presently is that the levels we have registered over the past few months are better than they have been, so there are improvements, so the temporary measures we have in place are working to an extent, but we do not want to continue with temporary, we would rather have a more permanent solution to resolve the issue</p> <p>AA replied, So await further news?</p> <p>GH – replied, that he could get more detailed response from the environmental dept, and that the only reason he can't be specific at the moment is due to there being a number of different options and the team hasn't gone down that route as yet, but we could share that with them.</p> <p>AA replied that people would be interested to know</p> <p>AA then asked – The outdoor management plan, is that now finalised or is it still to be submitted to SIC?</p> <p>Aimi Munro (AM) replied – this was discussed at our last meeting, we have 2 approved plans in place, these have been approved by SIC, we have, the outdoor access management plan for the main wind farm site and we have, the Sandwater recreational management plan, for Sandwater road, those are both approved documents and are available on the planning portal.</p> <p>AA replied – I think what is confusing is, maybe they have changed, there are article appearing in local news about what is going to be a car park and what isn't, is there a document somewhere that definitely says what is going to be there at the end?</p> <p>AM replied – that the plans haven't changed, they have been in place for 2 to 3 years now, the Sandwater road carpark, that is a carpark that is proposed for Sandwater and that is the result of a planning condition set to us by the council, and the details are contained within the planning condition within the consent document, which</p>	<p>GH to reply to AA with options from environmental dept</p>	

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	<p>again is online for viewing. The car park proposal for the north compound, that is an addition, that is something that the project is providing to provide some additional recreational facilities, this will be a full planning application that will be submitted in due course and at that time all the documentation will be uploaded that will provide full details.</p> <p>AA then asked – at times, there has been discussion about what would happen to the Sandwater compound, is that now back to the original idea of the whole of the Sandwater compound would be reinstated?</p> <p>AM – confirmed that this would be reinstated in line with the reinstatement plans</p> <p>No further questions asked, and AA moved to public questions received</p> <p>Questions were submitted in advance via community councils and others were added on the night.</p> <p>1. What is the situation with the reinstatement of the verge on the A970 where the cable has been buried? People who were running up that route last week commented that the reinstatement seemed very rough and uneven and not very solid in places. It was particularly bad between the Tingwall crossroads and Girlsta, with rocks and stones sticking up out of the surface. Is what is there now the final surface or is this a temporary reinstatement pending something flatter and more solid? The surface was much better before the work.</p> <p>TG introduced Robert Weatherspoon (RW) to reply</p> <p>RW replied – this is the 33kv cable that are being buried in the verge, in terms of the reinstatement there, we had been due to have a meeting with SIC last week to have a discussion on the verges, unfortunately due to snow this didn't happen. We will be picking this up again with them to look into the issue with them, would it be possible to narrow down the location the resident has mentioned.</p> <p>AA replied – that he would ask if they could narrow it down, but more generally, some work had been done a few years ago and the verges had been nice flat surface and now it isn't</p> <p>RW replied – that they are in discussions with SIC about the verges and this is being looked at.</p>		

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7.0	<p>AA replied – that he would see if he could get better details and pass the information to Thea Groat</p> <p>2. Someone has asked if the Bond is index linked?</p> <p>Caroline Wilson (CW) replied - That she was unsure if it was Index linked, however it is certainly as per the conditions it is reviewed every 5 years, to keep it in line with the requirements at end of life for decommissioning.</p> <p>AA then asked – Who is the other party to the review? SIC again?</p>		
8.0	<p>CW confirmed that yes, it is SIC, however, if there not agreement between the parties that there is an option for an independent arbitrator can be brought in to make decisions.</p> <p>AA asked- so it will be for SIC to say it is not enough anymore, should they wish to?</p> <p>CW confirmed – yes this could be the case, however it is a review that we put forward a decommissioning strategy at the moment, however, the life of the wind farm is 25years, and so, best practise might have changed by then and that would certainly indicate, how we decommission the wind farm, there is a requirement at around 3yrs before decommissioning we have to put an updated strategy forward, in the intervening period, we will be reviewing the strategy and best practise and value required for the decommissioning, and making sure it was appropriate.</p> <p>Any Other Business None</p> <p>Date and time of next meeting 07.05.2024</p>		

