

# Meeting Minutes

<b>Doc No</b>	LN000046-COM-CA-MOM-0004 - Viking CLG minutes 18/01/22	
<b>Meeting Title:</b>	<b>Viking Community Liaison Group</b>	
<b>Date/Time/Venue:</b>	18/01/22 at 7pm – Microsoft Teams	
<b>Issue Date:</b>	1/02/22	
<b>Attendees:</b>	Chair Andrew Archer, Tingwall, Whiteness & Weisdale Community CI	Vice-chair James Garrick, Sandsting & Aithsting CC
Willie Simpson, Nesting & Lunnasting CC	John Priest, Sandsting & Aithsting CC	Neil Leask, Tingwall, Whiteness and Weisdale CC
Alastair Cooper, Delting CC	Cllr Davie Sandison, Shetland Central	Neil Grant, SIC director of Development Services
Jonathan Swale, NatureScot	Chris Finnigan, SSEN Transmission	Sharon Powell, SSEN Transmission
Gary Tait, SSEN Transmission	Aaron Priest, SSE Renewables	Carolyn Wilson, SSE Renewables
Julie Graham, SSER	Aimi Munro, SSE Renewables	John Robertson (minutes), SSER
Media – Stuart Prestidge, Shetland Times	Media – Hans Marter, Shetland News	

Item	Agenda Item	Action	Due						
1.0	<b>Welcome and introductions</b> Group chair Andrew Archer presided.								
2.0	<b>Apologies</b> – from councillors Moraig Lyall and Theo Smith								
3.0	<b>Approval of previous minutes</b> - Formally approved.								
4.0	<b>Matters arising</b>								
	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Previous actions</th> <th>Status</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>1. Mr Finnigan to look into the speed of works vehicles on the Cott road</td> <td>No further issues reported and SSEN satisfied with conduct.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2. Mr Finnigan to check expected disruption on Cott road during laying of ducts.</td> <td>Work completed with very little disruption.</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Previous actions	Status	1. Mr Finnigan to look into the speed of works vehicles on the Cott road	No further issues reported and SSEN satisfied with conduct.	2. Mr Finnigan to check expected disruption on Cott road during laying of ducts.	Work completed with very little disruption.		
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5.0	<p><b><u>Project update presentations by Viking/SSER and SSEN Transmission</u></b></p> <p><b>SSEN Transmission update on construction of the HVDC Converter Station</b></p> <p>SSEN T began by answering a question sent to the CLG by residents asking about the poor state of the A971 road where the HVDC cable is being laid. When will the temporary surface be replaced?</p> <p>Chris Finnigan said the resurfacing is scheduled for after the cable-pulling which is currently planned for August/September 2022.</p> <p>Gary Tait gave an update on the Converter Station at Kergord. This was the seventeenth month on site and construction was proceeding on programme. Significant progress has been made with cladding the main Converter Station building, which is close to being wind and water-tight.</p> <p>Steelwork has been erected for the AC Substation and Filter Hall with cladding to take place imminently. Internally, more than 70 per cent of floor slabs have been laid. No pollution incidents or health and safety incidents have been reported to date.</p> <p>Hitachi Energy is set to mobilise in February to begin HVDC installation works. Other upcoming works include the domestic fit-out and mechanical and electrical fit-out in the HVDC building. Externally, work will start on the permanent access roads around the site and creation of cable troughs.</p> <p>On cable installation, Mr Finnigan said around 90 per cent of the cable ducts on land had been installed. Also, Site Access 1 and the haul road at Cott Road, towards the landfall at Weisdale Voe, are completed. Site Access 2, from Cott Road up towards the Scord of Sound, has also been completed and recently reinstated.</p> <p>A 0.7km section of ducting from A971 at Scord of Sound towards the landfall at Weisdale Voe (including the Cott Road crossing), is now complete. Joint bay construction and cable installation will commence in early 2022 through to summer 2022.</p> <p>On the offshore side, surveys are completed and boulder clearance is about 80 per cent complete following a delay getting started. The PLGR (Pre-Lay Grapnel Run) vessel is due to mobilise at the end of March. The cable-laying vessel is due to mobilise in Sweden on 6<sup>th</sup> June to start at Noss Head, Caithness.</p> <p>Mr Archer asked if there was much work still to do in the Cott road. Mr Finnigan said the bulk of work had been done and most reinstatement had been done. With the cable-pulling there should not be too much disruption for residents due to having the haul roads in place to use now.</p> <p>Mr Archer asked if there had been any recurrence of the silty water coming down from the Converter site in November. Mr Finnigan said he was not aware of any and, following further investigation, it was thought that the</p>		

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	<p>silty water that came down previously was not from the SSEN site but from a water course further up the hill.</p> <p><b>SSER update on construction of the wind farm</b></p> <p>Aaron Priest discussed a series of slides showing works in progress. He said there had been remarkable progress in a relatively short timescale. The full geographical extent of the road network should be completed to its first stage by the end of February. At the moment around 64km is in place, which is roughly 90 per cent of the total. During 2022 there will be a constant process of capping roads and doing related drainage work and bringing the surfaces up to a finished running standard by the end of the year. This would be ahead of turbine components arriving in early 2023.</p> <p>In parallel with finishing the tracks, cabling from the different turbine arrays to the substation at Kergord is due to take place, starting in February. That will then allow the final bits of road verge reinstatement and drainage along the side of the tracks to be advanced and completed. Work will continue on the peat restoration areas. The disturbance area for the wind farm is 96 hectares and the peat restoration programme covers 260 hectares.</p> <p>Twenty-two of the 103 turbine bases have had concrete poured. Backfilling of the turbine bases is well under way with six done on Mid Kame so far. The cabling will start on Mid Kame. Overall, about 50 bases have been excavated and are at different stages of completion.</p> <p>Two bridges are being built in Shetland and two on the mainland to be deployed around the wind farm site. Concrete for all of the site is being delivered from a batching plant at Scar Quilse to provide 700 cubic metres for each foundation base.</p> <p>Regarding the AC Substation for SSER, Mr Priest said there are currently 19 workers on the site, due to rise to 83 by May. Elsewhere on the wind farm, RJ McLeod has roughly 200 workers, comprising about 70 local and 130 travelling workers. Over and above that, SSE has around 30 staff and contractors, all local or locally embedded. By mid-February there will be roughly 290 people of which around 100 will be local or locally embedded.</p> <p>On the substation site, the steel is complete on the 33kV switchgear building and at various stages of steel or concrete works on the four transformer halls.</p> <p>On community benefit, Mr Priest said 126 applications had been received and consultants had been appointed by the fund to establish funding priorities for the main £2.2m-a-year fund, which will start when the wind farm is operating. Mr Priest said he was very pleased that the community was getting a say in how the spending is to be prioritised.</p> <p>Attendees were reminded that Viking Energy's office at Stewart Building in Lerwick is open for visitors four days a week (not Mondays).</p>		

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6.0	<p><b>Questions from community council representatives</b></p> <p>Questions were submitted in advance via community councils and others were added on the night.</p> <p><b>1. There are some signs that have gone up saying “WARNING!! AREAS OF DEEP, WET PEAT THROUGHOUT SITE! DO NOT ATTEMPT TO WALK OVER!” People are curious as to why they have been put up. Has the nature of the ground changed?</b></p> <p>Mr Priest said the sign did not belong to either of the SSE projects.</p> <p>The chair asked three further questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Which areas have had the bases poured?</b></li> </ul> <p>Mr Priest said Mid Kame Ridge was complete, which has 11 bases, and another 11 had been poured on the western part of the site.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Has the application to re-align some of the cables been decided?</b></li> </ul> <p>Mr Priest said it was still a live planning application.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Any news on organising a meeting with residents near the proposed borrow pit at Newing in Nesting?</b></li> </ul> <p>Mr Priest said SSER had written to the residents before Christmas seeking to park the issue until early in the new year. It was now due to go back to them and explore dates in late January or into February. He said there were no plans to use borrow pit 06 towards Newing at present. Nothing would happen without prior discussion with the residents.</p> <p>Mr Leask asked a question:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>If most of the turbine bases on the west side of the site have been run with concrete from the existing mixing plant (at Scar Quilse) why was there still a need for a batching plant to be installed at Kergord?</b></li> </ul> <p>Mr Priest said most of the bases had not been poured yet but the focus was on the west just now, although he didn't know what RJM's sequencing of completion would be. There was a need for flexibility and to keep the option open of further plants, particularly for future pours in Nesting. For the South Nesting part of the site, having a batching plant there would improve logistics and minimise truck movements on the main A970.</p>		
7.0	<p><b>Any other business</b> – no items raised.</p>		
8.0	<p><b>Date and time of next meeting</b> – members agreed Tues 19<sup>th</sup> April 2022 at 7pm. Due to Covid-19 considerations, a decision will be made later as to whether the meeting will be in a public venue or on Teams once more.</p> <p>Alastair Cooper advised that SIC councillors would be in pre-election purdah on 19<sup>th</sup> April so they would need to be careful how they participated in the next meeting, avoiding discussions on matters of a political nature.</p> <p>The chair thanked all for attending and the meeting closed at 7.41pm.</p>	JR send invitations	