

# Meeting Minutes

<b>Doc No</b>	LN000046-COM-CA-MOM-0010 - CLG minutes 19.07.2022	
<b>Meeting Title:</b>	Viking Community Liaison Group	
<b>Date/Time/Venue:</b>	19/07/22 at 7.30pm – Microsoft Teams	
<b>Issue Date:</b>	11/08/2022	
<b>Attendees:</b>	Chair Andrew Archer, Tingwall, Whiteness & Weisdale Community CI	Neil Leask, Tingwall, Whiteness and Weisdale CC
Gary Tait, SSEN Transmission	Sharon Powell, SSEN Transmission	Aaron Priest, SSE Renewables
Moraig Lyall, SIC Cllr (Central)	Carolyn Wilson, SSE Renewables	Aimi Munro, SSE Renewables
Julie Graham, SSER	Pauline McGinty SSER (minutes)	Media: Ryan Nicolson (Shetland Times)
John Priest, Sandsting & Aithsting CC	Jack Stewart SSE	Liz Peterson, SIC Cllr (West) Lorraine Wallington SSEN
Lorraine Wallington SSEN	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> – John Leask, Greg Clarke, Emma MacDonald and Willie Simpson		
3.0	<b>Approval of previous minutes</b> - Formally approved.		
4.0	<b>Matter Arising -</b>		
	<p><b><u>Project update presentations by Viking/SSER and SSEN Transmission</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>SSEN Transmission update on construction of the HVDC Converter Station.            BAM Nuttall Civils –            Gary Tait (GT) explained that significant progress had been made with a majority of the external civils works complete and the main focus was on internal fitout and preparing for Hitachi Energy (HE) works            GT confirmed that Health &amp; Safety – risk assessments, toolbox talks, and safety observations had been undertaken to reduce risks and prevent incidents from occurring.            GT also confirmed that mechanical/electrical fitout of building had progressed significantly in the period with Mechanical &amp; Electrical (M&amp;E) complete in a number of main areas.            GT said that upcoming works re domestic fitout and M&amp;E works will continue, and the remainder of the external civils works along with HVDC installations are ongoing. Watercourse completion works to begin July 2022.</li> </ul>		

<p>5.0</p> <p>5.0</p>	<p>Hitachi Energy HVDC –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>GT explained all 4 transformers had been successfully delivered to site with minimal impact to the public, the first 2 had been skidded into position and the other 2 would be completed by end July 2022. GT also confirmed that the Valve/DC Halls had been handed over to HE to commence HVDC installation, control building rooms also handed over to HE to commence installations works. GT advised on upcoming works, noting that HVDC valves to be installed within the main convertor building and remaining transformers to be skidded into position and the control room fitout to commence.</li> <li>Andrew Archer asked if all was on time?  Gary Tait confirmed that all was on time.</li> </ul> <p>HVDC Cable Installation Update -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Lorraine Wallington (LW) (subsea manager) gave a presentation of the cable installation starting in March 2023.  LW advised that the duct installation and joint bay construction is now complete, cable installation commenced in April 2022 and is now at 62% complete (10 out of 16 cables installed).  LW also advised that cable jointing had commenced in May 2022 and will continue throughout the summer, and that works on the cable terminations in the Kergord Convertor station had been completed in May 2022.  LW further confirmed that the Fibre Optic Cable installation is due to take place in September 2022 and final road re-instatement works in A971 is planned for August &amp; September 2022.</li> <li>Andrew Archer asked – In terms of Aquaculture, what has the greater impact – cable laying or trenching? There is an Oyster farm in the Weisdale Voe, which activity the cable lay, or the trenching will have the greatest effect for the aquaculture community (water clarity)?  Lorraine Wallington replied - Trenching out of the two, but there will be a 200m wide corridor and the width of the trencher (including its tracks) is 5.6m and all trenching is within that width along the cable route (i.e. well within the corridor, which does not impinge on any aquaculture sites).</li> <li>Andrew Archer asked – when cabling comes ashore, will there be any obstructions in the Cott Road?  Lorraine Wallington replied – works will only take 1 day.</li> <li>Moraig Lyall asked – how wide the cable trenches would be, and the</li> </ul>		
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	<p>width of the trench created by the grapple tool?</p> <p>Lorraine Wallington confirmed that this was relatively narrow and showed a picture of the cables to sit in the trench, about 75 to 100 cm wide</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Aaron Priest (AP) gave an update on Viking/SSER construction at site through a series of slides showing progress across the geographical spread of the site.</li> </ul> <p>Summary of main points: full 70km geographical spread of windfarm tracks now in place; 102/103 crane pads at different stages of completion; 102/103 turbine bases at different stages of completion; 57/103 turbine bases had been poured; 300 personnel working on the site with roughly 100 of these local; £26m in direct local contractor/supplier spend with 55 different local suppliers</p> <p>The timeline of Vestas commencing deliveries of turbine components from Jan 23 was particularly pointed out in the project timeline.</p> <p>AP advised the group that the NBP06 (Newing) borrow pit would be withdrawn, meaning the access track out to NBP06 would not be built either. AP also advised on the withdrawal of plans to develop the Scord of Sound entrance to the wind farm and that reinstatement work to the initial excavations there would commence over the summer.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Andrew Archer asked if this meant that the A971 would not be used for transport by Vestas?</li> <li>• Aaron Priest confirmed that this road would not be used for deliveries, turbine components would arrive via the A970 and the new Sandwater Road and that dropping the access track at Scord of Sound was a consequence of that.</li> <li>• Julie Graham (JG) gave an update on community engagement matters via slides. Summary of main points; direct sponsorship support to many good causes including Shetland Pride; Whitedale FC Senior Team (43 training tops); Michael's Wood (VEWF paid for and organised voluntary planting of 2000 trees); Cunningsburgh Show; (Viking)Parish Cup; Shetland Girls Football Team; Shetland Intercounty Netball Team; NHS Summer Celebrations; Shetland Volleyball Team and Viking Sea Angling.</li> </ul> <p>Re STEM and community engagement, JG reported that 14 separate schools will be visiting VEFW over various dates and age groups, by the end of October. Over 500 pupils are expected to have visited in total, with around 300 of these visited to date.</p> <p>Re SCBF, JG reported there had been some 204 applications to the fund with around £437k awarded to date. JG mentioned that a community consultation was underway for use of the main fund of £2.2m per year (indexed) main fund.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Andrew Archer asked – queried the end date for the SCBF consultations programme on the slide, as the first stage of the consultations with the community councils had only just happened and was expected to last for several months yet.</li> <li>• Julie Graham replied that this was an ongoing process and that the date on the slide was for the end of the initial stage.</li> </ul>		
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	<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> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>When will the road up to the Scord of Sound be resurfaced? Does the work get signed off by SIC?</b></li> <li>• Reply from Sharon Powell, the program has the resurfacing beginning on 17.08.22 and will last approx. 6 weeks. The traffic management will be set up on 17.08.22 with works commencing shortly after. SIC will inspect the different stages of the will be responsible for the final sign off.</li> <li>• <b>Does the large amount of dust that is created from the tracks have any impact on the local flora and fauna or watercourses? How is it being monitored?</b></li> <li>• Aaron Priest replied – there is no measurable impact, bowsers are regularly used to dampen down dust on track surfaces and effort is increased according to conditions.</li> <li>• AP said that all aspects of the CEMP are adhered to. When cable trenching is complete alongside the track networks, this will allow final landscaping and road capping to be completed. Tighter bound track surfaces and the absence of heavy civil construction plant moving over the completed track network should help to minimise any site dust from this autumn and on.</li> <li>• AP also highlighted the following measures being taken to deal with and anticipate the generation of dust from traffic movements and windblown sources:</li> <li>• At present RJ McLeod (RJM) have around c.70km of track with multiple bowsers in operation extracting from approved extraction points, licenced by SEPA. Where the forecast predicts dry spells, then RJM's general foremen are mobilising operatives early to begin the watering of tracks ahead of works and as soon as works commence.</li> <li>• There are different stages of construction where the potential for dust generation is greater until final capping and landscaping works are completed. It should be noted that the suppression exercise is an ongoing activity during dry periods and some dust will inevitably be present. Single snapshots in time do not however give a true representation of the wider wind farm.</li> <li>• Restricting the speed of vehicles helps to reduce the generation of dust but it can be exacerbated in breezy conditions despite limiting speed. All vehicles are required to adhere to the 15mph restrictions and work areas are monitored. Where drivers do not adhere to this, then action is taken to adjust their behaviour so as to follow the rules. RJM have trackers fitted to all ADT's and a large number of light vehicles.</li> <li>• AP said that it was appreciated that wind-blown dust can accumulate on vegetation close to tracks. Other than the measures described there is little that can be done about that, but VEWf's team of ecologists are monitoring the conditions, and this is not perceived as a long-term concern but will continue to be monitored by the independent ecological</li> </ul>		

<p>6.0</p> <p>6.0</p>	<p>consultants on site.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Are Illustrations available of what a borrow pit will look like after work is completed and restorative work done?</b></li> <li>● No illustrations as such, but RJM are in the process of providing the Borrow Pit Reinstatement Plans. These will include detailed cross-sections and plans. Borrow Pit Reinstatement Plans, once developed, need to be agreed with the SIC as planning authority, SEPA, NatureScot etc</li> <li>● Andrew Archer asked – is there a time scale for this?</li> <li>● Aaron Priest replied, not as yet but he expected that the bulk of the work would be done this year.</li> <li>● <b>Is the Sandwater Loch still being monitored for environmental changes and are the reports available?</b></li> <li>● Aaron Priest replied: Water quality monitoring continues at 28 different locations across the wind farm site, including Sandwater. Hydrochemical, invertebrate and diatom sampling does not indicate any significant impact on water quality nor species in Sandwater. Reports are issued to SEPA and SIC for review and information, and reviews are presented to the SWEAG group at the bi-annual meeting.</li> <li>● Andrew Archer asked – does “no significant” impact mean some impact?</li> <li>● Aaron Priest replied – it means no measurable impact.</li> <li>● Andrew Archer asked – are the reports publicly available?</li> <li>● Aaron Priest replied – that these go to SEPA and the SIC. Presentations summarising findings are given to SWEAG. Distribution is a matter for these bodies.</li> <li>● Andrew Archer asked if Aaron would request the report.</li> <li>● Aaron Priest replied that the request would be noted here in these minutes however, the distribution of the reports is a matter for SEPA and the SIC and SWEAG (re the summary information).</li> <li>● <b>Will the award of the Contract for Difference (CFD) mean any changes to the operation of the windfarm?(e.g., when turbines are switched on/off etc.)</b></li> <li>● Aaron Priest replied – Viking wind farms turbines will be run and managed in the most effective and efficient manner possible. VEWF expects Viking to be the most productive onshore wind farm in the UK and we will operate the site as safely, efficiently, and effectively as possible. AP said the award of the CFD doesn't change the ambition to operate the wind farm at maximum possible output. A CFD provides a guaranteed minimum payment on the number of MWh produced, so it is in the project's interests to maximise the number of MWh produced. AP advised the VEWF will be the UK's most productive onshore wind farm as Shetland is the windiest location in the UK.</li> <li>● <b>What is the position with the decommissioning bond?</b></li> <li>● In the last week the latest version of the decommissioning bond agreement (actually in the form of a guarantee from a bank via a Shetland Letter of Credit) has been returned from SIC to SSE's legal dept. There are some mark-ups to the document that require further legal calls, then it is</li> </ul>		
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expected that the financial guarantee will be instigated through the mutually agreed bank.

- **Several people in Cott and Kergord have raised concerns with us in the past about the risk of peat slides above properties. They are genuinely scared and the recent slide at the Mid-Kame will not have reassured them.**
- **1) What happened?**
- AP stated that approx. 7pm on 4<sup>th</sup> July a 15m long, and 8m wide section of the cable trench on the south of mid – Kame ridge slipped, spreading aggregate, peat and turves a distance of approximately 72m down the slope. The area was quickly stabilised, and rock bunds were deployed at 15m centres to permanently stabilise the area.
- **2) What was the risk assessment for the peat area?**
- AP stated that the risk assessment for the peat found that there was a risk of slippage in the area. The wind farm track adjacent to the cable trench had been founded as a result. The ganger in charge of the team constructing this 15m section of cable trench erroneously assumed that a floating section of cable trench was required in the area when it should have been excavated and founded, in parallel to the construction of the adjacent windfarm track. The layers of aggregate deployed in the short section of floated cable trench were too heavy for the turves on the downslope to provide sufficient support hence the slippage.
- **3) Video of it appears to show a large weight of stone (track?/crane pad?) pushing the peat down the hillside. Why should we think that this won't happen elsewhere?**
- AP explained that what the video shows is a short length of windfarm cable track (15m) which was bedded with aggregate shifting down the hill bringing turves and peat with it. A number of subsequent press reports confused the shorter slip with the much longer cross-country cable trench excavation to the north, which will carry cables down the Mid Kame to the wind farm substation at Upper Kergord – slide was shown to illustrate this.
- AP explained that this incident was quickly remedied on the ground. It has been thoroughly investigated. Operatives, gangers, foremen, engineers, and stability specialists are fully re-briefed on what is required to prevent a repeat incident occurring
- **4) Are there any areas where you have built a track-crane pad etc. on a slope above people's house?**
- AP explained that the windfarm infrastructure, including cable trenches is not located above people's houses. Areas in Cott and Kergord previously mentioned, are on the other side of the hill from the wind farm infrastructure.
- Andrew Archer asked – are there other bits that the team have done that need to be checked?
- Aaron Priest replied – No, all has been checked
- Andrew Archer asked – what is the process for reporting an incident as he

	<p>had called the planning dept who didn't know about the incident</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Aaron Priest replied – SSE have a process of 30mins where all incidents are reported</li> <li>• Andrew Archer asked – does that mean that it wasn't reported?</li> </ul> <p>AP said that the immediate priority at the time was to stabilise the slip and to instigate permanent remedial action. He said that one of the outcomes of the subsequent investigation was a requirement for any future such incidents to be reported to SSE senior management through its existing 30 min reporting procedure, and thereby ensuring that such matters reported quickly to the relevant authorities.</p>		
7.0	<p><b>Any other business</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Neil Leask asked Aaron Priest questions regarding the peat slip and the comment that the press released the wrong picture of the slip</b></li> <li>• Aaron Priest replied that they had shown a picture of the track that had been dug for the cables to the substation, Aaron showed a slide with the peat slip and the trench both in shot to show the difference.</li> <li>• <b>Neil Leask asked – if it wasn't reported on time was this a communication problem?</b></li> <li>• Aaron Priest replied – that yes this had been a communications problem, now clarified and remedied as a result of the subsequent investigation.</li> <li>• <b>Neil Leask asked – If this was a small section (as Aaron Priest had reported in his above comments), how large does a slip need to be to make it more worrying?</b></li> <li>• Aaron Priest replied that he believed this to be an isolated incident on a relatively short length of cable trench.</li> <li>• <b>Neil Leask asked if the group could revisit the wind farm site</b></li> <li>• Aaron Priest agreed to this and dates TBC</li> <li>• <b>Moraig Lyall asked – what was the time delay in getting a reply to an email she had sent in as it had been 6 days with no reply</b></li> <li>• Aaron Priest advised that he had been on leave but he this would check as it would normally be no more than a few days.</li> </ul>	<p>AP set up visit</p> <p>JG investigated</p>	<p>Completed 23.08.22</p> <p>Completed 20.07.22</p>
8.0	<p><b>Date and time of next meeting</b> – All agreed the next meeting would be Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> October at 19.00pm. Location TBC nearer time dependent on Covid considerations etc</p>		

