

# Meeting Minutes

<b>Doc No</b>	LN000046-COM-CA-MOM-0021CLG Minutes	
<b>Meeting Title:</b>	Viking Community Liaison Group	
<b>Date/Time/Venue:</b>	18/07/2023 at 7.00pm – Microsoft Teams	
<b>Issue Date:</b>	17/08/2023	
<b>Attendees:</b>	Chair Andrew Archer, AA (Tingwall, Whiteness & Weisdale Community CC)	Neil Leask, NL (Tingwall, Whiteness and Weisdale CC)
Pauline McGinty PMcG (SSE Renewables)	Julie Graham, JG Community Engagement Manager SSER)	Corrina Scholes CS (Head of Onshore Stakeholder Engagement SSER)
Gerry Hamill GH (Civils & Construction Interface Manager SSER)	Willie Simpson WS	Thea Groat, TG (Community Liaison Manager (Shetland Projects SSEN Transmission)
Neil Grant NG (SIC)	Gary Tait GT(Project manager SSEN Transmission)	Ryan Nicolson, RN (Shetland Times)
John Priest JP	Johnathan Flowers, JF (SSER, Wind Turbine Package Manager SSER)	Lorraine Wallington, LW (Project Manager, SSEN-HVDC/Cabling)
Aimi Munro AM (Consents AdvisorSSER)	Gavin Stirling, GS (Project manager SSEN)	Kevin Mclean KMCL(Project Manager SSEN Transmission)
Liz Peterson LP (SIC)	Grant Smith GS	Alistair Hutchinson AH
Hans Marter HM (SHETNEWS)	David McGinty DMcG (Environmental Site Manager SSER)	

Item	Agenda Item	Action	Due
1.0	<b>Welcome and introductions</b> - Group Chair Andrew Archer presided.		
2.0	<b>Apologies</b> Moraig Lyle, Carolyn Wilson, James Garrick, John Douglas, Ryan McLean, Joanne Pioneer		
3.0	<b>Approval of previous minutes - Formally approved.</b>		
4.0	<b>Matters Arising:</b> No Issues Raised		
5.0	<p><b>Project update presentations by Viking/SSER and SSEN Transmission</b></p> <p><b>VIKING/SSER Update</b></p> <p>Gerry Hamill (GH) introduced himself to the group. He then ran through a series of slides outlining the map of the site, showing turbine locations, along with 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"> <li><i>o All internal cabling is in place in East, West, North and Mid Kame (with around 90% of these deployments now backfilled).</i></li> <li><i>o Cable laying on the "cross-country" sections joining the East, West and North 90% complete with backfilling well underway.</i></li> <li><i>o 67 turbines completed, preinstall completed on all</i></li> </ul>		

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5.0	<p><i>remaining turbines</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>o Cable backfilling enables final track/hardstand capping and landscaping/turf placement/hydroseeding to be completed.</i></li> <li><i>o Peat reinstatement in-situ and wider HMP restoration continues.</i></li> <li><i>o Turbine component delivery convoys continue 6 days a week. (Due to be complete by End July)</i></li> <li><i>o Sept 2024 – Wind farm completed</i></li> </ul> <p>GH then confirmed that remaining snagging works are to be completed, and then move on to the Sandwater Rd handover to SIC.</p> <p>AA asked – What does HMP mean? GH replied that this meant “Habitat Management Plan”</p> <p>GH then went through further series of images showing current progress on the wind farm, including, cable tracks from Array G and Sandwater rd., with cable tracks and backfill of cable tracks.</p> <p>GH also included images of the Substation in current state.</p> <p>GH then finished his presentation and introduced Julie Graham JG</p> <p>Julie Graham JG then gave an update on the Shetland Community Benefit Fund and updated that as of June 30<sup>th</sup> a total of £779,778 had been awarded with 435 applications being received across 153 different projects and she also update that a report would be coming out soon on the community consultation that had taken place.</p> <p>JG then gave an update on STEM as below along with some Images from the events mentioned</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>o Celebration of STEM, collaborative event with SSEN Transmission on June 21st, 2023, at the Shetland Museum in Lerwick.</i></li> <li><i>o Build a Virtual wind farm workshop starting again on 27,28,29 Sept 2023 &amp; 13,14,15 March 2024</i></li> <li><i>o JG moved on to give an update on Community Engagement as detailed below along with accompanying slides of the events mentioned</i></li> <li><i>o JG advised that she was the business advisor for</i></li> </ul>		

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5.0	<p>young enterprise at Brae high school, where they produced a cookbook (this is available for sale)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o JG updated on the outside tree planting exercise with Bellsbrae Primary School, and Lerwick Port Authority as part of the Shetland rewilding &amp; paper payback scheme that LPA run.</li> <li>o JG also update on African Drumming with Sidiki Dembele a project that was run through the Scalloway youth Project, with approx., 600 children benefitting from the workshops all over Shetland</li> <li>o Slides shown to update on further community engagement with slides showing Pride 2023, the climate festival that ran through Clickimin Leisure centre, Brae and Anderson high school attended with a talk from Alex Hayward, which was well received</li> <li>o JG confirmed that SSER are headline sponsor of Tall Ships 2023</li> </ul> <p>JG asked for any questions, AA asked to go back to a missed slide from GH slides, PMcG returned to slide 6 and GH covered slide details relating to Local Supply chain and spend sitting at £72 million pounds</p> <p>AA then asked for any further questions for Julie and Gerry, no other asked questions, AA asked GH when will convoys finish? And GH advise this was due to finish on 29<sup>th</sup> July 2023, Jonathan Flowers (JF) then updated on the reply, that a caveat should be added to that associated with the weather that this date might move slightly if weather affects.</p> <p>AA then asked, Have the borrow pit reinstatement plans been published now?</p> <p>GH replied that these are not published as yet, over the coming months, they will be produced and published, essentially, the works to complete the borrow pits will form part of the final works for RJ Mcleod on site, we have started some of those works in the west but we still have ongoing discussion as what to do with the Borrow pits in the east, and have yet to receive the plans from RJM for all borrow pits, we have been speaking with SIC in the meantime keeping them up to date, and in discussion with landowners. So essentially, before we publish the final reports and plans, we confirm with the landowners that everything is ok from there side and then the plans will be put out to the public.</p>		

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5.0	<p>AA then asked, do SIC need to sign these off?</p> <p>GH replied that no, these did not need signing off in terms of approval, but they do cast an eye over them, GH further informed that SIC are the landowner for the borrow pit in the north and that the plans are a work in progress at the moment,</p> <p>AA asked, do they do not need planning approval?</p> <p>GH confirmed no, this was arranged at the start of the process.</p> <p>Neil Leask (NL) then asked, on the subject of borrow pits, at the last meeting we asked about seeing pictures of borrow pits, has this been done?</p> <p>GH apologised that he hadn't been advised of this and he would take an action away to get this arranged.</p> <p>AA, confirmed that a possible site visit would be arranged in early Sept &amp; GH confirmed that he would get images arranged to send across to NL</p> <p>AA then asked, is there anything you want to say about how the water quality issues are progressing?</p> <p>GH asked, is this Burn of Weisdale/Burn of Lunklet?</p> <p>AA, replied yes</p> <p>Corinna Scholes CS Spoke to advise that we have a question asked with regards to water and we could deal with this at the end</p> <p>AA asked, this question is more generally about the situation of the quality at the moment.</p> <p>David Mcginty (DMcG) Replied, the latest we have on the latest set of results, is a positive upward trend in the PHs and a downward trend in the metals of concern, we are continuing to monitor to check for seasonal fluctuation, but we have confidence that the mitigation measures are having an effect which we can see through weekly field sampling. Had we been seeing the field results we are seeing now prior to the incident then we would have nothing to report, however we are hesitant to call it a success as yet. We are still monitoring routinely along with the additional samples as requested by SWEAG and we will continue to do that until at least spring time next year at which point we will be able to take a better view on the success of the mitigation measures, but at the present the message is that there is a positive upturn in</p>	<p>Gerry Hamill sent to NL &amp; AA 11.08.23</p>	

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5.0	<p>trends.</p> <p>AA then asked, I read in the latest “water quality report” that there were changes being noticed where the rock taken out of borrow pit 2 was being used, is that any cause for concern or are the changes really minor?</p> <p>DMcG replied, yes, they are minor. They are localised to the same area, and we have a suspicion that maybe some of the rock from that area, or possibly rock that is part of the same seam, extend beyond the track at KBP02. , We have known about this and has been reported in the relevant reports to date. This is undergoing the same treatment system and is showing the same upward positive trends.</p> <p>AA asked for any more questions</p> <p>No more questions to SSER</p> <p><b>SSEN Transmission</b> Thea Groat TG Introduced herself and the SSEN team, Gary Tait GT (Converter station update) Lorraine Wallington LW (Offshore cables update) Gavin Stirling GS (Land cables update) With project managers from the Grimista Grid Supply Point to take any questions.</p> <p><b>SSEN Transmission update on construction of the HVDC Converter Station.</b></p> <p><b>BAM Nuttall Civils –</b> Gary Tait (GT) gave an update on the BAM Nuttall Civils package works and noted that good progress since the last call and on track in relation to program etc with a completion date of July 2024. In terms of the Bam Nuttall package, there has been really good progress with the site civil works, not much to see in the site overview these days, not many changes with the civil works being mostly complete, however, still some ongoing landscape and snagging works around the station.</p> <p>GT also updated on health and safety with toolbox talk, risk assessments and safety observations undertaken to reduce risks and prevent accidents happening</p> <p>GT advised that in regard to Mechanical &amp; Electrical fitout of the building, there are still some final remaining commissioning to complete along with some snagging to finalise including completion of fire alarms etc and on up-and-coming works, GT updated that, some external road works, and external civil finishing works to be completed</p>		

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5.0	<p><b>Hitachi Energy HVDC</b>  GT Updated that the switchgear and associated equipment installation was now complete, final cable pulling and termination works are now sitting at 99% complete subject to final checks, he also updated that Installation of copper tape earthing is nearing completion, and this is ensuring that equipment is earthed to the ground.</p> <p>GT further updated that SSEN &amp; HE have been working collaboratively on commissioning activities to progress equipment and sub system testing ready for inspection and sign-off, he also updated on Upcoming Works and advised that in the next few weeks they would be moving into Sage 1 Commissioning of equipment, the sub-systems and the main control computers for control, protection and integration of all systems</p> <p><b>Seimens + Bam: AC Substation</b>  GT updated that (GIS) installation is now 100% complete and fully HV tested with successful pass he added that Protection &amp; Control Panel cabling, Glanding &amp; terminations are ongoing with commissioning progressing. He further noted that Viking Windfarm Circuits (4nr) installed to termination location at GIS, and awaiting HV test to cables, &amp; interface testing between Viking &amp; AC substation.</p> <p>On Upcoming works GT advised that they are awaiting Completing stage 1 commissioning, HVDC Circuit Cable Installation to GIS</p> <p>GT ran through a few images, showing site overview as of July 2023, the AC building, HV testing kit and some HE Equipment earthing.</p> <p>GT then passed over to Gavin Stirling for an update on land cables</p> <p><b>HVDC Cable Installation Update:</b>  <b>Land Cables</b>  Gavin Stirling (GS) gave an update on the land cables and noted that in terms of land activity there hadn't been much activity in the last month or so however, he updated that the Fibre Optic cable installation is now complete, and that the investigations undertake into the blockage issue had found there was no blockage but complexities with the terrain resulting in an increase in resistance during the installation of the cable. GS also noted that, the cable has also been tested and the works are complete.</p> <p><b>Offshore &amp; Marine</b>  Lorraine Wallington (LW), (Project Manager) gave an</p>		

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6.0	<p>update on HVDC cable installation progress.</p> <p>LW Noted that Campaigns 1 &amp; 2 are now complete with rock cover still to be laid on campaign 2, this is due to scheduling, she also explained that they still have a small section of unburied cable that can be seen when tide is very low, however, strong progress had been made on this in the last week, she updated that a kick off meeting with the company doing the work had taken place and works are due to take place around 11.09.23 and should last approximately 21days. This will involve, a jack up style boat in the Voe, a small vessel that doesn't need mooring hence doesn't need access from the beach, so fully self-sufficient and this will involve divers in the water.</p> <p>LW further updated on campaign 3, noting that cable loadout had commenced on 13.06.2023 and that cable lay was currently a work in progress with a target completion date for the end of July, mattresses have been installed at the crossing and the first cable end had been picked up, joined and the cable lay is in progress.</p> <p>LW further updated that an omega joint was to be completed before demobilisation.</p> <p>LW noted that final trenching will mobilise on 20.07.2023 using the grand Canyon 3 and looking at the rock placement taking place from Sept to November 2023</p> <p>LW asked for questions</p> <p>AA asked, when do you think works will finish at the site on the Cott road?</p> <p>GS replied, after demobilising works, the site will lie dormant for the foreseeable future, the area will be reinstated and no activity in that area.</p> <p>AA asked for any further questions, none asked.</p> <p><b>TG then introduce Grant Smith (GS) &amp; Kevin McLean (KMCL) from Grimista Grid Supply Point</b></p> <p>Kevin McLean (KMCL) updated that the Overhead line (OHL), Underground Cable (UGC) and the Grid Supply Point (GSP) contractors had all been appointed to project, he further noted that premobilisation activities are complete with both Morgan Sindall and Norpower established at Ladies Dr in Lerwick and that the section 37 is approved, and conditions being actively discharged, he noted key activities for the first quarter as</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o 1<sup>st</sup> section of UGC cable construction commenced at Kergord on 13<sup>th</sup> of July 2023</li> </ul>		

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Gremista GSP site handover from August 2023</li> <li>o OHL installation will include helicopter operations. Communications will be issued prior to the commencement of this work</li> </ul> <p>KMcL asked for any questions.</p> <p>NL asked, what is S37?</p> <p>KMcL replied that this was Section 37 consent.</p> <p>NL asked is this for the overhead and underground cable.</p> <p>KMcL replied, yes this is for the overhead line</p> <p>AA asked for any other questions, no questions asked</p> <p>AA discussed with TG about inviting other community councils to future CLG meeting as the expansion to cover things is now involving other areas, TG agreed, and matter being dealt with after meeting</p> <p>AA then moved to community council questions</p> <p><b>Questions were submitted in advance via community councils and others were added on the night.</b></p> <p><b>1. Please could you provide more details of exactly how the reinstatement of the peat surface is done, for example, where the cable arrays come down the hillside at Sandwater.</b></p> <p>DMcG replied with details of how cables trenches are backfilled noting -  The cross-country cable trenches (noted in the question) are backfilled in keeping with specific design parameters of the cables. A fine dust is installed across the trench, the cables laid and then a similar fine dust material is overlaid. This is then backfilled with a layer of peat and hydroseeded.  Where cabling requires protection below tracks and roads, a concrete surround is installed. Plugs and outlets are designed into the backfilling strategy to channel water out of the buried trenches to prevent them becoming a conduit for waterflow.  On completion, the access track is overlain with peat and tied into the cable trench top level and the surrounding topography. Turves or hydroseeding is then used to revegetate the areas.</p> <p>AA asked, Where you put the turves on top, is that done by machine or by hand, how do you get the two to join</p>		



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6.0	<p>together or does this happen naturally?</p> <p>DMcG explained that everything is excavated in order, then backfilled in the reverse order, this allows the strata to be replaced in the correct horizontal orientation. He also explained that there is a special “rack type attachment” attached to the excavator, with 360 degree turn facility allowing precise movement and delivery/laying of the turves in precise locations.</p> <p>NL asked, Will the existing turves be used where it is seen more rather than where it will not be seen?</p> <p>DMcG replied that yes this is correct. Where possible/available, turves will be replaced from where they have been taken and yes hydroseeding will be used other areas off track. He further explained on how reinstatement had worked at Sandwater Rd, and how, natural seed mix had been used where not enough turves had been available.</p> <p><b>2. Are there any noise limits on the work that you are permitted to do at night? Are the noise levels monitored or measured anywhere?</b></p> <p>GH Replied, As set out within the project’s consent conditions, certain types of construction work are restricted during set times. However, out with the restricted times, stipulated levels of work are permissible - this specifically includes turbine erection which is undertaken during night-time hours.</p> <p>In keeping with the conditions, the Vestas team monitor the levels of noise to gauge whether it is audible at sensitive properties out with the application site boundary. To date there has be no indication of formal complaints suggesting that there is an audible disturbance. However, our colleagues at Vestas are aware that works are approaching the extents of the site and there are areas closer to potentially sensitive properties. In these cases, Vestas have committed to reassessing and measuring noise levels, where applicable, to determine if disturbance is likely. GH confirmed that further to this, there had been an email sent to SSE in regards to noise (banging) at night when works had not been taking place and he updated on the outcome of this, GH explained that the blades are designed to have the wind hit them front on (this is purely during construction and once turbines are commissioned, they are designed to be turned to facing winds) however during construction the blades are covered in “bags” or “netting” for the first 10 meters of the blade from the tip, these are a protection measure for the blade and they are secured by ropes tied to the blade, he explained that during time, the tension on these ropes can loosen and</p>		

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	<p>under strong winds, this can cause a banging noise with the ropes banging against the blades, these issues have been brought to light to the teams and in the meantime staff will be monitoring and ensuring these ropes are tensioned correctly to stop the banging and the longer term measure, we are exploring the options for addressing the issue in terms of minimizing the length of time these protection measures need to be present for and looking at possible prioritizing the works in association with some properties and residents which are closer to some of these areas.</p> <p>AA asked, if people have issues where should they go, SSER or the council?</p> <p>GH replied, yes, come direct to us and we will address as best we possibly can and where we can't assist or need impute, we will contact the council. For anything relating to VESTAS/RJM or SSER then come direct to us via (<a href="mailto:vikingwindfarm@sse.com">vikingwindfarm@sse.com</a>) and we will deal with things direct</p> <p><b>3. Please can you clarify under what circumstances incidents are reported to SEPA. There seem to have been a couple of incidents with silty water entering burns or Sandwater Loch where people would expect you to notify SEPA but you didn't think it necessary. People don't understand why SEPA are not automatically involved.</b></p> <p><b>AA also added to this question – Having read the latest PMO report and there was a section that spoke about a silty water incident and where you had spoken with SEPA and they agreed it was a nonreportable incident. So there seems to be some rules as to what gets reported and what doesn't, to our community council we do not understand when they get involved and when not, it would be good to clarify</b></p> <p>DMcG replied, VEFW is subject to a Construction Site License within which SEPA specify thresholds for Suspended Solids (silty water) and pH levels which, if breached, must be reported. Where there is evidence of silty water discharge from site then field testing is carried out to assess whether the incident is reportable. In cases where the levels are marginal or there is the potential for public concern then, SEPA are alerted to provide forewarning as a matter of courtesy. And this keeps all informed, but not as an official report.</p> <p>AA then asked, in the same PMO report it spoke about a fuel spillage, in that sort of case, is that something that is</p>		

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6.0	<p>reported to SEPA or does that depend on how much is spilled or what?</p> <p>DMcG replied, obviously if we had a significant spillage or loss of fuel, to water courses or land with impact to water courses then that would automatically be reported as a matter of course to SEPA irrespective of the construction site license. However, the spill you are referring to, is the failure of a hydraulic hose that causes an oil spillage to occur and this is confined to the amount of oil in the hose at this time. These hoses have automatic cut off mechanisms, to cut minimise the volume of hydraulic oil lost which are mainly mineral based. These are small scale spillages that are contained, however, if we were to lose any spills into water environment then that would automatically be reported to SEPA.</p> <p>AA, who decides that? Does everybody on site knows this is what to do or what?</p> <p>DMcG replied, RJM have a team of ecological specialists who are supplemented by the SSE ECoW tea., All operatives are informed that any spillages must be reported, no matter how insignificant they think they are. This is followed up by the onsite environmental team to establish the extent of spillages and take a view on the type of hydrocarbon that may have been spilled, the amount spilled, where it has been spilled and whether it is on permeable or impermeable surface. The next steps are then discussed within the team and clean up and reporting carried out., There are various reporting measures over and above reporting to SEPA so minor things might not get reported to SEPA, but we report everything internally.</p> <p>AA asked for further questions, no questions asked</p> <p><b>4. Please can you give us an update on the reinstatement works on the Cott Road. Several residents have been in touch since the last meeting to say that the areas that appear to have been marked for repair do not address the more fundamental damage and rutting to the road that they feel has been caused by the construction traffic. Does the survey that was done before construction started not allow a clear picture of what has changed?</b></p> <p><b>AA also added to the question, I have spoken to a couple of the people who got in touch and this is possibly the most asked question we get, there is quite a strong feeling that there a bits of the road that</b></p>		

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	<p><b>are marked for repair but in fact the road has suffered a much more fundamental degree of damage, in that both sides have sunk and the fear from the people who live there is that the road needs a much more substantial reconstruction and that we as tax payers are going to end up paying for it</b></p> <p>Gavin Stirling (GS) replied, to give some reassurance, I personally have been working with SIC and I have walked this route and conducted the survey along the Cott road, yes, the main focus was predominantly for looking north to south from the Weisdale Voe predominately looking at the area to the north heading to the A971, and the assessment was done in conjunction with SIC, we obviously take into consideration all aspects of defects on that surface, and I am sure you will agree these weren't totally at our expense there would have been defects there before and we have details of pre assessment carried out and SIC have been very transparent with us providing information on their previous surveys as well, we are in advance talks with SIC at this time to come to a conclusion as to what the remedial action will be along the Cott Road, but to get back to the original point, we are looking at it and the surface will be reinstated to a satisfactory level, certainly in the case of SIC.</p> <p>AA asked if GS would speak with some of the residents and GS agreed, AA to arrange this through TG</p> <p>AA asked for more questions, no questions asked</p> <p><b>Questions from Sanding &amp; Aithsting CC</b> None</p> <p><b>Questions from TWWCC</b> None</p> <p><b>Any Other Business</b> NL asked, what is the situation with the Decommissioning Bond? This is an ongoing question, this should have been agreed before construction started and it was reported back in May 2021 and due to be final soon, this was 2 years ago and still no closer.</p> <p>Neil Grant (NG) replied, we have been working with SSE and one of the big banks in getting a standby letter of credit in place, this is a 40 million pound stand by letter of</p>		

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	<p>credit and while we have been working on it for a while this is pretty close to being complete, it requires all 3 parties to sign up and it also has a set of conditions in terms of how the bond then applies to the various land owners, we are not far away now but I do appreciate that this has been ongoing for a while.</p> <p>AA commented that he had given up asking on it, he then asked if Corrina had spoken, Corrina Scholes (CS) replied that it was her and that once everything had been agreed and finalised, we would let the group know and that it is confirmed</p> <p>AA asked for any other business, none asked and AA announced the next meeting date</p> <p><b>Date and time of next meeting</b></p> <p>10.10.2023 7pm Via Teams call</p>		

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