

Meeting Minutes

Doc No	LN000046-COM-CA-MOM-0022CLG Minutes	
Meeting Title:	Viking Community Liaison Group	
Date/Time/Venue:	10/10/2023 at 7.00pm – Microsoft Teams	
Issue Date:	03.11.2023	
Attendees:	Chair Andrew Archer, AA (Tingwall, Whiteness & Weisdale CC)	Neil Leask, NL (Tingwall, Whiteness and Weisdale CC)
Pauline McGinty PMcG (SSE Renewables)	Julie Graham, JG (Stakeholder Engagement Manager SSER)	James Black JB (Senior Manager SSEN)
Gerry Hamill GH (Civils & Construction Interface Manager SSER)	Willie Simpson WS (Nesting and Lunnasting CC)	Thea Groat, TG (Community Liaison Manager (Shetland Projects SSEN Transmission))
Joe Connell JC (Assistant Manager SSEN)	David McGinty DMcG (Environmental Site Manager SSER)	Ryan Nicolson, RN (Shetland Times)
John Priest JP (Sandsting and Aithsing CC)	Johnathan Flowers, JF (SSER, Wind Turbine Package Manager SSER)	Lorraine Wallington, LW (Project Manager, SSEN-HVDC/Cabling)
Aimi Munro AM (Consents Advisor SSER)	Hans Marter HM (SHETNEWS)	Kevin Mclean KMcl (Project Manager SSEN Transmission)
Liz Peterson LP (SIC)	Jarred Deeney JD (Project Manager SSEN)	Davie Sandison DS (SIC)

Item	Agenda Item	Action	Due
1.0	Welcome and introductions - Group Chair Andrew Archer presided.		
2.0	Apologies Moraig Lyle, Carolyn Wilson, James Garrick, John Douglas, Ryan McLean, Joanne Pioneer, Neil Grant		
3.0	Approval of previous minutes - Formally approved.		
4.0	Matters Arising: No Issues Raised		

Item	Agenda Item	Action	Due
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, James Black (Senior PM), 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>SSEN Transmission update on construction of the HVDC Converter Station.</p> <p>BAM Nuttall Civils – James Black (JB) gave an update on the BAM Nuttall Civils package works and noted in regard to ongoing work at the HVDC site significant work had been done on landscaping and remaining civil works are ongoing, including snagging and finishing works. Surfacing works now complete around the platform and access track. Snagging works. JB also updated on health and safety with risk assessments & toolbox talk and safety observations undertaken to reduce risks and prevent accidents from occurring</p> <p>JB advised that in regard to Mechanical & Electrical fitout of the building, remaining commissioning items and final snagging is ongoing, including completion of fire alarm system etc.</p> <p>On upcoming works JB noted that the remainder of civil works are ongoing, including final landscaping and watercourse completion</p> <p>Hitachi Energy HVDC JB Updated that final HVDC equipment installation is ongoing, with AHU, Valve cooler banks re-installed and 132v cable pulling also ongoing</p> <p>JB further updated that SSEN & HE have been working collaboratively on commissioning activities to progress equipment and sub system testing ready for inspection and sign-off. On upcoming works, JB updated that stage 1 commissioning of equipment, sub-systems and main control computers for control, protection and integration of all systems are all in progress.</p> <p>Seimens + Bam: AC Substation JB updated that (GIS) installation is now 100% complete and fully HV tested with no issues, he noted that this was a significant milestone for the project, with it being a 132 GIS clean air system and the first of its kind in the UK.</p>		

Item	Agenda Item	Action	Due
5.0	<p>On Protection & Control Panel cabling, Glanding & terminations, JB updated they are ongoing with commissioning, noting that stage 1 commissioning substantially is completed and Viking Windfarm Circuits(4nr) Termination to GIS had a full pass on HV testing. He also noted that Interface testing between Viking & AC substation was fully completed.</p> <p>Looking ahead to upcoming works for the substation works, JB noted that they will focus on completion of stage 1 commissioning activities as well as HVDC Circuit Cable installation to GIS and HV Test Cables, with interface testing.</p> <p>JB asked for any Questions and Andrew Archer (AA) Asked, what does AHU mean? JB replied that this was Air Handling Unit</p> <p>HVDC Cable Installation Update: Land Cables Offshore & Marine</p> <p>Lorraine Wallington (LW), (Project Manager) gave an update on HVDC cable installation progress.</p> <p>LW Noted that some good progress had been made over the last few months and updated that on the land cables and Cott Rd resurfacing, that SIC would lead on this and that they are aiming for springtime 2024 to perform that work.</p> <p>On offshore and Marine side of things, LW noted that as previously stated, campaign 1 is now complete and on Campaign 2 is complete (except for a short section of cable that has ongoing burial activities, due to be complete in October 2023) subject to weather</p> <p>LW updated on Campaign 3 noting that, cable lay, and trenching is complete and rock placement is ongoing and expected to be complete in January 2024</p> <p>AA asked, when we met last time you mentioned the diving, is that now all complete or does this ongoing burial bit mean there will be more?</p> <p>LW confirmed that this is what is ongoing now and should be complete by end of the following week</p> <p>No More Questions asked</p>		

Item	Agenda Item	Action	Due
5.0	<p>TG then introduce Jarred Deeney (JD) & Kevin McLean (KMcL) from Shetland Renewable Connections Kergord - Grimista Connection</p> <p>Kevin McLean (KMcL) updated that the overhead line work noting that they had installed 48 of 225 wooden poles, and that helicopter operations continue to assist in the construction works and an environmental clerk of works (ECoW) is onsite to monitor works.</p> <p>KMcL also updated that a member of the public had highlighted the presence of a 1700's grave, found to be 100m from works. Mitigations have been put in place to protect the grave site. He also noted that they are very grateful to the member of the public for informing the project of the location.</p> <p>KMcL then updated on the underground cable works noting that Morgan Sindall/Omexon (OMSI) are making good progress on temporary cable laying access tracks at Kergord and Sandwater with 51% of the access tracks complete.</p> <p>He further noted that cable ducting works are scheduled to commence at Kergord in late October and works at section 3 commenced in September with the construction of a new bell mouth at Frakkafield.</p> <p>KMcL finished by confirming that an Archaeology Clerk of Works (ACoW) and Ecological Clerk of Works (ECoW) are on site at all times to oversee works</p> <p>KMcL asked for any questions</p> <p>Andrew Archer (AA) asked, are all the roads works going on into town at the moment, (AA described 2 areas of road), are these you too?</p> <p>KMcL replied that this was distributions, AA asked, this implies that this is SSE, KMcL confirmed that this was SSE Distribution.</p> <p>AA asked what works SSE Distributions are doing? and KMcL confirmed that they are doing some diversion works for existing overhead lines and assets to support the installation of underground cables</p> <p>AA then asked, as you are aware, our community council objected to the closure of the track by the golf course for 2 yrs., saying it should be shorter, I notice now that the application has been withdrawn, can you say what is planned instead</p> <p>KMcL replied, we do not have finalised plans as yet, but we have withdrawn this with a view to revising those plans, to mitigate and look at alternative plans access to reduce that period, we are reviewing this now and hopefully will soon have a new proposal</p>		

Item	Agenda Item	Action	Due
5.0	<p>AA asked, is the plan still to bury it there? And KMCL confirmed this as correct</p> <p>No more questions asked</p> <p>VIKING/SSER Update</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"> ○ 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 ○ 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</p> <p>Civil</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Works largely complete, now at pre-snagging phase ○ Sandwater Road – upfill to underside of surfacing is 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 (with 95% now backfilled) ○ Focus presently is on cable testing and terminations <p>WTG's</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ All 103 Turbine erections now complete with majority of major plant components off-site ○ First generation test was on 26th September and 12 have now been tested to date. WTGs have been trialled successfully to date <p>Other</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Peat reinstatement in-situ and wider HMP restoration continues along re-seeding. ○ Sept 2024 – Wind Farm completed <p>GH then presented a short video to the group showing "First Generation @T001" situated at the south westerly section of the site, the video showed the success of the generation</p>		

Item	Agenda Item	Action	Due
5.0	<p>On other Project Updates GH noted that SSE Renewables had secured 0.6GW of the new UK onshore wind contracts in early September, and noted “What this means for Viking”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Recent success in the AR5 (UK Gov’t Allocation Round 5) means that Viking has secured 100% CfD – this means all 443MW of the energy produced by the project will support the delivery of net zero targets. <p>GH updated the figures for the Local Supply Chain was now at circa £74m and that RJM, SSER staff are on a downturn and that Vestas personnel had slightly increased</p> <p>GH then presented some slides showing cable works coming from Array G and images from east looking across the new/old Sandwater Rd & MidKame and explained why the cables are laid as they are.</p> <p>GH then introduced David McGinty (DM)</p> <p>DM gave an update on Hydroseeding noting the below points and showing a slide with current reinstatement progress.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Reinstatement – The reprofiling and revegetation of areas by the side of infrastructure features (tracks, Turbine hard standing, borrow pits etc). ○ Ideally preserve turves are used as a quick and natural way to revegetate reinstatement areas. ○ Where there is a shortage of turves then hydroseeding is adopted to provide a fast-growing nursery crop on bare areas. ○ The seed mix is determined by the ECoW and is designed to be in keeping with natural grasses in the area. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 45% common bent grass (<i>Agrostis capillaris</i>) ● 25% wavy hair grass (<i>Deschampsia flexuosa</i>) ● 30% red fescue (<i>Festuca rubra</i>) ● PLUS, common heather (<i>Calluna vulgaris</i>) ○ Initially it will be noticeable, but it will begin to blend in overtime and eventually become indiscernible. ○ Once established the nursery vegetation provides stability to the surface and in time is pushed out by competing plant from the natural surroundings. ○ Hydroseeding was started in 2022, continued in 2023 and will continue in 2024. 		

Item	Agenda Item	Action	Due
5.0	<p>DM noted that the hydroseeded areas and all areas of reinstatement will be inspected by the ECoW over the operational lifetime of the wind farm, DM also noted that another 2 sessions of hydroseeding will take place in 2024.</p> <p>David McGinty handed over to Julie Graham (JG)</p> <p>JG then gave an update on the Shetland Community Benefit Fund and presented a new slide showing that, £808,116.02 had been spent within the community councils, 450 applications had been received and 164 projects have benefited as of Sept 2023, the slide also showed a list of communities who have benefited and the amounts they have received</p> <p>JG then gave an update showing images of different events held over the last few months and updated on monies raised for CLAN via sponsorships and sales of the CLAN Hares being over £200,000</p> <p>No further updates from JG</p> <p>AA asked a question to DM – Going back to the reseeded, on our previous site visit, members noted that lots of peat had been reinstated but had not yet been hydroseeded, the concern is, will this be at risk of degrading or not taking or even releasing its carbon?</p> <p>DM replied, the reseeded program will be completed by the end of 2024 and there are some areas where in effect it may be laying “bare” for 7 or 8 months and this is not an issue, and in terms of stability, it has been compacted and consolidated and will stay in place and this will be monitored. DM further explained that in regard to carbon capture, that once it was revegetated it will stop losing carbon to the atmosphere, and it is worth noting that of the 96 hectares of the windfarm footprint we are restoring 272 hectares, so almost treble the amount, of carbon we have reduced from losing to the atmosphere.</p> <p>AA asked for any questions, no questions asked.</p> <p>AA then asked, people have noted that there are generators by some of the turbines, are these only temporary? GH confirmed that yes, these are temporary</p> <p>AA then asked, why do some of the turbine blades spin very slowly?</p> <p>Jonathan Flowers (JF) replied with information on how the turbine works once erect, noting that with heavy rotational equipment with bearings it doesn't like being</p>		

Item	Agenda Item	Action	Due
6.0	<p>locked in 1 place at a time, once the turbines are commissioned and before generating it is better to allow them to free wheel, to turn gently in the wind and this helps to keep lubricants in the bearings etc, this is really for the health of the turbine.</p> <p>AA then asked, what do the generators do during commissioning?</p> <p>JF replied that this helps to power lights, lifts and auxiliary systems etc within the turbine, to allow works to keep going</p> <p>AA then asked, and where does this come from once the generator is gone?</p> <p>JF replied, once the generator is gone and the turbine is generating it actually comes from the turbine itself, if the turbine is off (if the grid asks us to curtail), then this will come from the HVDC once this is connected</p> <p>AA then asked, there had been a meeting before looking at outdoor access plan, is there a date for this to be published?</p> <p>Aimi Munro (AM) replied, we currently have an approved outdoor access plan which has been approved by SIC, and this is publicly available on the planning portal, and this is something we are looking to review as we progress with the project, is there a specific question you are looking to get clarity on?</p> <p>AA asked, no, it is just that a meeting had been held 1 yr. ago and I thought there would be another, but it seems to have gone very quiet</p> <p>AM replied, she wasn't sure what this meeting was but happy to have another meeting to discuss further if that would be useful?</p> <p>AA replied, yes, I think the idea would be to nail down specifically what would be there at the end?</p> <p>AM replied with an update on current plans, noting that the windfarm tracks (upon final construction), will be fully available to the public under the rules of the "Scottish Outdoor Access Code" and this includes, responsible access, non-vehicular access, so free to walk, cycle and take horses onto the windfarm tracks.</p> <p>AA confirmed to take this offline and speak with AM in the next few days on this matter.</p>		

Item	Agenda Item	Action	Due
6.0	<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. The A970 seems to be showing the result of lots of heavy trucks on it, with grooves in the carriageway, particularly evident near the golf course. In the heavy rain a few weeks ago, the rain was flowing along these grooves, along the road and down the hill rather than off the carriageway. Presumably, there is an agreement with the council that SSE will pay for any damage. When can we expect to see the roads repaired?"</p> <p>GH replied - There are regular discussions with SIC, and yes, there is an agreement in place that any damage deemed necessary to repair as a result of project related works will be repaired and paid for by ourselves. This is based on regular inspections by the site teams and annual evaluations carried out on behalf of the projects by local company CASE.</p> <p>Typically, full road repairs will not be carried out until post-construction phase however in the interim, if any areas are deemed unsafe or in a condition that would create a hazard or risk to any road users, these would be repaired as a priority.</p> <p>Without exact locations or photos/further detail I cannot speak to the area in question but happy to take this away and review if further information can be provided. In the interim I can pass these comments onto the team, and we can look into it.</p> <p>AA replied that he would try get specific location</p> <p>2. When the project started, SSE stated that access to the site was allowed if people kept well away from any operating machinery. In the last few months there have been a couple of incidents that we know of where walkers have been told to leave the site. In both cases they were both walking along the tracks on the site at the time. One was on the windfarm and one on the track near the HVDC cable. It would be helpful if you could clarify the policy on public access.</p> <p>For clarity, there is a defined area of exclusion, and this was communicated and agreed very early in the project. This is standard practice as part of construction sites with regards to "right to roam" under the Land Reform Act 2003 Section 6. I have attached an example of signs that</p>		

Item	Agenda Item	Action	Due
	<p>were put up around the boundaries as a guide to people wishing to access the vicinity. Again, for clarity, this is for everyone's safety, and it is important that this message is communicated that the dangers of proximity to areas under construction and/or plant and machinery is to protect the walkers from harm, and to prevent confusion or hazards for working operatives using machinery in remote areas.</p> <p>The site access tracks, whether it is the wind farm or near the HVDC are not permissible. These fall within zone of construction.</p> <p>It would be useful to know where the walkers entered to ensure our signage is clear and visible and to prevent future occurrence.</p> <p>3. When will the new Sandwater road be finished and handed over to SIC?</p> <p>Summer 2024 – current status is that the next phase of works is nearing completion (upfill of bulk material to underside of final road make-up). Surfacing is likely to take place in Q2 and early Q3 2024 prior to handover for public use.</p> <p>AA asked for any other questions</p> <p>Neil Leask (NL) asked, in regards to the damage on the main roads, speaking of the Brig o Fitch up on the west side, there is a lot of ware on that side of the road and the water is running down the road rather than off the road, and at the top of the Old North road meets the New North road, the water runs down from the old road onto the new road and that was probably caused by construction traffic for the new plant at the back of Staneyhill, you say that is post construction, are we not post construction now?</p> <p>GH replied, no, not quite as essentially it is still a construction site, GH asked if it was possible to get photographs of the area or map details of this area, GH also asked if they could supply What 3 Words locations and he will get things looked into AA agreed that this would be a good way forward.</p> <p>Questions from Sanding & Aithsting CC None</p> <p>Questions from TWWCC None</p>		

Item	Agenda Item	Action	Due
	<p data-bbox="277 304 561 338">Any Other Business</p> <p data-bbox="325 340 400 369">None</p> <p data-bbox="277 510 699 544">Date and time of next meeting</p> <p data-bbox="325 582 387 611">TBC</p>		

