

**ANNUAL VILLAGE MEETING**  
**convened by**  
**GREAT CHESTERFORD PARISH COUNCIL**  
**Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> March 2009, at 7.30pm**  
**in the Community Centre**

**Present for PC:** Peter Fentem – Chairman  
Howard Rolfe  
Sorrel Gordon-Foxwell  
Shirley Clark  
Susan Ross  
Tim Fowell  
Julie Redfern – also Uttlesford District Councillor

Elaine Culling – Clerk

**Present Other:** Robert Chambers – Essex County Councillor  
Members of the Stop Linton Wind Farm group  
42 members of the public

### **1. Chairman's Introduction**

The Chairman welcomed everyone and ran through the agenda. He asked that consideration be given during the meeting to the question whether those present had all the information they needed regarding the Linton Wind Farm application as well as an adequate opportunity to discuss it. If the opinion was that more information was required then the Parish Council was prepared to call a dedicated meeting.

The Chairman drew attention to the new appeal process for planning applications which no longer allows additional comments to be submitted should an application go to appeal. (Copies of the notification from Uttlesford District Council were made available).

The need for 2 new Parish Councillors was emphasised whilst acknowledging the work and support of the current members.

The Chairman finished by saying that the council had been successful in securing £11,000 over and above the precept in grants awarded for highways initiatives, and that this was largely due to work of Cllr Susan Ross.

### **2. Minutes of the 2008 Annual Parish Meeting**

The minutes of the 2008 Annual Parish Meeting were approved.

### **3. Recreation Ground – presentation attached**

Cllr Sorrel Gordon-Foxwell gave a presentation regarding the proposed improvements to the Multi-Sports surface and the Skate Park. It was emphasised

that success in securing grant funding was essential if either project was to progress.

The chairman asked who in the audience had seen the Skate Ramps in Saffron Walden. Just 5 people had. The Chairman encouraged the others to do so as the smaller of the 2 Saffron Walden ramps was built by the same company selected by the Parish Council to carry out the improvements at Great Chesterford.

**Q.** How confident was the Parish Council in raising the funds required for the work?

**A.** A number of funds have been applied to, the outcome of which is still awaited. In the meantime local fund raising was underway.

#### **4. Linton Wind Farm**

The Vice-Chairman of the Stop Linton Wind Farm group (Jim Heathcote), who has personally been involved in renewable energy for 10 years, explained the position of the group regarding the proposal – they are concerned about the environment but are of the opinion that the development is out of proportion and in the wrong location.

He explained the problem with wind power:

- When there is no wind, there is no energy being produced.
- When there is too much wind, there is no energy being produced.
- During night time there is sufficient energy being produced by nuclear power.
- During the day time, in order to ensure a consistent supply of energy, there is the need to provide a parallel provider.

These problems exist because of the inability to store the electricity generated.

He stated that everyone pays for these initiatives, even though they may not be a viable source of power, through additional charges on electricity bills.

There was now a short film entitled '*Wind Turbines The Issues*'. This covered the following topics:

- Noise problems
- Landscape impact
- Health – Wind Turbine Syndrome & Vibro Acoustic Disease
- The affect on house prices
- The affect on birds
- Technical issues

At the end of the film the Vice-Chairman added that there is currently no regulation in place regarding how near a wind turbine can be located to a property and that once land has been designated as suitable for wind turbines experience has shown that further applications for additional turbines will be forthcoming.

Finally Mike Barnard, a Wind Farm expert outlined his experience in fighting a similar Wind Farm development at Boxworth. Since his success there he has gone on to advise other groups including the Stop Linton Wind Farm group. He emphasised that although this area had the lowest wind speeds in the country the

company building the Wind Farm would still make money as a result of the subsidies they would receive.

Both Julie Redfern and Robert Chambers expressed concern regarding the visual impact of the proposed turbines at Linton.

**Q.** Of the sites you have seen, how did the Linton site compare

**A.** It would be very difficult to justify this development.

**Q.** The letters from South Cambridgeshire District Council have stated that only material considerations will be taken into account. What does this mean?

**A.** Things such as the affect on house prices or the detriment to your view do not count as material considerations, whereas the noise and the affect on Linton Zoo do.

**Q.** Can you explain the concentric circles on the map displayed and contained in the application?

**A.** The 5km circle shows the area of major landscape impact; the 2km circle shows the area of major noise impact. There are currently no regulations in England regarding the distance between turbines and residences; Scottish Planning Policy 6 states there should be a distance of 2km.

**Q.** Has a wind turbine ever been struck by lightning.

**A.** Yes.

**Q.** Is the 2 km distance a safe measure of distance for noise.

**A.** This depends on the topography of the land, the structures themselves and the wind pattern.

**Q.** Are the turbines a risk to low flying aircraft?

**A.** No as aircraft know where they are and avoid them.

The Chairman, Peter Fentem thanked the Stop Linton Wind Farm group for their presentation and asked for a show of hands from the audience regarding whether they felt that residents of Great Chesterford would be put at risk by the proposed development. There was almost unanimous agreement.

## **5. Highways**

Cllr Howard Rolfe covered 2 main topics – traffic speed and the condition of the roads.

### **Traffic Speed**

The introduction of a 50mph speed limit has been approved by Essex County Council for both the B184 and B1383 between Stump Cross and Saffron Walden/Littlebury. There is currently a delay in implementation due to an objection being received.

A grant has been received for the supply and installation of a Vehicle Activated Sign which will be installed at the Community Centre end of the village, on the approach from Stump Cross.

A grant has been received to enable a Community Speed Watch group to be established within the village.

The request for a 20mph speed limit within the village has been put into the Essex County Council plan for 2009/10.

### **Condition of Roads**

The proliferation of potholes in the region, as a result of the weather, has led Essex County Council to invest a further £700,000 over and above its budget in order to address this issue.

The resurfacing of the B184 between Great and Little Chesterford has had to be delayed and is now part of the draft programme for 2009/10.

There was a successful Parish Visit earlier this year at which a number of highway/pavement defects were noted.

**Q.** There are a number of potholes in Cow Lane that are in need of urgent attention as well as the need to install a proper drainage system.

**A.** Noted and to be forwarded to Essex County Council.

**Q.** The installation of the replacement traffic barrier on the B1383 has left the footpath in a poor condition.

**A.** Noted and to be taken up with Essex County Council.

**Q.** When the B184 is resurfaced could a more effective rumble strip be installed.

**A.** Advice on this matter will be sought from Essex County Council.

**Q.** Is there anything that can be done regarding poor visibility to the left as you exit right from the High Street onto the B184?

**A.** It is hoped that the consistent 50mph limit will help in this matter.

**Q.** Can something be done about increasing the number of street lights on the High Street as the lack of columns causes pools of darkness along the road?

**A.** Noted and to be considered by the Parish Council.

## **6. Parish Council Q & A Session**

**Q.** Why was contaminated material still evident on the Recreation Ground following the recent sewage leak?

**A.** Information received from Anglia Water stated that after 28 days the material would no longer be a hazard. The removal of the waste will be looked into.

**Q.** What was being done about the problem with moles at the Recreation Ground, especially in the Play Area?

**A.** Noted and to be considered by the Parish Council.

**Q.** What was being done about the litter in Cow Lane and alongside the B184?

**A.** A 'Village Litter Pick' was suggested and will be considered by the Parish Council although residents are encouraged to be pro-active in solving this problem.

**7. Chairman’s Concluding Remarks**

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending and hoped that they would remain for refreshments. The Linton Wind Farm application documents were available to see and the Stop Linton Wind farm group on hand to answer any questions.

Meeting closed at 9.10pm.

**Signed (Chairman).....**

**Date: 24<sup>th</sup> March 2010**