**Minutes of Meeting.**

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| **Meeting title** | Community Liaison Group – Substation South |
| **Location** | Fosdyke Village Hall |
| **Date/ time** | Thursday 1 December 2022 |
| **Originator** | ODOW |
| **Attendees** | Andrew Acum – Group Facilitator – ODOW - AA<br>Roisin Aldis – Onshore Consents Manager – ODOW - RA<br>Chris Jenner - Development Manager – ODOW - CJ<br>David Wright – Land Manager – ODOW - DW<br><br>Mike Cooper – Boston Borough Council - MC<br>Kerry Gratton – Fosdyke PC - KG<br>Thomas Sneath – Moulton PC - TS<br>Simon Walsh – South Holland District Council - SW<br>Anthony Casson – South Holland District Council - AC<br>Ian Pennington – Weston Parish Council - IP |
| **Apologies** | Alison Austin – Lincolnshire County Council<br>Richard Austin – Lincolnshire County Council<br>Jane King – South Holland District Council |
| **Purpose of meeting** | 1. To involve key local stakeholders in the design and development of the Outer Dowsing Offshore Wind project (landfall, onshore cable route and substation) through presentations, discussions and planned workshop activities.<br>2. To act as a two-way communication channel between local communities and the project team.<br>3. To help foster local involvement and ownership of the project. |
| | **1.** **Chair's welcome and introductions**<br><br>CJ opened the meeting and welcomed all members to the group. Each member of the group introduced themselves. |

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| | **2.** | **Terms of Reference**<br><br>CJ checked that everyone had received a copy of the terms of reference and explained the purpose of the CLGs.<br><br>CJ then ran through the terms of reference on screen and these were agreed by the group. |
| | **3.** | **Project Overview**<br><br>CJ ran through a presentation to bring everyone up to speed with the project including:<br><br>• Background to partners and project<br>• Offshore proposal<br>• Onshore proposal<br>• Grid connections – two possible options – Lincolnshire Node and Weston Marsh (based on recommendations from the Offshore Transmission Network Review) but will be National Grid's decision which one is progressed. Decision expected in the New Year. Currently looking at the two options in parallel until one of them drops away.<br>• Landfall<br><br>AC asked how deep the cables would be buried. CJ explained that they would be in ducts at a depth of 1.2m although they could be deeper if necessary. AC asked if this would be deep enough to prevent any EMF. DW said that at this depth, any EMF at surface would be negligible.<br><br>IP asked how deep the cables would need to be to get under the River Welland. DW said that the team would be speaking to the Environment Agency to get a better understanding of the river, but normally they would drill around 2m below the river bed. This would be horizontally direct drilled (HDD) from one field on one side to another field on the other side so it would not disturb the river or its ecology. CJ said that the same technique will be used at the landfall to go under the beach and sand dunes. |

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| | | IP said nothing much had been mentioned about a substation north of the Welland at Surfleet Marsh. DW explained that the search area stretches from Weston Marsh to Surfleet Marsh and the team is undertaking detailed technical analysis to decide the optimal location with minimal visual impact.<br><br>AC asked who would make the final decision on the project. DW explained that this would be the Secretary of State but local councils will be statutory consultees.<br><br>TS asked if Lincolnshire Node was the preferred option as it would involve less cabling. DW explained that the cable route is one consideration, but it would also depend on when a connection would be available as an earlier connection date would mean that the project could start generating earlier.<br><br>TS asked when the turbines would be installed. DW said the decision on the DCO would hopefully be in 2026. There would then be a period of mobilising contractors and construction would start in 2026/27. CJ added that the turbines are likely to be installed in parallel with the onshore works.<br><br>CJ told the group that a Planning Performance Agreement has been set up with the district and county councils so the costs of all officer time spent on advising on the project is now covered by this.<br><br>CJ explained that the project is also looking at supporting bio-diversity net gain projects. This is about not only returning the landscape to its original condition, but actually enhancing it. The project is currently looking at a number of possible schemes supporting environmental, nature, woodlands and public amenity/visitor sites. The project is also looking at establishing a community benefit fund.<br><br>AC asked if this was the same thing as a Section 106 agreement. CJ said it is very similar but it is the mechanism used for an NSIP. AC asked if this is negotiable. CJ said it is to an extent and the project is currently looking at processes and a framework through which projects can be identified, funded |

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| | | and delivered. The project is aware of some third party organisations that have been used previously in the area to successfully administer community benefit funds on similar projects.<br><br>AC said additional funding was welcome but it seemed like blackmail. CJ explained that it was right that the project provided some compensation for the areas that will be temporarily affected. MC said he had worked with the Bicker Fen community fund and the process and framework worked well.<br><br>IP said that with the power station all the funds went to Spalding and not the local parishes. He felt that the funds should go to the communities most affected by the project. DW said it was normally based on impact, and as the substation would have the biggest impact, the substation area would probably receive the biggest allocation of the community fund.<br><br>IP asked how much land the substation would require. CJ said that both HVAC and HVDC technology are still being assessed, but there is a size difference depending on which technology is used. DW explained that Bicker Fen uses HVDC which requires larger and higher substation infrastructure. No decision has been made yet for Outer Dowsing.<br><br>IP asked whether the turbines generated HVAC or HVDC. CJ said that they generate HVAC. IP asked if Viking Link was generating HVDC. CJ explained that Viking Link is just a transmission cable between the UK and Denmark and not actually generating so uses HVDC to reduce power loss. Triton Knoll generates and transmits HVAC as it is close enough to the Grid to transmit without significant losses. DW explained that HVAC has higher losses during transmission than HVDC. At a certain distance there is a tipping point where it is more economical to build convertor stations and transmit using HVDC rather than have the power losses from HVAC. |

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| | **4.** | **Issues Raised at Public Information Days**<br><br>CJ outlined the main themes raised at the public information days:<br><br>• Energy security is a key issue – now probably bigger than climate change. Offshore wind is now one of the cheapest forms of electricity generation<br>• Shared experiences (good & bad) from Viking & Triton Knoll, the following issues noted:<br>  • Chopping down of trees for access turning points<br>  • Dust<br>  • Traffic & air quality (in particular the 40mph temporary zones in place 24/7)<br>  • Limit to HGVs through Boston - air quality<br>• Grid connection options - views vary depending on location of attendees<br>• Constraint to expansion of economic development from lack of grid capacity at distribution voltages<br>• Useful information & feedback for substation search zones – feedback on ecology, access, transport, visual impact, noise<br>• Concerns for cumulative impacts for future projects – planning coordination and what's coming next?<br>• Interface with National Grid wider works – Where? When? How will they consult?<br>• Temporary impact on agriculture, food security & restoration. Construction will require temporary access to a small strip of land 80m wide to put the cables in.<br>• Archaeology<br>  • The Salterns<br>• Ecology and ornithology<br>  • The coastal communities of Lincolnshire have an inspiring fondness for nature<br>  • We want to encourage, support and foster this.<br>  • Ideas for bio-diversity net gain. How can ODOW get involved?<br>• Community benefit engagement and Biodiversity Net Gain – feedback from community |

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| | | IP said that the increase in fuel prices will also be seen in food prices if land is taken out of agricultural use to build a 'power station'. TS pointed out that many farmers are paid not to farm land, and that there is enough land in Lincolnshire for food production whilst also contributing towards energy security. TS asked if offshore wind is cheaper than nuclear. CJ confirmed that it is significantly cheaper. TS said that it is a substation that is being proposed not a power station, and that there would be minimal disruption which would be little different to existing agricultural work. He said that National Grid is already paying him not to use electricity at certain peak times and this situation is only going to get worse. DW confirmed that 9.2 hectares (excluding landscaping & drainage) is required for the substation electrical footprint which was insignificant in terms of the amount of arable land farmed in the UK.<br><br>SW asked what increase in capacity of UK production the project would represent. CJ said that ODOW has a 1.5 gigawatt capacity compared to a typical national peak demand requirement of 40-45 gigawatts. The project will provide enough electricity to power 1.6 million homes.<br><br>SW asked how many other schemes are in the pipeline. He said that the development process is far too long as the energy crisis is happening now. CJ said that this is just one of a number of projects which are either generating, in construction, consented or in development and that there are 8 gigawatts of Round 4 projects currently in the development pipeline with around 15 gigawatts currently installed. The government is aiming for 40 gigawatts to be installed by 2030, with an ambition for 50 gigawatts by this date.<br><br>SW asked if the site and infrastructure could be expanded. CJ said that Crown Estate have licenced a fixed capacity. Any increase would require a new licensing round.<br><br>SW asked if additional infrastructure could be included that would provide future capacity. CJ said |

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| | | that this is called anticipatory investmentand is very difficult to finance. DW added that investment is also linked to the length of the lease and there is no guarantee that the lease could be extended to cover any additional costs. In addition, National Grid can only plan for what they know. The OTNR is a strategic vision for how the Grid can transmit electricity from the known offshore projects. |
| | **5.** | **Question and Answer Session**<br><br>TS asked whether there was sufficient finance in place to complete the project. CJ said the two partners behind the scheme are amongst the biggest energy and infrastructure organisations in the world and are completely committed to low carbon projects. Outer Dowsing is one of their flagship schemes.<br><br>TS asked whether the project was waiting for any other investors to come on board. He asked if there was sufficient finance in place to build the project and start generating. CJ explained that the final Financial Investment Decision (FID) is made when consent has been obtained, there is an agreed Grid connection, suppliers are lined up who are ready and able to build it and the shareholders are happy. If the FID is agreed at this point, then the money is ringfenced to build the project. FID is expected in 2026 but the partners have already committed to get the project to this stage. The Green Investment Group is one of the biggest private investors in UK Offshore wind.<br><br>IP asked whether the project would have any involvement in the National Grid connection decision. CJ clarified that the project feeds into the process so that National Grid understands the project requirements but has no input into the choice of location. It is a fairly arm's length relationship as National Grid has statutory duties. |

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| | | SW said that if Lincolnshire Node is chosen it looked like that could mean a later connection date. DW said that it was in everyone's interests to get a connection as soon as possible. |
| | **6.** | **AOB**<br>None. |
| | **7.** | **Chair's closing remarks and next steps / next meeting**<br><br>CJ thanked everyone for attending on a cold night. Minutes and the presentations will be circulated to the group members. Any further questions can be raised at any time via the website, freephone number or Freepost address. The team would like continuous dialogue with communities as decisions made now can have the biggest impacts.<br><br>The next meeting is pencilled in for February but AA will be in touch with details in due course. |
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| **Meeting Protocol** | |
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| Distribute agenda before meeting | Fix responsibilities for each item |
| Start on time | Finish on time |
| Set out your ground rules | Publish minutes / actions |
| Stick to the agenda | Continuous improvement |