

## Freckleton Parish Council

### **Minutes of Public meeting held on Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> January 2014 to listen to the concerns of the residents of Freckleton on the proposed exploration well to be drilled on the Marsh.**

**Present:** Councillor, St J Greenhough (Chair)

Councillors, T Fiddler, T Threlfall, Mrs. L Willis, L Rigby, Mrs M Whitehead, P Walton, C Robb, Mrs. G Cowell, Mrs. J Cartmell and K McKay

The Chairman opened the meeting and informed everyone that it had been called to listen to the views and concerns of the residents of Freckleton. He stated that if anyone wished to speak please would they first state their name and confirm their Freckleton address.

He went on to state that the Council does not support one view or the other but has a responsibility to all of the Community to ensure the proposed exploration well development, on the Marsh, is properly controlled.

In addition, he stated that, after the Council meeting in November, when concern was expressed about the proposed Fracking on the Marsh, Councillor Threlfall has been in touch with Cuadrilla and he has recently received a letter from them stating that the proposed well, on the Marsh, will only be a vertical exploration well, to extract rock samples from the deep shale below, and will not be used for Fracking. Afterwards the well be sealed and returned to its former condition.

The following issues were raised by the residents of Freckleton:-

- a) Will there be any financial benefits to the Village when fracking starts and will all Parishes in the Fylde benefit or only the Parish where the well is sited.
- b) There will be a danger of damage to the land fill site, adjacent to the proposed site for drilling on the Marsh, as this unit contains toxic, low level radio-active and hazardous materials.
- c) Fracking should not be allowed on the Marsh, at Freckleton or on the Beckonsall site, on the South side of the river
- d) There would be damage to properties due to possible earth tremors.
- e) The value of properties in Freckleton would be reduced considerably.
- f) Insurance companies would not cover damage to properties and there would be no other re-dress.
- g) Chemicals used in fracking would pollute the land.
- h) What is the timescale for the comments to be made regarding the licensing and planning applications.
- i) Will the possible earth tremors have an impact on the flights in and out of BAE.
- j) The large volume of Lorries, used to dispose of the materials from drilling, will cause damage to roads and properties in the Village.
- k) If drilling is approved on the Marsh what steps will be taken to stop demonstrations impacting on the residents of Freckleton.
- l) Will the regulations for fracking be checked thoroughly.
- m) Will the exploration of the gas help to reduce the energy bills.
- n) Where will Cuadrilla be siting the drilling wells for the Fracking in the Fylde.
- o) Do we need shale gas and why has other Countries banned exploration for this type of gas.

During the meeting:-

Councillor Threlfall explained that the Government has recently set up an “Office of unconventional gas” and he was in the process of arranging a meeting with this body for the Fylde Councillors and some from the Parishes and to include representatives from the anti fracking groups. The points that have been raised at this meeting will be progressed with them.

Councillors Fiddler explained that licensing and planning applications would have to be approved by LCC before any drilling could start on the Marsh.

It was also explained that the Parish Council does not have any direct input to influence the decisions that may be made, but if approval is granted for the drilling to proceed, it will endeavour to ensure that the regulatory processes are in place and will observe that the statutory health and safety regulations are up to scratch and enforced.

The Council agreed to consider a request to hold another public meeting and to invite representatives from Cuadrilla, the Lancashire County Council and an expert from the anti-fracking group to seek answers to the issues that have been raised.

After all the comments had been received the Chairman closed the meeting by re-iterating that all the concerns, raised at the meeting, have been noted and the Council will endeavour to progress them.

**Signed**.....St. J Greenhough, Chairman.....

**Date**.....03/02/14.....