

**Minutes of Extra Ordinary Council Meeting held on Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> December 2024  
In Rawstorne Centre.**

**Present:** Councillor, K McKay (Chair)

Councillors, Mrs. C Thomas, Mrs. D Dickinson, Mrs. P Mulholland, T Threlfall, N Whalley, Mrs. N Griffiths and A Smith.

Cllr. B. Duckworth, Chair Newton & Clifton PC, Cllr. P. Morgan, Vice Chair Newton & Clifton PC

**1) To accept Apologies for Absence.**

Cllrs. T Fiddler, Mrs L Willis Mrs, Mrs. J Atherton and F Craig-Wilson – (other business)

It was resolved to approve the reason for absence.

**2) To record Declaration of interest from members in any item to be discussed.**

None.

**3) To receive an update on the Windfarm project.**

As there were two visiting Councillors from Newton & Clifton PC, introductions were provided by all attending.

A brief was provided on the status of the Morgan & Morecambe Wind Farm Project by Cllr. McKay. This has entered the formal stages of Planning Section with the issue of the Section 56 order by the applicant on 13<sup>th</sup> December 2024. All Registrations to be able to speak at the formal Planning Review have to be entered by midnight on 27<sup>th</sup> January 2025. Each Registrant has to provide an outline of all issues that they wish to cover at the registration stage and no additional issues will be permitted later.

Generation of the Registration submissions has commenced and will be circulated in advance of the due dates, with the intent of having the Freckleton draft ready for the January PC meeting.

The Freckleton submission will feature the identification of an alternative proposed routing for the power from the wind farm as a major feature. Investigations completed to date, supported by expert advisors to the National Grid, have confirmed the viability of the alternative and stated that the concept would be both preferable and cheaper. Full details will be in the submission.

Cllr Morgan then briefed the meeting on the proposal to gather the affected Town and Parish Councils together with a view to seeking representation by an experienced King's Council to present the case to the Planning Enquiry. To date, Newton & Clifton have been receiving advice, initially on an unpaid basis, from Andrew Walker, KC. To progress, it is proposed that the affected PCs band together to provide the necessary funds to engage Broadfield UK (for whom Mr Walker operates) to prepare the formal submissions under the Section 56 notice on behalf of the group of Parish and Town Councils. The company specialises in Development Consent Orders (DCOs). It was noted that Fylde BC will be making their own submissions, but that there would be a need to collaborate to ensure consistency. Cllr T. Threlfall will be taking part in the Fylde activity and agreed to liaise between the groups.

To manage the process, a "Transmission Assets Steering Group" is proposed, made up of members of the Parishes and Town Councils that are affected. A draft Terms of Reference was presented and is attached to these minutes, (see Appendix A) together with a

Statement of Proposal from Broadfield for the initial work and costs associated with preparation of the submissions. (See Appendix B).

The question posed was whether or not Freckleton PC would join with the other PCs and Town Councils in the activity, including provision of funding to meet the anticipated costs. The initial costs, covering the submissions preparation, was quoted as £9000, to be split between the Group members. The total predicted costs associated with the task to completion of the inspection process is estimated as being between £100000 and £150000 with the idea being the costs are spread according to the number of residents in each Council area. This would suggest a cost to Freckleton PC of between £10000 and £15000.

It was agreed that a maximum cost of £10000 overall should be approved, recognising the risk of a possible increase to £15000 in total, with a maximum initial cost for the submission work being £3000 which would become due in January 2025.

Further, the meeting agreed that Cllr K. McKay should be the Freckleton representative on the Steering Group. The first meeting of this group will be on 18<sup>th</sup> December 2024.

There being no further business, the meeting closed with the recommendation that this subject be included on the Agenda for the next Parish Council meeting.

Signed.....Mrs. N Griffiths, Chairman.....

Date...06/01/25.....

## Appendix A

### Transmission Assets Steering Group Terms of Reference

#### Objectives

1. To oppose the proposed transmission assets for the Morgan and Morecambe off shore windfarm

#### Method

2. To commission Broadfield to provide professional support and advice throughout the Section 56 process. To agree a project brief and agree funding for each stage of this work.
3. To inform representations to the Section 56 process and consider how best these be shared with contributing partners
4. To support contributions to the Preliminary Hearing and subsequent hearings

#### Membership

5. Each contributing partner shall be a member and have a seat on the steering Group.
6. For larger impacted Parish and Town Councils this should be at least £10K.
7. For other Parish and Town Councils and other supporting bodies this shall be at least £2K.

#### Officers

8. At its first meeting the Steering Group will elect the following officers who need not be members of the Group:
  - a. Chair
  - b. Secretary
  - c. Treasurer
  - d. Fylde BC liaison officers

#### Funding

9. The funding for this group will be managed by the Clerk of Newton with Clifton Parish Council. It shall be drawn down on a proportionate basis for each stage of work when it is agreed. The Treasurer will provide the link between the Steering Group and Clerk. VAT will be reclaimed and recycled into the group.

#### Quorum and decisions

10. The quorum shall be 50% of the membership.
11. All decisions to be agreed by at least 50% of those present.

#### Meetings

12. Meetings shall be called by the Secretary and held at least monthly for the duration of the work

## Appendix B

### **MORGAN & MORECAMBE WIND FARMS TRANSMISSION ASSETS DCO Proposal to act for Newton with Scales Parish Council and others**

#### **About us**

We are Broadfield UK, a full service law firm based in London. Note that we were called BDB Pitmans until 2 December, when we changed our name to acknowledge our membership of a new international network - see [here](#) for more details.

Our infrastructure planning team is one of the largest in the UK and the largest specialising in Development Consent Orders (DCOs) authorised via the Planning Act 2008.

We have acted for the promoters of many DCOs such as National Highways, National Grid, Network Rail and Luton Airport. We have also acted for those objecting to (other) DCOs such as East Suffolk Council in relation to the Sizewell C nuclear power station DCO and DFDS Seaways in relation to the Immingham Eastern Ro-Ro Terminal DCO. Angus Walker will lead on this matter and he has worked in the area of DCOs since the regime began in 2010, it making up the majority of his practice. He is a former chair of industry body the National Infrastructure Planning Association and has published a blog on the regime continuously since 2009.

#### **Our proposal**

We will review the 240 application documents now published on the Planning Inspectorate website [here](#).

We will draft and circulate a 'relevant representation' in the form of a report of several pages by two weeks before the deadline for your comments, then incorporate any comments to produce a final version for submission by the deadline. This will cover all aspects of the project that concern you, such as route selection, environmental impacts including visual amenity and traffic disruption, land take and socio-economic impacts. It will also identify shortcomings with the application in terms of missing, incomplete or incorrect information, and errors or omissions with the process thus far.

We can submit on your behalf or you can do so; either way this will register you as entitled to participate in the examination of the application. You are free to share the representation as you see fit, it will be published on the Planning Inspectorate website shortly after the deadline in any event.

Your aim is either for the project to be refused consent outright, or failing that for its impacts on you and your interests to be minimised as far as possible. We are likely to need to discuss with you what impacts you are particularly concerned about.

For this work our fees would be between £7,500 and £9,000 (plus VAT), reflecting the amount of material it will be necessary to consider and that [the law changed](#) on 30 April this year to require 'full particulars of the case' to be included in relevant representations where practicable. This will become due once the representation has been submitted.

The next opportunity to participate in the consideration of the application will be when the six-month examination starts, likely to be three to four months later. There then follows a fairly intense period of deadlines for written submissions and groups of hearings that are hybrid, with the in-person element being in the area of the project. We can assist throughout and provide fee estimates as required. We can also suggest other ways to interact with the project to slow it down.