

**UNADOPTED
POLEGATE TOWN COUNCIL**



PLANNING COMMITTEE

Minutes of the meeting held on 11th June 2012 at 7.30pm United reformed Church Hall, Victoria Road, Polegate

Present: M Clewett (Chair) **MCI**, T Voyce **TV**, Mrs M Piper **MP**, E Board **EB**, J Harmer **JH** (ex officio) (5)

Not present: Cllr G Carter **GC**, Mrs C Berry **CB** (2)

Clerk J Ognjanovic **JO**

Also present but not voting M Cunningham **MC**(ex officio)

Mrs S Godfrey, Mr C Hale (Admin Assistants)

12 members of the public

Minute No.	Subject/Resolution	Action
10268	Apologies for absence Cllrs G Carter (long term ill health), C Berry (Holiday)	
10269	Declarations of Interest in any items on the agenda None	
10270	Minutes of the planning committee meeting held on 14th May 2012 It was resolved that the minutes be accepted and signed by the chair as accurate. VOTE All in favour	
10271	Opportunity for Public comment Standing orders suspended Two residents spoke against the application WD/2012/2137/MEA ❖ Impact of the turbines on the landscape ❖ Noise accumulation (not minimised by the road) ❖ High density Flicker ❖ Possible interference with new digital TV signals ❖ Noise assessments only done on one turbine, but 5 turbines together have different outcome. ❖ Problems with frequency modulation – vacuum of air causing blades to travel faster and the resulting noise affecting residents ❖ No mention of the standard for spacing in the reports (three times apart than the height of the turbines) and these turbines are not set to the standard of x 3 the height of the actual turbine in distance apart. ❖ Carbon affect is far greater than any green energy produced (the foundations and cables alone have a greater carbon footprint.) ❖ Increase of 1 degree in local temperature due to the blades and the motor heat (around 30 Kilowatts or more) ❖ The efficiency of turbines is stated as 30% but no where has achieved this in UK, around 22.7% is fairly common. ❖ The gear boxes fail and the noise levels increase dramatically when this happens. ❖ European law does not allow houses to be within 2km of a wind farm/turbine. ❖ USA is moving away form wind power and the turbines are being left to rot in situe. ❖ Wind power is subsidised at the rate of about 20%.	

	❖ Tidal energy generation is considered a better way to generate energy locally and could be used 23/24 hours and underground. Standing Orders reinstated	
10272	Planning Applications RECONSULTATION WD/2012/2137/MEA LAND OFF SHEPHAM LANE, NORTH OF A27, POLEGATE BN24 5BT ERECTION OF FIVE WIND TURBINES, ON-SITE ACCESS TRACKS, TEMPORARY SITE ACCESS FROM A27, SITE ACCESS FROM HAILSHAM ROAD, ONE SITE SUBSTATION AND CONTROL BUILDING, ONE PERMANENT METEOROLOGICAL MAST AND ON-SITE UNDERGROUND CABLING. The application was discussed in length. Cllrs commented on the Dutch, Europe and USA moving away from wind generation. Other concerns were cost; unreliable; the environmental impact; health & safety and a nuisance to residents. The more local Glyndebourne turbine was already causing many problems to the local residents. Many pro wind farm petitioners do not live in the area. Not considered to be eco friendly due to the quantities of concrete involved. A wind farm is an industrial power generator. Concerns over decommissioning issues and funding. Extremely unpleasant experiences of offshore wind farm vibrations and sound. Can be seen in the high street and over most of Polegate. Suggestions were made to write to both MPs Norman Baker and Greg Barker regarding the objections to the application. Some Cllrs felt that it could be an infringement of human rights to those who would have to be in close proximity to the turbines for reasons of health. Energy generated does not go locally but to the national grid and therefore no direct benefit to the residents of Polegate at all. A photomontage submitted shows small turbines near to the scoping mast of 70/80m tall, it was felt that the photo was inaccurate and misleading in the way it had been presented. It was resolved that the council submit a letter to Wealden with their objections as follows: "Polegate Town Council continue to oppose the Wind Farm application as previously resolved. Councillors voted unanimously in objection to the above application amendments/addendums with additional comments that ❖ The proximity to residents appears to be contrary to European legislation which indicates around 2km to be the closest acceptable distance from residential properties. ❖ There are serious concerns over intermodulation noise as the turbines are closer than recommended. ❖ The reports do not appear to have addressed the standard spacing, which is 3 times the height of the turbines, which these turbines do not adhere to. ❖ There are also concerns related to noise accumulation. The ❖ documents indicate that the applicant believes the sound will be blocked by the noise of the by-pass. However, it is more likely to accumulate to an unacceptable level rather than minimised by the noise level of the by pass. ❖ There were concerns that the new digital TV signals would be disrupted by the turbines and blades. ❖ The visual impact of the turbines was still of great	

	concern. Particularly in relation to the South Downs National Park. ❖ The carbon footprint created by the foundations alone would not outweigh the energy produced by these turbines. ❖ The turbines by nature of their motor would become a heater in the sky raising the local temperature by approximately 1 degree. As they are rated around 30Kw or more. ❖ Their efficiency was questioned (30% quoted), when it appears that wind turbines generally fail to produce more than 22.7% efficiency in the UK. ❖ It was noted that around the world in the USA and Holland, many turbines have stopped being used because of their inefficiency and have been left to rot in place. ❖ There are other more suitable forms of green energy such as tidal power, which is available 23 hours out of 24. ❖ There were serious concerns that if a wind farm was allowed there would be no bond or protection for decommissioning in the future, as companies can change. ❖ The sound, vibration and local temperature change would change habitats for all local wildlife including birds, bees and worms. This may have serious consequences for the nearby Pevensey levels. RAMSAR site, and SSSI. ❖ There were comments that under European legislation this application is likely to be rejected, and there were comments that human rights could also be affected. (Reports of flicker affecting epileptics, depression and other health issues surrounding wind farms). ❖ The accuracy of the photomontages was also questioned. ❖ There were serious concerns about the noise level increase when gear boxes fail, which is a common occurrence and often happens fairly quickly after installation. " It was resolved to send a letter to both Norman Baker MP and Greg Barker MP stating the Councils opposition to the application. VOTE All in favour of the above objections.	JO JO
10273	Details of Planning Decisions WD/2012/0687/F The Centre, High Street Polegate BN26 6AQ Conversion of existing vacant office space to nine plats with associated parking, cycle and refuse store. Approved by Wealden District Council on 29th May 2012. WD/2012/0813/F 45 Brookside Avenue, Polegate BN26 6DJ Proposed demolition of sunroom and erection of a single storey extension at rear. Approved by Wealden District Council on 7th June 2012.	
10274	Planning Updates/General Information None	

The meeting closed at 7.55 pm