

# INCE BLUNDELL PARISH COUNCIL

## Minutes of Meeting held Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> July 2015

22. Attendance: Cllr K Sharpe (In the Chair), Cllrs, R Jenkins, R Waugh, M Mansour. Mr I R Cowell (Clerk)

23. Apologies: Cllr M Ashton (illness) .

24. **Other Apologies:** Sefton Cllrs' Tim Hale & Catie Page

25. **Other Attendance:** 11 persons

26. **Declarations of Interest:** Cllr K Sharpe re Chairmanship of the H-Alt Group.

27. **Open Forum: a) Lower Alt Wind Farm:** Cllr Sharples set out the background to the previous application by Coriolis and Falck (2012/0873/SCO) regarding a proposal to build 24 turbines in the West Lancashire District Council area of Great Altcar on the other side of the River Alt to Ince Blundell Parish area. The Chairman said Coriolis Energy and ESB Irelands premier energy company were now engaged in a consultation exercise regarding a Wind Farm in the same area as previously with a reduced number of turbines, namely 12. The activities of the H-Alt Group were discussed and any lessons learned outlined. The consultation will involve Exhibitions on 4<sup>th</sup> August at Haskayne Village Hall from 2pm – 4pm and Leverhulme Hall, Great Altcar from 6pm – 8pm. The Exhibition will also take place on 5<sup>th</sup> August at Ince Blundell Village Hall from 10am – 12noon; Lydiate Village hall from 2pm – 4pm and Hightown St Stephens Hall from 6pm – 8pm. Residents were advised not to complete the feedback in the consultation paper but, when the time was right, to submit a personal letter expressing any views they had on any application made by Coriolis/ESB to West Lancashire District Council. The Clerk said he had spoken to two Officers from West Lancashire District Council Planning Department on the morning of 30<sup>th</sup> August who confirmed there was currently no application by Coriolis/ESB for a Wind Farm. The Clerk then read an extract from a statement made by the Rt Hon Amber Rudd. M.P., Secretary of State for Energy, to the House of Commons on 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2015, and also by the Rt Hon Greg Clark, Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government on the same subject. A resident **also pointed out that Chapter 9 of the West Lancashire District Council Local Plan dealt with Wind Energy Development; e.g. 9.6 'West Lancashire Borough Council participated in the Liverpool City Region Renewable Energy Capacity Study (October 2010) which examined the potential for renewable energy generation in the sub-region. The study was in two stages and considered the viability of different forms of energy generation, identified possible constraints and set out suitable areas of least constraint and the greatest**

**resource. The study also identified possible renewable energy generation targets, derived from the Regional Spatial Strategy targets and disaggregated based upon the Borough capacity to generate. Paragraph 9.7 continued: 'The results identified a significant capacity for wind energy generation within the Borough and the Stage 2 analysis applied constraints mapping in order to identify areas of least constraint and greatest potential. Two areas for commercial scale and energy potential were identified in West Lancashire, with the caveat that there would be need to be additional analysis as the study did not account for the landscape impacts or localised feasibility'.** The Clerk observed that the Liverpool City Regional Study mentioned had merely been a table top exercise and, perhaps, too much credence should not be attributed to the statement. Observations on these and other related issues were made by Cllr R Jenkins and the Chairman. It was also suggested that any resident who had contact with West Lancashire Planning Department either by e-mail or telephone should log the time and date. It was also agreed to call a meeting of the H-Alt Group at the Village Hall to be held on Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> August 2015 at 7.30pm. Until this meeting residents were advised to keep 'their powder dry'

A useful web site is **epow.org** which is a European Platform against Wind Farms.

**b) Meteorological Mast:** There was some discussion on the unsatisfactory way in which West Lancs District Council had extended by 18 months the retention of this mast.

**c) Sefton MBCs Local Plan:** The Clerk reported that Sefton's Plan to agree a build of 615 houses per year from 2012 – 2013 had received an initial rejection by the Inspectorate who instead had suggested a build rate of 1250 per annum! Household projections issued in February 2015 had indicated an unexpectedly large rise of 44% against a background of national decline. This rise could not have been foreseen: previous population projections which had underestimated migration into Sefton – this information only came to light following information from the 2011 Census. Further work is being carried out to assess the revised housing requirement figure. Having taken legal advice Sefton had decided to submit their Local Plan for the Inspectors scrutiny as it was felt there was little appreciation of the nature and limited building potential in Sefton as its area was a largely coastal strip of land with problems of flooding, drainage issues, together with a high proportion of Grade 1 & 2 land.

**d) Ince Blundell Hall Grounds:** It was reported a gate or barrier had been erected in the grounds which led to a discussion on Rights of Way through the grounds.

**28. Minutes of Previous Meeting:** Resolved “Approved”.

**29. Matters Arising: a) Local Policing:** A resident described a situation where , due to an accident, the road through the Village was cut off. Despite there being three Police Cars and an Ambulance no Police Officer had taken the initiative to perform point duty to prevent cars coming through the Village instead it was left to the resident and his wife to indicate there was a hazardous situation on the road ahead and that vehicles would have to reverse. The Chairman made a number of observations at this unsatisfactory state of affairs. Touching on speeding through the Village Cllr Jenkins said that they had discussed with the local police the option of training up local residents with speed camera’s in an attempt to cut down the speed of vehicles passing through the Village. However, nothing more had been heard on the matter.

b) **Healthy Waterways Trust:** It had been intended that a meeting would be set up at the Village Hall to give advice to Villagers with cess tanks. However, the Clerk said he had heard no more on the subject.

**30: Broome’s Cross Road – Opening:** Broome’s Cross Road is to be opened and formally named on 19<sup>th</sup> August 2015. The Chairman will represent the Parish Council at this event.

**31. Planning: Solar Park – Orrell Hill Lane/North End Lane, Ince Blundell.** The Clerk said the application by Hive had been turned down by Sefton Planning Committee. On the basis of the report and presentation made at the Planning Committee it was evident that the Officers’ who had drawn up the report and made the presentation to the Planning Committee had not visited the site! A copy of the report was being retained by Hightown Parish Council as it could be used in evidence to oppose any development intended for Hightown

**32. Finances:** a) Current Account:£2319.28.b)Expenditure: I R Cowell Deliver and Collect Accounts by car 38 miles X 45p = £17.10 cheque 1000153; Sefton Partnership of Local Councils £70.00 cheque 100154;Autela Payroll Services £17.50 cheque 1000155;I R Cowell Salary Quarter 1 - £132.00 cheque 100156; Post Office HMRC Tax £30.00 cheque 100157; Autela Payroll Services £17.50 for Quarter 2 – cheque 100158; Village Hall Committee – Room Hire - £25.00 – cheque 100159. **Resolved** ‘Approved’. c) **Audit:** The Clerk reported the audit had been approved by BDO with a minor observation.

***Draft Minutes Subject to Confirmation at the next meeting***

***Chairman.***