

**Dunmaglass Wind Farm
Minutes of Community Liaison Group (CLG) Meeting
2 April 2015**

Attendees:

Jimmy MacPherson – Chair (JMacP)	Strathnairn Community Council
John Murray (JMu)	Strathnairn Community Council
Iain Brown	Stratherrick and Foyers Community Council
Cllr Margaret Davidson (MD)	Aird and Loch Ness Ward
Ian MacGillivray (IM)	The Highland Council (THC)
Colin Ross (CR)	The Highland Council (THC)
Aonghas MacDonald (AM)	RJ McLeod
Jamie Meneely (JM)	SSE Renewables (SSER)
Noel Cummins (NC)	SSE Renewables (minutes)
Ailsa Fraser (AF)	Farr Primary School/Highland Council

1. Welcome and introductions

JMacP thanked everyone for attending the meeting

2. Apologies

- Ross Cowie, SSE Renewables
- Edward Osborne, Strathdearn Community Council
- Margaret Saunders, Strathdearn Community Council
- Catriona Fraser, Stratherrick and Foyers Community Council
- Steve Scott, RJ McLeod
- Cllr Carolyn Caddick, Inverness South Ward

3. Approval of minutes from last meeting

3.1 The only change was the change of meeting date from 18 March to 2 April which was due to the village hall not being available.

3.2 The draft minutes from the meeting held on Thursday 22 January 2015 were proposed by CR and seconded by IM. These are therefore approved as an accurate record of the meeting and will be posted on the project website (www.sse.com/dunmaglass)

4. Matters arising

4.1 At the January meeting it was agreed that representatives from Scottish and Southern Energy Power Distribution (SSEPD) should join the CLG to provide updates about the Farigaig substation project. However, since the meeting, Stratherrick and Foyers Community Council had requested that SSEPD a separate forum in relation to the works and so SSEPD will not be joining the Dunmaglass CLG.

5. Update on Sockich Bends from Highland Council

5.1 CR and IM provided an update on the works. Good progress had been made with up to 85% of the concrete blocks laid and the remaining 15% of blocks would be available to complete the wall after the Easter break.

5.2 The progress had been so good, with revisions to work practices etc, that the completion date had been revised from mid July to mid June and that the 9am to 3pm closures had finished today (2nd April)

5.3 The new regime of traffic management on 13 April (post Easter week where the road would be open) which would be:

- 8am to 9am – short delays with buses prioritised as timetables available
- 9am to 5pm – 20 minute delays under traffic light management (buses prioritised)
- 5pm to 6.30pm – minimal delays

5.4 RJ McLeod have the bus timetables and will work to ensure that delays are kept to an absolute minimum.

5.5 Having shorter delays had been considered but that would lead to a longer completion time. Having the 20 minutes allows RJM to plan and carry out key tasks.

5.6 There was then discussion around the works in general including confirmation that the full width of the road wasn't yet available for use to reduce delays and that the plant needed a certain width to operate safely etc. The hardest thing to balance was getting the works done as safely and quickly as possible and keeping disruption and delays to the minimum possible.

5.7 CR noted that the staff at the works had reported some people driving recklessly which had compromised the safety of the workers including ignoring the red traffic lights. The issue was at the point where the involvement of the Police had been required.

5.8 Keeping people informed of the change in management regime was recognised as important and the road signage would be changed ahead of the 13th April.

5.9 The recent cold weather conditions had presented some additional challenges which were managed well by the contractors and the Councils road teams. Where the weather led to icy conditions on the diversion, the Councils gritting fleet was deployed and the works delayed until the route was safe again to maintain traffic flows etc.

5.10 There was acknowledgement that there had been some complaints from road users but, in general, people were accepting of the works and that the 'short term pain' would be worth the 'long term gain' on works that had been waited for for many years. Everybody was aware that the holiday season was beginning and that everything should be done to avoid unnecessary impact on local businesses.

5.11 Other options for the works were discussed including maintaining the road closure for longer but the feeling was that with the holiday season approaching it would be unwelcome for longer than necessary although the Council would welcome feedback. It was noted that there were a number of people gathering for the Council's public road meeting which was due to start following the CLG meeting and that there would be other ideas/points of view at that meeting.

6. Dunmaglass project update

6.1 JM provided an update on progress which had been limited due to the winter weather resulting in extended periods of very deep snow on site resulting in the demobilisation of much of the plant and personnel for the winter months. This week saw the site beginning to progress again.

6.2 The programme is now that the main civils works will be complete by October after which RJM will demobilise. Work on the on-site substation will continue until it is finished which should be in December.

6.3 The project had been informed of a delay in the date for grid connection and so had taken the decision to delay the arrival of the turbine components. Therefore, the turbine components are now expected to begin arriving in spring 2016 once the 2015/2016 winter weather has cleared.

7. Questions

7.1 It was noted that there were a large number of people waiting to attend the Council's public roads meeting so as there were no further questions JMacP moved to bring the meeting to a close.

8. Date and time of next meeting

8.1 A date was not set but as there are no turbine deliveries due it was agreed to organise a date in June 2016 – to be confirmed.

9. Any other business

9.1 NC noted that this was likely to be his last meeting as he is taking up a new position with SSE in mid May. Details would be provided on who his replacement would be for the period between his changing roles and the return from maternity leave of Marianne Townsley.

9.2 JMacP thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting.