



OLDBURY ON SEVERN PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the

NUCLEAR NEW BUILD COMMITTEE MEETING

Held on Monday 25th February @ 7.45pm at the Memorial Hall

Present: Cllr Keith Sullivan, Cllr Matthew Riddle, Cllr Matthew Clothier, Cllr John Cornock, Cllr Dylan Griffiths, Dr Tony Acton, Ms Gillian Ellis-King (South Gloucestershire Council), Cllr Tony England (Rockhampton PC), Ms Alex Jenner-Fust (Hill parish meeting)
Horizon representatives: Leon Flexman, Claire Loveday, Samantha Stagg (James Reed PR)

Clerk: Emma Pattullo

1 Apologies

Apologies were received & accepted from Cllr Glynn Poole, Cllr Andrew Gregory (Falfield PC) and Mr Barry Turner (NDP committee).

2 Minutes of last meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on 2nd October 2018 were accepted as an accurate record and signed by the chair.

3 Review of actions (not otherwise on this agenda)

Funding of travel & accommodation costs for attendance at Wylfa examination – approved by full council, item OPC2018-11-10.2.

Cloud storage – Account set up on pcloud.com. Free account, gives a single login with 5GB cloud storage, can be upgraded to a paid account in the future to allow greater capacity and/or more users.

4 Presentation by Leon Flexman

Mr Flexman gave an overview of recent events regarding Horizon's efforts to develop nuclear power stations at Wylfa Newydd (Anglesey) and Oldbury. Extensive discussions and questioning took place; the following is a summary of the main points made.

Hitachi, who are the sole shareholder of Horizon, have recently announced that they were suspending work on Horizon's Nuclear New Build projects. Although design and planning has been going well, protracted talks between Horizon and other potential backers, including the UK government, have failed to identify an acceptable financial package to fund the remainder of the development and construction stages.

All construction works at the Wylfa site have been suspended. The Horizon company structure is being greatly reduced, with only a small core of around 10 staff expected to remain in the near future. Many staff will have left by the end of March. The company will continue to exist and Hitachi have given no indications of any intention to sell Horizon. The remaining core staff will continue to manage the company's assets and negotiate with UK Government and others to attempt to secure financial backing to restart the project. Mr Flexman believes that the UK government remain committed to nuclear new build and that the project could still be successful if an appropriate funding mechanism can be found.

The Wylfa site will be maintained and kept ready for future use. The examination of the Development Consent Order at Wylfa is still going ahead; if the process were halted it would take a long time to get it moving again if required. If the DCO is granted, it would be valid for five years.

Regarding local assets in Oldbury, Mr Flexman confirmed that Horizon will continue to hold the existing land and property for now, and that efforts to bring the various farmhouses back into tenanted use will continue. Horizon will also continue their involvement in the local community.

Horizon acknowledge that the ongoing uncertainty will continue to impact residents, especially those close to the site, and will still be available to discuss any concerns which residents might bring to them. The existing contact email and phone number will remain in place, and a newsletter will be produced in the near future.

Members noted that both Mr Flexman and Ms Loveday will be ceasing employment with Horizon within the next few weeks, and asked what assurances could be given that past discussions between them and this committee will be honoured by other Horizon staff in the future? Mr Flexman agreed that they will write to this committee, summarising previous verbal agreements and commitments made between Horizon and OPC.

Action: LF/CL to write as described.

At this point Mr Flexman, Ms Loveday, Ms Stagg and Ms Jenner-Fust left the meeting.

5 Future plans in the light of item 4

Given the uncertainty at this stage, it was agreed that the meeting in April should go ahead as scheduled; by then both the community newsletter and the letter from Horizon should have been received.

Discussion was held as to how frequently the committee should meet after that. It was concluded that a decision will be made at the next meeting.

GE-K noted that SGC will be responding to the Government's next round of consultation on the National Policy Statement (NPS) for new nuclear. This is expected later this year. The previous round of consultation included the re-nomination of the Oldbury site as being potentially suitable for NNB. Leon Flexman had previously confirmed that Horizon would continue to support the re-nomination of Oldbury. As for previous NPS consultation, SGC would draft a response and would seek comments from the Parish prior to finalising their response.

6 Report on attendance at the Wylfa Newydd DCO examination

TA has not yet attended any of the examination hearings but is keeping abreast of the process. Funding remains in place from the parish council to cover travel & accommodation costs of his attendance at a future session if he feels it would be appropriate.

GE-K has attended a hearing session on Transport and Socio Economic Impacts. She reported that the inspectors are very thorough and that any concerns expressed are followed up in detail.

7 Minor items of report or items for the next agenda

None.

8 Closure & date of next meeting

The meeting closed at 9:00 pm.

Next meeting to be held on Tuesday 2nd April at 7:30pm.

Signed as a correct record: