

## **Minute of the Tinker Lane CLG held in Lound Village Hall at 7pm on Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> February 2016.**

**In attendance:** Christie Willis, Rob Boeuf, George Fridlington, Ann Fraser, Chick Fraser, Tracey Taylor, Peter Thompson, Julia Kershaw, Maureen Holgate, Bev Fullwood, Bob Kendall, Derek Cooke, Jayne Watson, Gordon Grant, Rhonda Miller.

### **1. Welcome and apologies**

Christie welcomed everyone to the meeting and extended a special welcome to Derek Cooke who will be representing the Ranskill community. Apologies were received from Tony Roberts, Liz Taylor, Sheila Place, Michelle Field.

### **2. Presentation by Jayne Watson**

Jayne is a member of the Misson Parish Council and had been invited to attend to share her experiences of living in a parish where IGas plan to drill an exploratory well.

She stated that the first thing anyone knew about the plans was when Tesla arrived to carry out 3d seismic. They contacted people to ask if they would host nodules. The Parish Council asked Tesla to hold a public meeting in the village, which was well attended. They explained what they were doing, but did not elaborate on why they were carrying out seismic acquisition.

The level of awareness regarding hydraulic fracturing was quite low at this time so the PC set out to raise awareness. They held a village meeting with various speakers and there was also a meeting held by the North East Bassetlaw Forum which debated the issue. These were helpful.

This was followed by a large meeting in Retford which was attended by over 250 people. Then there was a further meeting at Everton which consisted of a debate between Frack Free Bassetlaw and IGas representatives. These were all useful for raising awareness.

At the same time Dart were working at Daneshill and so the PC went and saw the site and spoke to the protestors which was very helpful. In addition some of the members went to Crawberry Hill and West Newton, where there were protestor camps.

A further NEBF meeting was held with the regulators, but the feeling from that event was that there was no joined up working within the regulators and Jayne commented that the PC still feel the same.

Jayne reported that the first CLG meeting was held in June 2014, before a site had been identified.

John Mann came to the village in September of that year. He did not express a view on fracking, but explained the planning process and how people could influence this (he has since been back to reiterate this.) Jayne feels that the lesson from this is that it is all about location. People must comment from a material consideration point of view and these must be specific to the location of the site.

In June 2014 IGas held its first exhibition which was well attended and stimulated a lot of questions. As a result of this the PC brought a list of questions back to the CLG to be answered.

At this time the Frack Free groups became more prevalent/ vocal. They carried out a survey of Mattersey, Wiseton, Everton and Misson which showed that the community were overwhelmingly against fracking in the area. However, because of the stance of the group who carried out the survey it was felt that the questions asked might be leading and so perceived as biased.

Once the site was identified in January of 2015, a scoping report was submitted to Notts CC. Jayne explained that this created a lot of work for the PC, particularly since the site was then moved and so a further scoping report was submitted and required a response from the PC.

In March IGas held a second public consultation which was site specific. At this time the community formed an action group – MCAG. This group was very active, with a focus on raising awareness. The community were getting the IGas view and the action group presented the other view. They used leaflet drops, meetings and film shows. Although these films show the American experience that is all that they had at their disposal at that time.

Jayne pointed out that having a mailing list was particularly important in ensuring people within the community know what is happening. They built up a mailing list during a survey which was carried out by the Parish Council regarding the potential development at Springs Road. They asked people if they wanted to be on the mailing list. It is an electronic list but if people do not have access to the internet then they are contacted by phone. Jayne stated that this is an important way of ensuring two way communication and makes sure that the information gathered at the CLG is disseminated.

The application for groundwater monitoring boreholes was submitted in summer of 2014 and resulted in two rounds of consultations before being approved early this year. The planning application for two exploratory wells is going through the planning process with a second round of consultation likely to start in the coming months. This is quite normal but a lot of work for the Parish Council, who respond to all of these consultations.

Jayne then commented on the recent Open Day which the regulators held in Misson Village Hall. Representatives from OGA, PHE, Notts CC, SHE and EA were present and Jayne feels that they were surprised at the level of turnout and more so, at the level of awareness people have.

It was a useful exercise and the regulators went away with a lot of questions. It also means the PC now have direct contacts within those agencies.

Jayne went on to explain that although Bassetlaw District Council do not decide on planning applications related to hydrocarbons, they are a statutory consultee and so the MCAG asked them to consider the boreholes planning application at their full planning committee. This was agreed and provided an opportunity for Jayne to speak at the meeting to put forward the Misson PC point of view. This was positive and Jayne hopes they will follow the same process with future applications.

She went on to detail what was good and bad about the process.

Raising awareness was the most important duty of the Parish Council – not necessarily only for fracking. The PC often makes decisions without consulting and they have a responsibility to represent the views and needs of the community.

The mailing list has been amazing and made life much easier.

Social media is a useful tool but must be kept up to date. The Misson Hub holds CLG minutes, etc.

The surveys and public engagement was very positive. The PC has a role to give information and the films stimulated discussion. The newsletters were also important in keeping people up to date.

Misson PC have also spent a great deal of time lobbying district councillors and MP's.

They have encouraged people within the community to write to their councillors and not to assume that they know how the community feel. If you don't engage on an individual basis they won't realise that there is an issue.

However, Jayne stated that this is hard work. Keeping up the momentum is difficult. It is important to attend conferences and talk to decision makers but it is difficult to keep up the energy.

It is important to find good, reliable sources of information as there is some bad information out there from both sides. It is important to stick to the facts and use peer reviewed, scientific evidence.

It is also important to remember that fracking is just one issue for the PC, they are very busy with other issues as well.

Rob commented that he felt Jayne and the PC had done a brilliant job. He feels it helped that they were within Misson where the proposed development will only affect one district. The Tinker Lane development will affect various parishes because of its location (he feels that this is why the location was chosen.) It makes it difficult to motivate people.

Jayne commented that people need to know what the impacts of these developments will be as they will be negative.

A discussion then took place about the community benefit scheme. Jayne found it unhelpful that this had not been further defined and was worried that any funding awarded could be swallowed up by Bassetlaw District Council. Gordon explained that there were several schools of thought on this, but that the industry body, UKOOG were leading on this.

Bob suggested that the group should talk to Nigel Mills MP, as he is the chair of the cross party working group and so should influence the community benefit decisions.

**Gordon offered to bring an update from UKOOG to the next meeting.**

Tracey pointed out that people will not have their views towards fracking swayed by the community benefit payments.

Peter suggested that this may not be resolved fully until the scheme comes into practice, he has experienced this many times.

Christie pointed out that the main theme from the Brownfield Briefing was about the need to change how the industry communicates. Why did IGas not communicate with Misson before the seismic acquisition took place?

Gordon explained that IGas do communicate before seismic acquisition as shown in the North West. Neither he nor Rhonda could answer the question above as they were not in post at the time. **They agreed to find out and report back.**

Christie then asked why the parishes were not notified before the scoping report was submitted to Notts CC? Gordon replied that they were notified, as were the local councillors.

Rob suggested that it might have been worthwhile to talk to the parish councillors of a PEDL as a whole when it is awarded. This would negate calls of lack of early consultation.

Bev wanted to know if IGas were talking to any other parishes at present about forthcoming site acquisitions. Rhonda replied that they were not looking at any other sites at present as far as she is aware.

Bob commented that at the Brownfield Briefing event a discussion was had about how the government needs to handle communication about future energy needs so that people feel they are brought along with consultation rather than having policies imposed on them.

Rhonda explained that we cannot inform people about site selections until the site has been secured as there is a concern that protestors will form a camp on the site, which is costly and laborious to then disperse. Bev felt that the protestors respect us in the East Midlands and would not do this.

Derek commented that people are used to heavy industry in this area.

Bev asked Jayne whether she felt Mattersey should carry out another survey now but Jayne recommended waiting until a site is identified within their area. Views become invalidated if the survey is carried out too soon. She also pointed out that this is a huge piece of work, as you have to go door to door, often returning several times before getting an answer.

Rob pointed out that the Tinker Lane group don't have much time, things are moving apace.

A discussion then took place as to whether the Springs Road CLG had been formed too early. The consensus of opinion was that it had been valuable having that time. Bob commented that the community are still engaged although less concerned now. He also commented that there is such a lot to learn that you need as much time as possible.

### **3. Minute of last meeting**

The minute of the joint CLG with the regulators in attendance was agreed as accurate.

### **4. Matters arising**

There were no matters arising

### **5. Open evening dates**

A lengthy discussion followed about whether these events should go ahead and what the group wishes to achieve from these events. In the end it was agreed that there is no point in going ahead with these events, which would primarily be the same as the Charnwood event. The group decided to keep this on the agenda and discuss further at the next meeting.

### **6. Doe Green Visit**

Rhonda put forward three dates for the visit to Doe Green – 21 March, 18<sup>th</sup> or 25<sup>th</sup> April. People will let Rhonda know by e-mail which date is their preference.

### **7. Comments or questions re regulators meeting**

There were no comments or questions

### **8. AOCB**

The group discussed future speakers. It was agreed that there is a need for engineers and geologists to attend from IGAs. The presentation which Kris Bone did at the Probus club was complemented and it was suggested that we ask him to attend a future meeting. It was suggested that Mr Mike Stevenson from BGS should be approached to attend, along with Elizabeth Shepherd who is the Head of Environment from Eversheds.

The discussion then moved on to whether it might be useful to develop and distribute some leaflets. These could act as a conduit for people to be placed on a mailing list as well as providing information. The flyer could inform people that the application is being submitted soon as a way of getting people interested in the proposed development and increasing community involvement. Rob asked if IGAs would pay for these leaflets and Gordon replied that if IGAs were paying for them they

would expect an input on content. **Rhonda stated that she would ask at the Communications meeting the following day.**

**Bob highlighted the leaflet which IGas had distributed at Springs Road and Rhonda agreed to forward this to the group as a 'starter for ten.'**

Derek then asked how any gas would be moved around the area. Rhonda explained that there are lots of options, all of which are being considered. Bob then explained that although gas can go directly into the grid, it needs to be pressurised and dried and odourised first. This is what happens at Doe Green.

#### **9. Date of Next Meeting**

The next meeting will be held on Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> March in Lound Village Hall with the Nottinghamshire County Council Planning officers in attendance.

The following meeting will be held on Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> March in Lound Village Hall with Janice Bradley of Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust presenting.