

**Unconfirmed Minutes of the  
Allerthorpe Annual Parish Meeting 2022  
Held on 13<sup>th</sup> June  
In the Village Hall at 7.30pm**

**Council Members present:**

Laura Brennan    chair

Debbie Forster    vice-chair

Noel Brennan

Clare Metcalfe

Sim Wilkinson

Jane Smith        clerk

Leo Hammond    Ward Councillor    ERYC

Four personnel from Statkraft

Eighteen members of the public

**1. Introduction**

Mrs Brennan welcomed all present.

**2. Minutes**

The minutes of the last AGM were read and approved. Proposed by Mrs Metcalfe, seconded by Mrs Brennan.

**3. Presentation by Charlotte Healey and Lucy Kent from Statkraft**

By way of introduction, Charlotte explained that she is project manager of the Solar side of the business, and Lucy is project manager of the Greener Grid. An amended planning application will be submitted to ERYC by the end of June for a solar farm and a battery storage facility to be built on land between Allerthorpe and Thornton. It is the first time such a co-located project has been planned by Statkraft. This will provide renewable energy, stability of supply, cheaper energy and low carbon emissions.

## **Information given and points raised**

### Reasons for choosing this location

- a) Good grid connection via substation at Thornton, for distribution of electricity.
- b) Available moderately productive agricultural land (the grading of the land as moderate was questioned by a member of the public).
- c) National Grid are Statkraft's clients and they can dictate where sites are located.

### How it will work when completed

Solar panels produce electricity, but cannot store it. Electricity is stored in batteries and put into National Grid when demand requires it.

### Project lifetime

Once completed, it has a lifetime of 35 years, after which the land will be converted back to agricultural use. Leo Hammond explained that in planning terms this is called a temporary use of the site.

### Other benefits

- a) Biodiversity – wild flower mixes will be sown around, but not underneath, solar panels. Flora and fauna encouraged, e.g. badger gates, so they can roam freely in solar panel areas, but not where batteries are stored for health and safety reasons.
- b) Local businesses will be used during construction for eg business supplies and accommodation.
- c) Community benefit fund - £20,000 per annum will be available for local projects. It has yet to be decided how this will be allocated. Mike Sutton volunteered to be on a liaison committee when it is set up.

### Construction

- a) Will be 5 days per week
- b) Abnormal loads to come during the night
- c) Traffic will not be going down Waplington Lane, a map was shown of the amended route.
- d) A member of the public asked why site traffic is coming through Allerthorpe, when there are better routes to the south of the site. The Statkraft team promised to have another look at this.
- e) Rights of way will not be used by site traffic although there will be one crossing point.
- f) There will be a traffic assessment as an appendix to the planning application.
- g) Most of the solar panels are constructed in China.

## Warren Farm

The proximity of the site to Warren Farm Cottages was a major concern to residents of Allerthorpe. Statkraft said they had increased the gap between the dwellings and the solar panels, and moved some panels to go in the dead space under the existing power lines. Much discussion took place with the aid of map of the area.

## Other concerns raised

- a) Landscape Impact - Statkraft assured that screening will be maximized using fast growing tree and hedge species, which will be purchased locally.  
Public right of ways have been widened, giving a larger width with screening on each side.  
Under the panels, the grass will be kept short for safety reasons, this will be by mowing or grazing.
- b) Noise Pollution – Noise tests will be carried out. A member of the public was concerned about humming from the batteries. Statkraft will carry out further noise assessments when a provider of batteries has been appointed.
- c) Light Pollution – Statkraft assess the panels and take orientation into account to make sure there is no visual disturbance. There will be no permanent lighting. Any lighting will be motion-sensored.
- d) Size of site – Statkraft don't envisage site getting any bigger \*\*
- e) Why not use brownfield sites? Statkraft said that there are not enough brownfield sites in suitable locations.
- f) Are the batteries safe? Statkraft assured that Health and Safety is an absolute top priority. Everything is carefully monitored and checked by an operations maintenance team. There will be a 3.4 metre fence round the Greener Grid Park where the batteries are stored.
- g) What communication will there be between the village and Statkraft during and after construction? There will be online information on the website and also local meetings with a liaison group.

\*\* Since the meeting a Councillor has asked for the total number of hectares of the site, and how this compares with other similar sites in the country.

Mrs Brennan, thanked the Statkraft team for addressing the meeting.

There being no further business, the meeting was closed at 20.55.