

Note of the meeting of the Staveley Solar Farm CLG held in Manton Village Hall on Wednesday 2nd April 2025

In attendance:	Kenneth Siddle	Wing Parish Council
	Cllr Andrew Johnson	Rutland County Council
	Bob Purves	North Luffenham Parish Council
	Ruth Blinch	Manton Parish Council
	Mitch Ward	Pilton Parish Meeting
	Jayne Williams	Pilton Parish Meeting
	Kevin Atkinson	Morcott Parish Council
	David Riley	Anglian Water
	Matt Cotterill	Anglian Water
	Eric Montmean	TotalEnergies
	Rhonda Miller	Total Energies

Note of Last Meeting

Subject to the date being amended, this was accepted as an accurate record. A request was made that in future at the end of the note, we highlight any actions to be taken and by whom.

Alternative Route

Eric provided an update on the alternative route. We are progressing well. Planning will be submitted mid April, then the Council have 13 weeks to make a decision (week commencing 14th July) though we will attempt to expedite that. It was suggested that some Parish Council's may want to submit letters of support.

Cllr Johnson confirmed that things could be expedited if the Council decides on an Officer decision using delegated powers rather than going to Committee.

Eric expects that work would not start on the site until the alternative route had been decided upon.

**Action: TotalEnergies to provide a timeline detailing construction programme.
Rhonda to inform CLG members when application is submitted and another once the application has been validated.**

Construction Update

Cllr Johnson mentioned that there had been some roadworks near the site recently and that he had contacted Rhonda who confirmed they were nothing to do with Staveley Solar Farm. However, it was noted that the road was too narrow for these types of restrictions and the traffic cones had ended up all over the road, which was a risk.

Rhonda and Eric confirmed that the construction team have been briefed to communicate and in particular, listen to the community and any concerns they may have. The Construction Manager will be available as the first point of contact.

Cllr Johnson advised that the best way to contact the parishes is through the Clerk.

He also asked that when bringing materials onto site we arrange for a marshalling area inside the site boundary.

A question was asked about the cable route through Wing and where it will run. It was confirmed that it will run along the carriageway.

Action: TotalEnergies to provide a timeline to lay Cable Route.

Eric stated that the entire construction team will come along to the June meeting. They will be your contacts, under our management.

Eric updated the group with the information that the Section 106 agreement has now been executed and Planning Permission was formalised on the 27th March. The Judicial Review window now runs until the 8th May.

Conditions are being discharged simultaneously and we hope these will all be discharged by 23rd June.

Community Benefit Fund

Rhonda presented a paper detailing the main issues that need to be taken into account when deciding whether to use a Community Foundation or a Community Investment Company to disburse the Community Benefit Fund.

Cllr Johnson said that he has experience in these CIC's and not to be afraid of them. They can generate profit and the cost of annual accounts is generally minimal.

CIC's are useful because they can convert to a charity at any time.

Costs would likely be to cover admin costs, general expenses and the payment of an independent chair.

There was concern about the skills of the CLG – do we have the relevant skills? The use of a Community Foundation would take away the worry.

Regarding the use of a Community Foundation, whilst a 10-15% management fee annually may seem small in the early days, should the fund increase over time this fee will increase.

Cllr Johnson felt that a CIC was useful, especially initially as it is very transparent. It was pointed out that its members do not have to be part of the CLG, but could be community members with an interest and skills.

There followed a discussion on who should benefit from the CBF. It was felt that Morcott, Pilton and Wing should benefit in the first instance, but others suggested different ways of disbursing, including 'South of the water.'

It was agreed that we need to consider the size of a village, how it will be affected, different boundaries and Rhonda suggested that we could use a scoring system, with different areas having higher point scores.

It was pointed out by the group that whilst construction will go, the investment will stay and that this has an enormous potential for communities.

It was agreed that Rhonda will organise a workshop to discuss these ideas further, preferably on a Thursday afternoon. She will invite a representative from Voluntary Action Rutland who will have experience of both CIC's and Community Foundations.

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