



# THE ROOSTER

Roos Village Newsletter

No. 59

December 1998

## ROT? - Roos Opposes Turbines

Over a hundred people crowded into the Memorial Institute on 23rd November. All seats were taken and many present had to stand at the sides and in the doorway. Most had come to express - by an overwhelming vote - their opposition to wind turbines.

Alan Bowden, Chairman of the Parish Council, explained that the meeting had been arranged to give everyone the opportunity to raise questions and voice their opinions.

### Guest speaker

He introduced as first speaker Mr John McWatt, who, at a special public session of Rimswell Parish Council on 17th November, had impressed all present by the extent of his research.

The Rimswell public meeting had rejected the prospect of wind turbines by a vote of 19 to 1. A survey in Rimswell generally revealed that the public were 5 to 1 against.

Mr McWatt gave Roos people a vivid account of his research and his phone enquiries. He had posed awkward questions to many agencies, including Yorkshire Electricity, wind turbine companies, and Drax Power Station. His conclusions confirmed many of the fears of his audience.

### National Wind Power

Leslie Helliwell explained that the special November issue of "The Rooster" had aimed both to advertise the meeting and to present as much information as was currently known. He had hoped to include data from National Wind Power. He had rung up Mr John Ainslie, Development Manager, who had written a long letter and also sent some printed material but it had arrived too late for inclusion. Mr Helliwell read out the letter - reported later in this issue.

### Public opinion expressed

As people present gave their views the Parish Clerk, Alan Santos, was kept

busy trying to note each contribution. The main views expressed are listed below. National Wind Power would probably contest many of them. The list summarises what people said - not what is yet known to be true.

### They said

- Wind turbines are unsightly and spoil the landscape.
- Turbines in Roos would be far higher than Patrington church and Withernsea lighthouse.
- There would be more turbines in Roos than anywhere else locally.
- They frighten horses and other animals.
- Sound from them can carry for long distances and cause stress.
- They may spoil TV reception.
- The "strobe effect" of sunlight reflected from their turning blades gives some people migraines.
- There is a danger from ice thrown from turning blades.
- Wind turbines are inefficient; they generate relatively little power.
- We all pay for them by increased electricity bills.
- Far from saving fossil fuels, their construction uses a great deal.
- Wind turbines would cause local house values to plummet.

Those present opposed wind turbines by an almost unanimous vote.

They also urged Roos Parish Council to request the East Riding to organise a Holderness-wide referendum on wind turbines.

## Correction

E of the village, S of Pilmar Lane

There was an error on page 4, column 2, of the November issue of "The Rooster".

Under the heading "Development limits and housing sites" R. Hodgson and J. Kirkwood were said to have objected to the Deposit Draft of the Holderness District-Wide Local Plan. They were reported as recommending the inclusion as development land of a site east of the village and south of Pilmar Lane.

Mr & Mrs John Kirkwood of Rectory Road, Roos, wish to make plain that the reference in East Riding documents to "J. Kirkwood" must be an error: Mr Kirkwood has not owned land in that area for some ten years and did not lodge the objection referred to.

Mr & Mrs Kirkwood have an interest in only one piece of development land - the small site identified as 1a. They have disposed of their other land.

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*The East Riding document in Withernsea Library names "J. Kirkwood" as one of the objectors. This is true and checkable.*

*It was a natural assumption that the reference was to Mr John Kirkwood of Rectory Road. Since I am now assured that the assumption was wrong it is right to set the record straight.*

*I regret that - in good faith - I passed on a misunderstanding as to the identity of the objector named as "J. Kirkwood".*

*L. Helliwell.*

# National Wind Power Ltd

*Early in November I rang up Mr John Ainslie, National Wind Power's Development Manager. I told him that I was going to print a feature about wind turbines in "The Rooster" and asked for information about his company. His letter arrived too late for the November newsletter but I read it out at the public meeting on 23rd November. L.H.*

12th November 1998

National Wind Power,  
3 Atholl Crescent,  
Perth,  
Scotland. PH1 5NG.

Dear Mr Helliwell,

## **Roos Parish Council : Proposed Wind Farm**

I write further to our recent telephone conversations regarding National Wind Power's investigations for a proposed wind farm near Roos.

Just to introduce myself, I am development manager for National Wind Power (NWP) and have been working in wind energy for 15 years. My responsibilities include the identification of potential wind farm sites and management of the environmental assessment and planning consent process. I have personal responsibility for our proposed project near Roos. I trust that the following information will be of use to you and the Parish Council.

### **National Wind Power (NWP)**

National Wind Power's sole business is the development and operation of wind farms. So far, all of our activities have been in the UK, although we have recently begun work on our first overseas project in the USA. The approach taken by NWP (and our parent company National Power) is one of long-term ownership and operation of each wind farm we develop. As part of that, we find that in each location we develop and maintain good links with the local community and seek to be a "Good Neighbour".

National Wind Power has developed 11 wind farms and currently operates 132 MW of wind power capacity in the UK.

### **Wind Power in the UK**

As you are probably aware, the purpose behind renewable energy is the supply of electricity in ways which do not involve the emission of harmful gases (such as carbon dioxide which is linked to global climate change) and do not rely on finite resources of fuel.

In this sense, it is part of the move towards a more sustainable future following the Rio conference and the Kyoto climate change talks. Recent Ministerial statements have been increasingly supportive of renewable energy, including wind energy, and the Government has set ambitious targets.

There are now some 40 wind farms operating in the UK. The NFFO contract for Roos is one of 33 such wind farm proposals in England and Wales granted NFFO contracts in October of this year.

### **Proposed Roos Wind Farm**

Something over a year ago planning consent was sought for two anemometer masts in the area to measure wind speeds. The result of those tests is that we believe the area has a sufficient wind resource to make a wind farm possible and

we have now secured from the DTI a contract (NFFO contract) for the sale of electricity from such a wind farm, provided an environmentally acceptable design can be arrived at and planning consent achieved.

We are still at a very early stage in our thinking in these matters and we do not have any agreed details as to sizes, numbers or locations of turbines.

What I can say, however, is that we very much look forward to keeping the Parish Council and local residents informed as our thinking does progress and well in advance of any planning application being submitted. As part of this process we wish to take account of those factors which are important to the local community - including any features which may result in positive benefit to the area.

When we reach the point where the outline design is beginning to be firmed up, then I will be very pleased to discuss this with the Parish Council as representatives of the local community and take account of any comments which the Council may have. I hope this will be possible over the next 2 to 3 months.

I appreciate that until at least the outlines of the proposal are settled the Council and indeed local residents will be left with a feeling of uncertainty. If there is anything I can do to provide more general information in the meantime, then do not hesitate to contact me.

### **Public Attitudes**

One aspect that I would like to comment on at this stage is the public response to wind farms. Wherever independent studies have been made of operating wind farms, the results indicate that a majority of local residents support and approve of their local wind farm. For instance, the most recent such survey (conducted around a NWP wind farm) revealed that two out of three people actively supported, with only 3% registering objection.

Having said that, of course what matters is that each individual project needs to be designed with the needs and requirements of the locality firmly in mind.

I enclose some information (*three brochures*) on wind energy and National Wind Power. I will give you a call when I am next in the area. I look forward to meeting you and other Parish Councillors as our ideas progress and exploring our ideas with you.

We are employing a consultant of long experience, Dr Philip Surman, to undertake some local work so you might well come across him or hear of his activity. I offer myself as your main point of contact with National Wind Power but if you ever need to contact Philip Surman his telephone number is 01423 - 325222.

Yours sincerely,

**John Ainslie**  
**Development Manager**

# Roos Parish Council

At the meeting on 14th December the matters discussed included the following. (Not a complete report.)

## The Millenium

Details were available of a scheme to provide trees for planting to mark the millenium.

## Parish Council 1999

If there were more nominations than the nine places available, an election would be held in May. Half of the cost of about £1,000 would be met by the parish. This would add some £500 to the precept already agreed, raising it to £2,000.

## Refuse collection

Details were given of collection dates over Christmas and New Year.

Thursday 24th December  
Monday 4th January  
Saturday 9th January  
Friday 13th January.

## Crime & Disorder Act 1998

The East Riding has compiled an audit prior to formulating a three-year crime-reduction strategy. Public meetings are to be held. The nearest to Roos is to be at Woodmansey on 25th January at 7.30 in the Village Hall, Long Lane.

## Closure of road to Halsham

In January highway maintenance on the remaining stretch south of the church to the T-junction at Halsham will require the road to be closed.

## Planning management

Planning files are to be moved from the former Holderness Borough site at Skirlaugh to County Hall. A new computerised planning system will operate from January 1999.

## Litter bins

The East Riding Council could provide litter bins. The cost would include installation.

## Mineral extraction

The East Riding had sent the Deposit Draft of the Joint Marine Minerals Local Plan. Local councils were asked to report any objections to the plan.

Alan Bowden, Chairman, referred to concern that the extraction of under-sea gravel might accelerate the rate of coastal erosion. The fear had been voiced at the meeting at Skirlaugh on 29th September about the Coastline Management Plan. He wondered if

the Parish Council should respond by mentioning this concern.

In the event the Parish Council did not so respond. No objection was needed since the Deposit Draft itself spelt out conditions concerning the effects of extraction on sea currents and the shoreline. The possible risks were recognised and members assumed that dredging would not be permitted unless the criteria were satisfied.

## Roos abattoir

The Parish Council discussed a planning application to build an extension, "to improve lairage and provide storage for bedding and equipment to improve animal welfare and tidy the site."

Earlier in the month the East Riding had served notice that the £20,000 incinerator at the abattoir had been built without planning permission. Unless consent was granted it would have to be removed. The matter was to go to appeal.

At the meeting the Parish Council received official confirmation of the situation (although it had already been reported in the press). Members disapproved of the fact that the incinerator had been built without planning consent.

Nevertheless they realised that the incinerator issue had no bearing on the application for a building extension, which must be examined on its merits.

They agreed to raise no objection provided that adequate screening was installed - not just a slow-growing hedge - before work started on the actual extension. This was in the interests of neighbouring householders who needed both a visual barrier and a sound barrier between their premises and the proposed extension.

## Next Meeting

**Monday 11th January  
7.30 p.m.**

**Roos Memorial Institute  
All welcome  
Public session at the close.**

## WANTED

**Volunteers to help deliver The Rooster. Offers please to Leslie Helliwell, Lamb Lane. 670291.**

## Wind Turbines

The Parish Council agreed that the Clerk should write to the East Riding about the meeting in Roos on 23rd November.

The letter would be addressed to the Director of Planning, Environment and Technical Services, with copies to the Chairman of the PETS Committee and Mid-Holderness Councillors Jim Wastling and Stewart Willie.

The letter would make the following points.

- **About 100 people attended the public meeting.**
- **A resolution opposing wind turbines was carried almost unanimously.**
- **The meeting urged the East Riding to set up a Holderness-wide referendum on wind turbines.**

Councillors also discussed their individual views on wind turbines. Most were opposed but some argued that it was premature to reach such a decision until more facts were known.

Councillor David Winter proposed the following resolution, seconded by Councillor James Priest.

**That Roos Parish Council is opposed to wind turbines in Holderness.**

The resolution was carried by 5 votes to 0 with one abstention. It had been agreed in advance that there should be a recorded vote.

For A.G.Bowden, M.Cheeseman,  
J.C.Priest, D.Winter,  
G.E.Winter.

Against 0  
Abstained L.Helliwell.

(Councillors Cook and Grant left before the vote. Councillor Lamplugh was not present.)

There was some discussion of that day's Hull Daily Mail which had features on wind turbines on its front page and across two inside pages.

## Local protest group

Since the public meeting on 23rd November several residents have attended meetings of SHOWT (South Holderness Opposes Wind Turbines). They met in Roos in December. A public awareness day and fund-raising are planned for the New Year.

For more details of the informal Roos group contact any member, e.g. :

Cherie Blenkin, Westside, Main St (670811);  
Richard Priest, 2 Elms Cottages (671058);  
Cllr Ted Winter, 3 Chestnut Garth (670234).