

CASTLETON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF ORDINARY MEETING: 28th July 2022, 7pm Village Hall, How Lane, Castleton

These Minutes are hereby approved as a true and accurate record of the above meeting following Resolution of the Council at its Monthly Parish Council meeting on 28th July 2022.

Signed Chair of meeting

In attendance: Cllr. J. Bradley (Chair), Cllr. N. Topping (Vice), Cllr. J. Simm, Cllr. A. Darlington
Also present: Clerk T. Dale, four members of the public

Meeting commenced 7.00pm.

01/07/22	Apologies were received from Cllr. N. Spooner, Cllr. B. Moorhouse, Cllr. J. Judge, Cllr. J. Collins, Cllr. C. Farrell, PC Carl Davies.
02/07/22	Declarations of personal or pecuniary interests or requests for dispensations were received from Cllr. J. Bradley item 09/07/22 Planning: i).
03/07/22	<p>Reports:</p> <p>A: County Councillor's Report: None this month.</p> <p>B: Borough Councillor's Report: Clerk provided an update from Cllr Collins as follows: Update on Travelling Light: a project officer has been recruited, who will start early August, so there may be more news next time this appears on the agenda again. High Peak Borough Council are about to put in their plans for the Shared Prosperity Fund, part of the Levelling Up agenda. High Peak has been allocated £2.4m and have to submit plans against the outcomes before the funding is released. They have said that the money will probably be disbursed through grants to other organisations, and most spend will be for smaller towns and rural areas i.e. Hope Valley.</p> <p>C: Police Report: Clerk provided an update from PC Carl Davies as follows: Crimes in and around Castleton, 04/07/22 - 05/07/22 - Non-Dwelling Burglary - Mill Bridge, Castleton - Unknown offender forces hasp & staple on shed door and steals cycle from within. No witnesses, no CCTV. 22/07/22 - 23/07/22 - Non-Dwelling Burglary - Castleton Road, Hope - Unknown offender forces entry, breaking lock to shed door, nothing stolen. No witnesses, no CCTV. 24/07/22 - Non-Dwelling Burglary - How Lane, Castleton - Unknown offender attempts to break into shed and garage by jemmying the door/window with unknown object. No witnesses, no CCTV. 23/07/22 - 24/07/22 - Non-Dwelling Burglary - Castleton Road, Hope - Unknown offender forces entry through detached garage window, steals 2 cycles and power tools from within. No witnesses, no CCTV. PC Davies has requested that officers patrol the area overnight when available and requested assistance from Ops Support based at Ripley to pay it attention too. There is some CCTV from an address that was not attacked showing a person snooping around but it is not great quality. PC Davies has made social media and Derbyshire Alert appeals informing the community of these recent reports and requested that any relevant information be reported for investigation. Coincidentally, PC Davies carried out a bike security marking event down at Hope Valley Garden Centre last Saturday. They marked up a whopping fifty-five bikes and added them to the national bike register. It is the intention to hold another event in the coming weeks at Hope Sports Club, which is in the process of being organised. A resident asked that the contact number for the police could be added to the noticeboard, village website and included in Peveril Post. It is understood that details are on the village website but Clerk to contact and seek agreement to include PC Davies details on the noticeboard and include in Peveril Post. (AP – Clerk)</p>

	D: Chair's Report: None this month
04/07/22	<p>Public Participation: Residents attending the meeting raised objections to planning application NP/HPK/0422/0586 - Holmesfield, Millbridge,</p> <p>Cllr J Bradley stepped down as Chair, Cllr N. Topping acted as Chair for this item. The Chair asked Residents to proceed.</p> <p>The following is a summary of issues raised by the residents:</p> <p>Historic/Data gathering: A resident has been monitoring the situation at Holmesfield, Millbridge during the past and more recently for the period 13th November 2021 – 4th June 2022 (site was closed May 2022). It has been used as a car park for 10 plus years. The land has been used thirty-three days for parking plus over seven weeks every Saturday, Sunday, and Bank Holidays. Over a number of years many campervans have used the site. Over a sixty-two day period campervan numbers have varied from the odd one to sometimes fifteen -twenty plus. The site already has Permanent fixed hard stands which are visible on satellite picture, available on google earth, shown as at 24th April 2020 (more than 2 years ago) on google earth, the pictures show a number of caravans parked against the wall on hard standings.. In addition it was felt that the parking exceeded the permitted twenty-eight days. The site provides for twenty Campervan pitches and is already being used so residents are questioning why the planning permission requests when it is already being used.</p> <p>Traffic/Highways: The main concern is the impact of traffic on Spital bridge, there are double white lines on an S bend which already experiences excessive speeding. When trying to investigate the planning report from the Highways department the report seems to be confidential and only available if applying specifically for details. The application appears to provide for a change in post code to that of Spital Bridge, so sending traffic down Millbridge. Millbridge already experiences large volumes of traffic especially on the weekend, if campervans are sent along this route, they will have no access to the site and will struggle to turn round causing further disruption. The residents believe the village is already bursting at the seams, that an additional campervan site will not alleviate the problem, the village is already served with a caravan park, and that those that already park in the village will not use the facilities as "rough campers" are generally converted transits, therefore this will not help parking issues.</p> <p>Health and Safety: What facilities will be provided? There are no toilets and showers, what are the sewage proposals for those stopping for a number of days? Concerns were raised about pollution in the stream. Flooding: The area can become flooded, if so, campervans could become stranded on higher ground where campsite is proposed, how is this being addressed. Planning processes: The residents believe the process has not been adhered to, not all affected residents received notification of the planning request, there were no yellow notices advertising the requests displayed throughout the village. Future: Concerns were raised about the future intent of the site; they know of other areas/villages where a change of use followed from campsite to permanent residential area with the building of Chalets.</p> <p>General: The residents would like to understand what makes an agricultural land become redundant. What is the difference between short and long term stay? Concerns over the accuracy of the Oldfield Design and Access Statement. That it was difficult to raise with the parish council, as a member of the council is involved. The Chair informed that they council regardless of who is involved, all applications are reviewed by the Council and if appropriate they will challenge any planning request.</p> <p><i>Member of the Public entered the meeting part way through the item.</i></p> <p>Cllr. J. Bradley resumed the role as Chair.</p>
05/07/22	Minutes of Last Meeting and Matters Relating Thereto:

A: The Minutes of the previous Parish Council meeting held on 30th June 2022 were then considered, following some minor changes the Minutes were approved. (Prop AD, 2nd JS, unan).

B: There were no matters to discuss relating to the minutes of the last meeting.

06/07/22

Finance:

A: The Council's monetary assets are shown below, and the Chair examined and approved the bank reconciliation and the latest current account statement, signed at the end of the meeting.

	Current Account	NS&I
Balance brought forward 01/04/22	13,458.21	18,511.35
Total Income	7,604.50	0.00
Total Expenditure	3,049.06	0.00
Balance	18,013.65	18,511.35
Last Statement Balance 15/07/22	18,149.65	18,511.35
Less un-presented cheques	156.00	0.00
Add uncleared deposits	20.00	0.00
Available Balance 28/07/22	18,013.65	18,511.35

B: To approve and instruct the payment by cheque, of presented invoiced items, including the following:

- i) A. Hulbert – Valley Landscapes (Derbyshire) for May and June - £960.00
- ii) Castleton Village Hall – 3 hours hire - £30.00
- iii) T. Dale – Clerk's salary, allowance, and expenses - £453.83
- iv) D. Shoults – Reimbursement Microsoft Subscription - £59.99
- v) A. Darlington – Reimbursement Water Containers (Burial Ground) - £13.75
- vi) Greenbarnes Ltd – Noticeboard - £1975.62

In addition to pay cheque for £260.00 to Clerk, previously paid to Jon Haddock, for reimbursement of printing of Peveril Post, as agreed in 15/05/18A.

C: To note the income and receipts of the Council

- i) Anonymous Donation for Peveril Post – £20.00

The above payments and receipts were agreed. (Prop AD, 2nd JB, unan).

Regarding payment vi) Greenbarnes Ltd – Noticeboard - £1975.62, The council were asked to agree, as the purchase is an asset, to make payments from the reserves held.

It was agreed, with Cllr Moorehouse contacting the bank to transfer the payment (Prop AD, 2nd NT, unan).

To note: Item, iv) A. Darlington – Reimbursement Water Containers (Burial Ground) - £13.75, was omitted from the list of payments and minutes of the meeting held on 30th June, hence being included within these minutes.

07/07/22

Council Matters:

A: To review and discuss the allocation of Lead roles for Councillors deferred until the next parish council meeting.

B: As the update from the TEE Group was not received prior to, or circulated with the agenda. The update from TEE Group was deferred to the next parish council meeting. However Cllr. Simms requested that a response is given to the Travel Light initiative setting out concerns and suggestions, if this could not be discussed and agreed at this meeting then deadlines would be missed, therefore could individuals on a personal basis respond. As Councillors have individual right for such correspondence there was no objection. Following on from last month's meeting, as agreed a quote of £66.00 plus VAT was obtained for the provision of twenty-five self-cling and twenty-five self-adhesive vinyl Castleton Code stickers. The Council were asked to approve the purchase. The request was approved via the majority. (Prop AD, 2nd JS, NT objection, majority) – **(AP – TEE group to purchase and distribute)**

C: The correspondence from Steve Platt concerning British Energy Security reissued to all councillors prior to the meeting were briefly discussed. It was agreed that the council support the requirement to mitigate the environment effect of carbon emissions, reconsidering the current approach to planning within the Peak District. Supporting the correspondence sent to Robert Largan and Sarah Dines (Annex A, B, C). Clerk in

conjunction with the council to write letter of support. **(AP – AD, Clerk)**

D: Events Diary to be updated for discussion at the next parish council meeting.

Clerk provided an update on Pure Peak Grit Event (3rd September) which goes up Winnats Pass. The event organisers drove the route of Pure Peak Grit on the 28/29th May to assess the points previously raised by the parish council. There is assessment and feedback as follows:

- The riders will depart in groups of 10 at 4-minute intervals, to avoid large groups and congestion when leaving the start point in Sheffield.
- All riders must wear hi-visibility attire between dawn and dusk and have both front and back lights. Two rear lights are required, and it is strongly recommended that one of these is left on at all times.
- 521km - Castleton - sharp 90-degree corner, left onto Cross Street, low to no visibility. Care and attention to be taken when making this turn.
- 521km - Castleton - Busy village with narrow lanes and high level of pedestrians. Due care and attention to be taken in case of obstacles when passing through.
- There is no road closure in Castleton associated to this event.

Before the start of the event, there will be a briefing to inform riders of any last-minute road closures or alterations to the route.

They will also be briefed regarding any significant hazards to be mindful of, and their responsibility to be respectful of any other people in the Peak District who are not part of the event. At present we have approximately 80 riders signed up to ride Pure Peak Grit. By the time the riders reach Castleton (after 521km), we anticipate that the riders will be vastly spread out, with no groups passing through the village. As a charitable event it is run entirely by volunteers and do not have the resources to do anything beyond this. Also, Pure Peak Grit is a self-supported ultra-cycling challenge, and all riders are experienced cyclists. Clerk updated that efforts are still being made to contact the Bradwell Hill Billy Cycling event organisers.

E: Following an informal meeting the council received an update on views relating to the Peak Park Planning Survey. It was felt that questions ten, thirteen and fourteen require consultation with residents, there was consideration given to issuing fliers requesting views, it was pointed out that as councillors represent the views of the residents and the timescales of the survey the council should proceed but include in the commentary, making it crystal clear, that any agreement to new build developments on green field sites would not be considered without thorough consultation with the residents.

Clerk in conjunction with Councillors to complete the online survey. **(AP – AD, JS, Clerk)**

F: Update on the purchase and planting of the Jubilee Rose Bushes deferred to the next parish council meeting.

G: An update on replacement of village noticeboard was given. The council are now in possession of the new noticeboard; however it is proving difficult to find someone to install the noticeboard. Any suggestions on possible contacts would be gratefully received, all details to be sent to Cllr Topping.

H: Update on Parish Council events for Residents, article for Peveril Post deferred to the next parish council meeting.

I: Following the last parish council meeting, contact has been made with the organisers of the Castleton Christmas events. Although they were not able to attend the meeting a brief update was sent as follows: They are putting information in the Peveril Post for the village traders, residents and everyone, but in the meantime, switch on is organised for 19th November, and the Grotto is in the Visitor Centre, who are well on board this year for Christmas. Planning to raise the standard of lights and co-ordinate with the Tree festival, caves, carol concert's, school fairs etc.

J: The application for financial support to purchase a Gazebo from the Playing Field Committee had been withdrawn.

K: A letter was received from a resident raising issues and concerns on the road to Mam Tor from the bottom of Winnats Pass right up to the turning circle and gate to the broken road. The two key issues/concerns relate to parking and advertising the site via social media. There are campervans using the area for extended stay more akin to a residential status, with additional traffic and congestion over weekends and bank holidays. The Council has been continuously lobbying this issue and has gained support for the placement of double yellow lines to resolve this issue, it is at the initial stages of the process of the legalisation process. MP Robert Langan has also taken up the case and will be pulling together a committee to look at the issue of Camper Vans parking overnight and for extended periods. (See minutes 28/4/22 Chair report). Cllr Moorhouse recently attended a team meeting, attendance along with MP Robert Langan, Head of Derbyshire Highways, High Peak Highways, and a Police Representative, they were aware of the issues and are in communication with the Legal Department regarding several ideas to resolve the issues but that it would probably take a year to come to fruition due to legal requirements. Until resolution the council will continue to lobby on this issue. Clerk to update the resident on the situation following the meeting. **(AP – Clerk)**

08/07/22

Condition of the Village:

A: A quote of £20.00 plus VAT for each sign for the War Memorial had been obtained. Plus an installation cost of £20.00 plus VAT.,. The Council were asked to endorse the purchase of the signs and agreed total without installation £60.00 plus VAT. Cllr Darlington to arrange the purchase. (Prop AD, 2nd JS, unan) (AP-AD)

B: The 2022 funding allocated for the maintenance of Rights of Way public footpaths and bridleways. On the shortlist of candidate for the funding is Goosehill (FP10) it is believed that this footpath lies on Duchy of Lancaster land. The path is a very stony, uneven, and slippery in wet weather, and particularly near the gate where it gains access to Goosehill in the village, therefore it would benefit from some resurfacing. As the footpath lies on Duchy of Lancaster land correspondence has been sent asking if the Duchy has a mechanism to contribute to the repair. Item to be added to next agenda. (AP – AD, Clerk)

C: Not on the agenda, Sheep recently got loose on Goosehill and have damaged the wall by the steps, the retaining wall on either side of the steps have been less than perfect for some time. It has now become unstable and hazardous – To be considered and view in Village walkabout.

In addition to the above the Council to arrange a Village walkabout to take notes of any requirements that may arise and circulate.

Cllr. J. Bradley left the meeting – (Quorate of three remaining)

09/07/22

Planning:

A: The following applications were discussed, and the Clerk instructed to report the Council's views to PDNPA:

- i) NP/HPK/0422/0586 - Holmesfield, Mill Bridge, Castleton. Change of use of agricultural land to caravan and motorhome camp site.

Following on from the early (ref 04/07/22 Public Participation) the Council discussed the above application taking into consideration residents views. In summary the main concerns raised are as follows:

Road/Traffic, concerns access issues, vehicles coming into a 30 MPH onto a sharp bend is poor visibility in both directions. The report from Highways provides little information, more is needed. The Council to request a site visit with the Planning and Highways Department. A letter previously sent to Traffic and Safety team, Police and local MP in June 2021 set out the traffic issues being experienced. In addition in November 2012 a survey was carried out, although it did not suggest very high average traffic speeds across the week, the 85th percentile being 29mph, the survey equipment was located on middle of the bend and this is where traffic is likely to be slowest. It is clear to those living around this bend that traffic often speeds into the corner travelling towards the village from the 40mph zone, and speeds into the corner from the village along the straight.

Health and Safety, disposal of human waste, pollution, how this will be dealt with and monitoring?

Flooding, the proposed access onto Spital bridge, is relatively low lying and tends to flood in extreme wet weather, recently once or twice a year. On these occasions the road outside the access often floods too. This could cause additional traffic issues entering and leaving the site. Whilst it is noted on occasions access might well be given through the other farm entrance at Millbridge.

Notification of planning request, has the process been adhered to, if not apply for an extension to be applied for?

The Council will be requesting an extension on the planning decisions the rationale relating to procedural and traffic issues. Clerk to respond to the planning department raising these concerns and requesting a site visit from Planning and Highways department. (AP – Clerk)

The Licensing Authority at High Peak Borough Council have received an Application for the Grant of a Premises Licence in respect of: -

- i) Castleton Coffee Co, The Little Shop, How Lane, Castleton.

After a brief discussion **no objections** were raised.

B: To note any planning decisions as notified by the Peak District National Park Authority:

- i) NP/HPK/0522/0640 - Losehill Farm, Unnamed Road from Squires Lane to White Lea Farm, Castleton - Erection of a single storey extension – **GRANTED**

The above was noted.

10/07/22

Correspondence and DALC Circulars:

A: The following correspondence, received and pre-circulated to Members by email, was noted and

discussed:

- i) DCC – Community News, Cost of Living Support, July Health & Wellbeing. Parish & Town Council Forum
- ii) NALC – Bulletins, Newsletters, Events, Levelling up.
- iii) HPBC – Agenda, Minutes, Grow Back Greener Woodland Creation Grant, High Peak UK Shared Prosperity Fund Webinar. Parish Days.
- iv) Robert Largan MP – Various
- v) PDNP – News
- vi) Public Sector Executive – Building an integrated Health & Social Future, Data Protection, Secure by Design.
- vii) DALC – Newsletter, DET Funding Scheme 2022
- viii) HVCA – Newsletter

All above correspondence noted.

Post agenda being issued, a communication from NALC regarding Short Term Holiday Lets Policy Consultation Briefing was received which included a short survey. All Councillors to read and send their views to the Clerk who will collate, recirculate, and feedback to the NALC survey.

11/07/22

Items for the Peveril Post:

None this month

Meeting closed 8.45pm

The next Annual Parish Council Meeting will take place at 7.00pm on Thursday 29th September 2022 at The Village Hall, How Lane, Castleton.

Energy and Renewables in Hope Valley

To guide the study we set ourselves 3 simple questions.

1. How much electricity will we need as we electrify our home heating and vehicles?

Our main finding is that the electricity requirements within Hope Valley will rise. We predict an increase in the domestic base electricity demand in Hope Valley of more than double the current requirement, rising from 23,000 MWh to between 50,000 – 60,000 MWh by 2050. In addition, we predict that in 2050 non-domestic demand on the 33/11kV network (ie. the distribution network in Hope Valley other than that for Hope Cement) will also double to 50,000 MWh.

2. What mix of renewables would meet this demand?

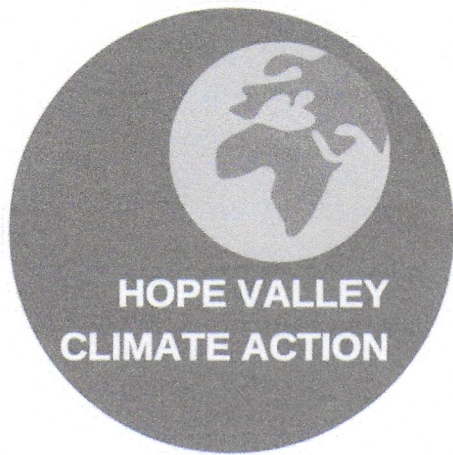
A credible mix of renewables that would generate the domestic electricity needed by 2050 (60,000 MWh), given the environmental sensitivity of the national park, would be solar on 1 in 3 residential roofs, 2 x 5MW solar arrays (one of which might be floating) and 3 large wind turbines. We would also need better grid connection and local storage capacity to manage daily and seasonal variations in supply and demand.

3. What is the range of public opinion about large-scale renewables?

We surveyed public opinion in January 2022. 675 people responded. 400 live in Hope Valley, 100 elsewhere in the Peak and the rest are visitors from further afield. Over half of all respondents (61%) are prepared to consider large-scale renewables in the Peak Park; a quarter might consider them and 13% said no. We have also spoken to all 12 parish councils in the Valley. They were unanimously agreed on the urgency of reducing our carbon emissions and all support large scale renewables in Hope Valley,

Conclusion

We firmly believe that it is time to reconsider the approach to planning in areas of natural beauty like the Peak District, and that we can be an exemplar to others in showing how renewable energy infrastructure can be integrated into beautiful countryside without detriment. The commitment to reach net zero in the national park by 2040 means that there is an urgent requirement to reduce carbon emissions and that we will need to sensitively consider some landscape impact. After all, renewable energy infrastructure is not permanent and can be dismantled and recycled if better solutions are found.



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29 April 2022

Robert Largan MP
House of Commons
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Re: British Energy Security Strategy

Dear Robert,

We welcome the publication of the British Energy Security Strategy. It is clearly timely, and it is helpful that the Government has laid out its approach to our energy future. However we think that there are important elements missing, and (in the context of the recent IPCC reports) that the steps being proposed do not adequately reflect the enormity of the challenge we face if we are to avoid climate breakdown.

First, whilst the introduction refers to the possibility that by 2030, 95 percent of British electricity could be low carbon, and that by 2035 we will have decarbonised our electricity system, there is no analysis of the amount of electricity that we will require, and how that amount will be generated by the different technologies described. This is a major omission, since it is impossible to judge whether the measures proposed are adequate without an understanding of the scale of the challenge. It is of course inevitable that demand for electricity will increase substantially as we decarbonise home heating, transport and industry. Our work here in the Hope Valley (which we plan to publish later this month) suggests that by 2050 we will need 2-3 times as much as we currently consume. It would be helpful to know what the Government thinks will be the national position.

Has the Government analysed electricity need up to 2050, and has it quantified the way in which the different electricity generating technologies will contribute to that?

Secondly, whilst the Strategy does make reference to the need to improve the energy efficiency of our homes, and makes reference to the previously published Heat and Buildings Strategy, we believe that the steps laid out simply do not match up to the

scale of the need and the urgency of the situation. The UK has nearly 29 million homes, and the oldest housing stock in Europe. More than half were built before 1965, 20% before 1919. 65% are owner occupied. This means that we have to do more than any other European country to eliminate emissions from our homes. In this context 'improving up to 500,000 homes' is simply inadequate.

Two specific issues which we believe urgently need to be addressed are the financing of energy upgrades by home owners, and the need to increase the number of contractors who are available to undertake the work.

What steps are the Government going to take to support home owners with the costs of retrofitting insulation, including grants for those who cannot afford to extend their mortgages?

What steps are the Government taking to increase the supply of assessors and contractors who are properly trained and available to carry out retrofit work?

Thirdly, we are dismayed by the stance being taken on oil and gas. As the recent Tyndall Centre analysis, and others, have made clear, we cannot afford globally to develop any new oil or gas production if we are to constrain global temperature rises to below 1.5 degrees. We are therefore strongly opposed to any proposed new offshore or onshore fossil fuel developments, including fracking.

Fourthly, we welcome the recognition that the current electricity distribution system, and the management thereof, is not fit for purpose. Our local analysis has confirmed what others have found elsewhere, that grid connections for renewable energy installations are (under current arrangements) prohibitively expensive, and that there is currently no incentive for the Distribution Network Operators to invest in capacity. This is one of the issues that is addressed by the Local Electricity Bill, currently before Parliament. Our understanding is that at a recent meeting between Greg Hands MP, Energy Minister, and the cross party co-sponsors of the Bill there was a recognition that there is significant common ground between Government and the proposals in the Bill, and that officials are now working on ways in which the changes set out in the Bill can be implemented.

Please will you add your support to the proposals laid out in the Bill, and write to the Energy Minister to encourage him in his efforts to implement them?

Finally, we welcome the commitment to increased generation of electricity from renewables. This is clearly the way forward, for environmental, financial and geopolitical reasons. However we are extremely disappointed by the failure to be more ambitious regarding onshore wind. This is the fastest and cheapest way to generate renewable electricity. Public opinion supports its development, as shown both by national opinion polls as well as our own local surveying of residents' and visitors' opinions here in the Peak District. At the moment we have the absurdly undemocratic situation where one single objector can prevent an onshore wind development.

The commitment to '*consult this year on developing local partnerships for a limited number of supportive communities who wish to host new onshore wind infrastructure in return for benefits, including lower energy bills. The consultation will consider how clear support can be demonstrated by local communities, local authorities and MPs.*' reads to us like deferring difficult decisions, at a time when bold and urgent action is needed.

We would welcome the opportunity to share with you our surveying of local opinion on renewable energy generation here in the Hope Valley, as a way of showing that there is 'clear support.. by local communities', and discussing how the current planning constraints should be changed. Can we arrange to meet?

Yours sincerely

Dr Jeremy Wight, Chair



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29 April 2022

Sarah Dines MP
House of Commons
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Re: British Energy Security Strategy

Dear Sarah,

We met last year on Zoom and when you came to the launch of HVCA's Travelling Light project at Hathersage Station.

We welcome the publication of the British Energy Security Strategy. It is clearly timely. However we think that there are important elements missing and that what is proposed does not adequately reflect the enormity of the challenge we face if we are to avoid climate breakdown.

First, whilst the introduction refers to a decarbonised electricity system by 2035, there is no analysis of the amount of electricity that we will require, or how that amount will be generated. This is a major omission, since it is impossible to judge whether the measures proposed are adequate without an understanding of the scale of the challenge. It is of course inevitable that demand for electricity will increase substantially as we decarbonise and electrify our homes, vehicles and industry. Analysis here in the Hope Valley (which we plan to publish later this month) suggests that we will need 2-3 times as much as we currently consume, by 2050. It would be helpful to know what the Government thinks will be the National position.

1. Has the Government analysed electricity need up to 2050, and has it quantified the contribution of different electricity generating technologies?

Secondly, whilst the Strategy makes reference to the need to improve the energy efficiency of our homes, and makes reference to the previously published Heat and Buildings Strategy, we believe that the steps laid out simply do not match up to the scale of the need and the urgency of the situation. Government needs to be much more proactive. In this context "this is not being imposed on people and is a gradual transition following the grain of behaviour" is simply inadequate. Two specific issues which we believe urgently need to be addressed are

the financing of energy upgrades by home owners, and the need to increase the number of people who are available to undertake the work. Of owners whose homes are not well insulated our surveys suggest that nearly two-thirds would seriously consider insulating their homes at a cost of £10-20k if a grant covered 50% of the cost.

2. What steps are the Government going to take to support home owners with the costs of retrofitting insulation, including grants for those who cannot afford to extend their mortgages?

3. What steps are the Government taking to increase the number of trained Retrofit Coordinators, Designers and Contractors?

Thirdly, we welcome the commitment to increased generation of electricity from renewables. However we are extremely disappointed by the failure to be more ambitious regarding onshore wind. This is the fastest and cheapest way to generate renewable electricity. Public opinion supports its development, as shown both by national opinion polls as well as our own local surveying of residents' and visitors' opinions here in the Peak District.

4. We would welcome the opportunity to share with you the findings of our energy study and survey of local opinion on renewable energy generation here in the Hope Valley, as a way of showing that there is 'clear support from local communities', and discussing how the current planning constraints should be changed. Can we arrange to meet?

Finally, we welcome the recognition that the current electricity distribution system is not fit for purpose. Our local analysis has confirmed what others have found elsewhere, that grid connections for renewable energy installations are (under current arrangements) prohibitively expensive, and that there is currently no incentive for the Distribution Network Operators to invest in reinforcing the grid to accommodate community renewable electricity generation. This is one of the issues that is addressed by the Local Electricity Bill, currently before Parliament.

5. Please will you add your support to the proposals laid out in the Bill, and write to the Minister for Energy, Clean Growth and Climate Change to encourage him in his efforts to implement them?

Yours sincerely



Dr Stephen Platt

Treasurer
Hope Valley Climate Action