



## Protos Community Forum

### Minutes of the meeting 18<sup>th</sup> January 2023

7.00pm Zoom meeting

#### Present:

##### Voting Members:

Cllr. Sarah Temple, Helsby Parish Council  
 Cllr. Andrew Eardley, Ince Parish Council  
 Cllr. Tim Lloyd, Ince Parish Council  
 Cllr. Lizzie Wiffen, Thornton Le Moors Parish Council  
 Cllr. Andy Canham, Elton Parish Council  
 Cllr. Mark Parry, Little Stanney and District Parish Council

##### Advisers:

Lois Kay, Peel NRE  
 Jane Gaston, Peel NRE  
 Richard Bates, Peel NRE  
 Jason Hurst, Sisk  
 Andy Smith, Covanta  
 Nick Henderson, Covanta

| Agenda Item               | Discussion   | Action   |
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| Apologies<br><br>Absences | Cllr. Graham Heatley, Elton Ward<br>Phil Bridges, EA<br><br>Cllr. Pauline O'Reilly, Elton Parish Council<br>Cllr. Ian Anstice, Frodsham Town Council<br>Cllr. Paul Bowers, Helsby Ward<br>Cllr. Chris Basey, Frodsham Ward<br>Justin Madders MP Ellesmere Port & Neston<br>Cllr. Margaret Parker Gowry Rural Ward  |  |
| Minutes of Last Meeting   | The minutes of the meeting on 12 <sup>th</sup> October 2022 were accepted as a true record   |  |
| Matters Arising           | Peel to continue investigation and notifying forum about Station Road drainage:<br>RB provided verbal update on the matter – investigations still ongoing but with a defined plan. To avoid deep investigations around high pressure pipelines, Peel have appointed a company called Metrorod, who have equipment that can be put into the pipe and can core out if there is a metal plate slowing | Peel to continue investigation and notifying forum |

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|   | <p>the flow. Expect these to commence works before end of January.</p> <p>A tree safety survey was undertaken where Peel's ownership borders the public highway on Station Road. 4 trees were identified as needing works, which were subsequently undertaken by Caddis in December.</p> <p>TL and AE commented that it doesn't appear that the works have been completed with a tall tree stump left remaining</p> <p>Photos and quotes from community benefit fund projects have been sent through to Peel</p>  | <p>TL to send a photo and LK to investigate and confirm if tree works are complete</p> |
| <p>Energy from Waste Facility, Plot 8, Protos from Andy Smith Covanta</p> | <p>Update note circulated in advance of the meeting (copy attached)</p> <p>ST requested further detail on what 'Preparations for mobilisation of the Operations &amp; Maintenance team have commenced' mean in practice.</p> <p>AS – Covanta will be responsible for Operation &amp; Maintenance once the facility is operational requiring around 40-50 employees. Recruitment is currently focussed on the senior management team (facility manager, plant manager, engineering manager, and operations manager). Once those positions are filled, they will then commence the recruitment of the rest of the operations team.</p> <p>ST – How much of the recruitment will be at the national level and how much from the local level. AS - Experience from other Covanta facilities is that most positions are filled within the local area. Given the industry heritage in the area, Covanta are optimistic about how much of the workforce can be recruited locally.</p> <p>AS to pick up conversations that have been had previously with CWaC around employment and skills</p> <p>ST – mentioned that the CWaC councillors who sit on this group would be happy to help in providing contacts at the the council.</p> |  |

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|  | <p>ST also commented that in due course, it could be helpful to bring the plant manager to the forum meeting as they will be the long term point of contact at Covanta.</p> <p>JG – mentioned that Leah Maltby at CWaC would be worth connecting with in addition to Kirsty Simpson at Chester University who are both doing a lot of work in employment and skills regionally.</p> <p>Additional comments from AS:<br/>The EA have approved the permit variation, and the new permit is now granted</p> <p>The 1<sup>st</sup> meeting of the ERF local liaison committee took place in November (LK and AC from the Protos forum were in attendance). It was a successful meeting and they are looking to continue growing membership particularly local interest and community groups in addition to elected members. Meeting minutes have been circulated to attendees, but the intention is to upload minutes to the project website. Date of next meeting is tbc, looking likely to be end of feb/March time.</p> <p>ST asked when the next construction video might be available. AS confirmed that these are produced on a six monthly cycle so it is likely that the next video will be available on youtube end of Feb/March.</p> | <p>AS to advise if this video is available in advance of next Protos meeting</p>  |
| <p>Phase 2 works update from Jason Hurst, Sisk</p> | <p>Update note circulated in advance of the meeting (copy attached)</p> <p>No questions</p>  |   |
| <p>Protos update</p>                               | <p>Update note circulated in advance of the meeting (copy attached)</p> <p>AE – reported by resident that paths are narrow in Goldfinch Meadows. LK commented that the informal pathways have been recently reviewed by Peel and CWT and we are comfortable that they are in good condition for their intended use. However that if there is an issue with the public right of way please do let Peel know. LK asked that a photo/location be provided so that the issue reported can be looked at.</p> <p>AE commented that there is a significant (20-30 foot) drop to the edge of the footpath to south of plot 13) RB advised that</p>   | <p>LK to provide a plan showing the public right of way and the informal footpaths in goldfinch meadows.</p> <p>RB to provide programme for</p> |

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|  | <p>there is herass fencing there as a temporary measure, the developer will then install permanent boundary treatment.</p> <p>ST asked for further detail on the issue with dead geese. LK advised that these that have been shot and then fly tipped at Protos. Peel have reported to the police.</p> <p>ST asked for clarification about the community update newsletter and what community benefit fund content would be in it.<br/>LK advised that Peel were considering doing a full newsletter all about the benefit fund in June instead of including it in March. ST commented that effort had been made by the benefit fund committee to collect content under the impression that this would be featured in the upcoming newsletter.</p>  | <p>permanent installation</p> <p>LK and ST to discuss which would be the best approach once we see how much community benefit content we have by the end of January</p> |
| <p>Benefit fund update from Sarah Temple</p> | <p>*Confidential update note* circulated in advance of the meeting</p> <p>ST introduced that the benefit fund has now recruited a new Benefit Fund secretary, Vicki Serna. Email address is <a href="mailto:protos.secretary@serna.co.uk">protos.secretary@serna.co.uk</a></p> <p>The next benefit fund meeting is scheduled for 8<sup>th</sup> March</p> <p>ST advised that a number of changes need to be made to the benefit fund bank account which the bank requires her to provide confirmation that there is formal approval of these. As the benefit fund committee is a sub committee of the forum, it is felt that this is the most appropriate way to demonstrate approval. The changes are as below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Change of cheque signatories to reflect changes in Community Forum/CBF representatives.</li> <li>• Add Vicki Serna (new benefit fund secretary) to the account enabling her access to view online</li> <li>• Change title of account from Ince Park Community to Protos community benefit fund</li> <li>• In time, move the account to Natwest to a banking for communities account</li> </ul> <p>ST proposed<br/>Andy Eardley seconded<br/>All voting members approved</p> |   |
| <p>AOB</p>                                   | <p>ST – Passion for learning have been in contact, the benefit fund has supported this very enthusiastic organisation with funding each year. Passion for Learning have delivered courses linked to Elton Primary School. They also work with</p>   | <p>ST to send details to Covanta, Sisk and JG</p>   |

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|                             | <p>local employers in the area, and an invitation has been extended to business located at Protos to attend the annual careers carnival at Chester racecourse.</p> <p>They have also asked if a site visit would be possible. This wouldn't be possible at any of the construction sites. JG to ask Biomass facility however doubts that this would be possible for under 16s.</p> <p>LK advised that Peel are considering how we can engage with local schools and whether we could do something associated with the science technology and innovation aspects of the Protos facilities.</p> <p>Separately CWT have permission to host group visits in ecology areas.</p> | <p>JG to ask Biomass facility</p> |
| <p>Date of next meeting</p> | <p>Provisional date of <b>Wednesday 26th April 2023</b> proposed for the next meeting. 7PM on Zoom</p> <p><b>provisional dates of 2023 meetings</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 12<sup>th</sup> July</li> <li>• 11<sup>th</sup> October</li> </ul>  |                                   |

## **Plastics Park**

Decision notice has now been issued following approval of the application at committee.

### **Plot 1**

No further update - Peel NRE are in discussions with a couple of occupiers interested in taking plot 1 for use as a plastics re-processing facility

### **CO2**

We have submitted a pre-application request to CWAC to discuss our plans for linking CO2 emitters at Protos to the Hynet CO2 pipeline. We have received initial queries and response from statutory consultees and are in the process of arranging a meeting with CWAC to discuss.

### **Plot 13 – Enviroo, Plastic Recycling Facility**

Subject to agreements, currently expect to start later this year.

## **Substations**

No further update - The construction phase of the two substations on land to the east of plot 11 and the associated infrastructure is now completed despite some delays caused by a culmination of contributory factors including Covid and ways of working, delivery delays, obtaining kit and materials. The construction was split into 2 Projects both with the same main contractor; Smith Brothers:

1. Contestable Works: This includes a Substation and connection to the 132 KV supply from the newly installed pylon which connects into the Overhead line. This part of the build shall be fully adopted by SPEN. Commissioning of all internal HV control and switching systems is now complete. The site is now fully secured, SPEN has now taken over technical control of the building in readiness of connection to the 132KV supply that is due to happen imminently upon completion of legal documentation.

2. Private works: This comprises a new Substation and power distribution equipment to provide 11KV and 33KV to the Protos tenants. All Major Equipment and Switchgear is now installed on site, final commissioning to be completed once SPEN complete the adoption process.

It is anticipated that the first connection 'Phase 1' enabling 50MW of export and circa 6MW of import will be available by 2nd quarter 2023. The final completion date for all the works (as SPEN will continue their non contestable works following the completion of the substations – including upgrades to their existing infrastructure at Frodsham and Capenhurst) is October 2023 when there will be 124MW of total export capability and 57 MW of import/supply. Which will coincide with the completion of the Energy from Waste plant.

## **Materials Management**

## Protos Progress Update – 18<sup>th</sup> January 2023

No further update. Ongoing activities as previously advised: We continue to carry out preparatory work with pre-development clearance and stabilisation of development plots to facilitate their availability for potential developers. This involves the creation of working platforms through the importation of naturally occurring construction fill materials (in accordance with Environmental regulations and planning requirements under the outline consent.)

### Newsletter

A community newsletter was published in early December. We expect to issue the next edition in early March.

### Estate Management

We continue to report fly tipping to CWaC. We ask users of the area who notice fly tipping to please let us know by sending photos and description to [community@peel.co.uk](mailto:community@peel.co.uk)

We have had deceased geese flytipped in recent weeks, and are working with Cheshire Police, Defra, and our security patrols to pinpoint the perpetrator.

Gritting contract in place on Grinsome Road and Protos estate roads.

Ongoing security patrols by Securitas.

The Grinsome Road CCTV Tower is awaiting BT connection. CCTV signage to be installed shortly in advance of this going live. These signs will be located on all access points to the site.

Peel is working with operators on site to ensure drivers access Protos through the correct and designated route. Disciplinary action taken by contractor following damage to a bollard in Ince Village.

### Air Quality

The 2021 Air Quality monitoring report is now available in PDF format on the Protos website. We have identified some issues with the interactive HTML version which we hope to resolve shortly.

### Nature Areas

Management and monitoring of Goldfinch meadows and Snipe Haven is ongoing. Cheshire Wildlife Trust will commence monitoring and surveying of phase 2 ecology areas in April 2023.

## **Protos Energy Recovery Facility Project**

### **Project Update for Protos Community Forum – January 2023**

#### Site Progress Since Last Meeting

- Continuation of reinforced concrete foundations and tipping hall upper-structure;
- Completion of precast concrete structures;
- Commencement of internal site roadways;
- Short period of additional piling works;
- Continuation of structural steel (c.3,850 tonnes erected to date);
- Continuation of flue gas treatment system installation;
- Continuation of installation of boiler components;
- Heavy lifting of turbine & generator onto foundation;
- Average site workforce of around 325 persons per day; and
- Over 650,000 hours worked without a single lost-time accident.

A further video showing progress on site during 2022 will be published on the Covanta YouTube channel and the project website later in the year.



#### Look-ahead

- Delivery and installation of flue gas stack and other key equipment items;
- Continuation of remaining foundations and site roads;
- Continuation of erection of structural steel;
- Continuation of installation of Line 1 & Line 2 boilers;
- Completion of flue gas treatment system installation; and
- Commencement of electrical installation.

#### Other Items of Interest

- The EA has continued its assessment of our application for a Variation to the Environmental Permit for the operation of the facility and a final decision is anticipated.
- Preparations for mobilisation of the Operations & Maintenance team have commenced.

#### Further information

- Supply-chain opportunities: <https://protoserf.com/supplier/>
- Employment enquires: <https://protoserf.com/jobs/>
- Project Newsletter: <https://protoserf.com/e-newsletter/>

**Progress and Updates Since Last Meeting**

- Tang Bridge has been fully installed with embankments on either side now in place, including associated drainage
- Abandoned building on the berth has been demolished and removed
- Planting of the ecology areas and seeding largely complete with viewing areas at ECO area C and B installed.
- Road 3 Bridge over the West Central Drain Bridge now completed
- 105 000 hours worked without any reportable lost time incidents.
- Completed Utility works around Grinsome Road to allow for future investment in the plots, along with re-forming and reopening the Bridleway path.
- Achieved 'Excellent' Status from CCS in the last audit.

**Lookahead**

- Final Wearing course of the roads planned for Jan
- Safety fencing Planned to be installed Late Jan
- Conclude the Planting and seeding in spring planting season
- Painting of the anti-skid coating to the Bridge in Feb

**Community support**

- Sisk we're delighted to be able to reach out to the local community centre in Elton and donate some toys to the nursery group that meets there every week.
- Myself and Andy Matthias from Sisk we're amazed at the great work the team of volunteer's were doing for the community.

**Latest Drone Footage:** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HLQKZp1lw90>



**Fig 1: Tang Bridge**



**Fig 2: Donation of toys to Elton Play group**

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Title:  
Subject:  
Author: Jason Hurst  
Keywords:  
Comments:  
Creation Date: 11/01/2023 18:08:00  
Change Number: 2  
Last Saved On: 11/01/2023 18:08:00  
Last Saved By: Jason Hurst  
Total Editing Time: 1 Minute  
Last Printed On: 11/01/2023 18:08:00  
As of Last Complete Printing  
Number of Pages: 2  
Number of Words: 213 (approx.)  
Number of Characters: 1,217 (approx.)