

RADLEY PARISH COUNCIL

RADLEY LOCAL LIAISON GROUP (RWE NPOWER)

**NOTES OF MEETING AT DIDCOT 'A' POWER STATION
WEDNESDAY, 2 MARCH 2009, AT 7.30PM**

PRESENT: Mr John Rainford)
Mr Phil Noake) RWE Npower
Dr Steve Waygood)

Dr B Crowley)
Mr C Henderson)
Mrs J Standen) Radley Parish Council
Miss S E Raven)

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Councillors Nutt and Rogers.

2. MATTERS ARISING FROM MEETING ON 7 JANUARY 2009

- (a) Lakes H/I – Ditch: It was confirmed that the ditch referred to in section 4.4 was the Radley Brook ditch as it runs from H/I on the east side.
- (b) Promoting the nesting of the Common Terns (section 4.7(f)): It was reported that RWE had an agreement with the Forestry Commission for the restocking of the island's trees which would be very difficult to change. It was also noted that the vegetation cover on the island was no longer necessarily conducive to encouraging Terns to nest.

3. DIDCOT POWER STATION – RADLEY OPERATIONAL UPDATE

- 3.1 Phase I: More work had been done on plans for discharge of surface water from Phase I in order to submit a further planning application. These plans cover the discharge from the Phase I weir in south corner of Lake A, which then discharges into Pumney Ditch. The Power Station has the agreement of the EA to continue to monitor the position. This is with the complete agreement of Mr Attia.
- 3.2 The carbon dioxide dosing tank was no longer needed so there will be people on site in the next couple of weeks to remove it, together with the generator.
- 3.3 The Parish Council indicated that they had commented on the recent planning application made for a revised restoration scheme for Lakes H/I. Most of their comments were about things which had been missed out: the contours of the plans, the problem with motorcyclists, the estimate of top soil, varieties of

trees, etc. The Power Station staff indicated that this application should have been read in conjunction with the original application as the new application only included changes to that document. The Parish Council indicated that they had obtained some valuable advice from Dr Peter Shaw of Roehampton University. Dr Shaw had expressed interest in assisting with monitoring the area, and the Power Station noted this offer.

4. THRUPP LAKE

- 4.1 There was discussion on the lack of trust about the future arrangements, and Mr Rainford indicated that this was why he had copied the Parish Council into the letter RWE had sent to the Oxfordshire County Council informing them of the Company's intention not to proceed with the work covered in the planning permission for Thrupp Lake. An email had been received by the Station from Mrs Jo Cartmell indicating that she liked the viewing area, although a bollard was needed on the site to stop people parking on it.
- 4.2 Concern was expressed about the barbed wire fencing which had been erected. It was thought that this had been erected by Tuckwells, and the Parish Council would follow up.
- 4.3 The need for a fence to delineate the land under the ownership of RWE was again discussed. The Parish Council representatives felt that installation of the fence would suggest to people that access across this area had ceased. It was pointed out that it would still be possible for people to use the path between Thrupp and Bullfield Lakes that was on John Curtis' land. They would also still have access to the path on the western side of the lake. The line of the fence would be pegged out with Mr Curtis and an ecologist present, and the fence to be provided would be a 3' post and plain wire fence. Disappointment was expressed by the Parish Council representatives that the fence would run along the edge of the isthmus, because of the unspoilt nature of this area and its ecological sensitivity.
- 4.4 Dr Steve Waygood reported that the Power Station was trying to move ahead with the future management of the site. A draft proposed minimum content list for the Expressions of Interest was tabled which would be sent to bodies with suitable experience in managing a wild life area. Contenders needed to be bodies which had a track record in this type of work and had the ability to raise funding to support the initiative. BBOWT and Northmoor Trust were mentioned as the two local bodies who met the criteria, but the Power Station was willing to look at any other organisations who might be interested. Pond Conservation was mentioned by Parish Council representatives. The responses would be considered by an evaluation panel, and the preferred partner would be asked to build up the statement into a more detailed bid. As part of the final stage, the preferred bidder would be expected to make contact with all interested bodies to discuss what it was felt needed to happen to the site, and this consultation would include the community.

- 4.5 As this area of land was very near to the Abingdon Town Boundary and was used a great deal by the residents of North Abingdon, the role of Abingdon Town Council was raised by Parish Councillors. It was queried whether they should be involved with the selection of the preferred bidder. The Power Station agreed to consider how best to involve Abingdon Town Council.
- 4.6 The Parish Council was asked to select one representative to help with the choice of partner from the initial submission. This matter would be put to the March meeting of the Parish Council. In the meantime, the draft content list for the Expression of Interest was to be forwarded to the Clerk for the Parish Council's comment.

5. RADLEY PARISH COUNCIL – UPDATE

- 5.1 The Chairman reported that the Court had agreed to a three month adjournment of the Judicial Review to allow the discussions between the Parish Council and the Power Station to discuss the future arrangements for the site.
- 5.2 A draft agreement prepared by Mr Alastair Wallace was shown to John Rainford. Mr Rainford felt that the proposal for an agreement between RWE npower and the Parish Council was over and above the reason for the Judicial Review, which was to prevent ash going into Thrupp Lake, and would therefore be unacceptable to the Company. Mr Rainford tabled a letter which the RWE solicitor had written to Mr Wallace, which he thought gave the assurances the Parish Council required. Mr Rainford also expressed a view that RWE npower considered the chances of the Judicial Review being successful were low. The Parish Council representatives indicated that the Parish Council would be asked to review the position at its March meeting.

6. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- (a) **LITTER PICK:** It was anticipated that this could be at the same time as the installation of the boundary fence..

7. DATE, TIME AND PLACE OF NEXT LIAISON GROUP

Members of the Parish Council would be invited to a meeting to discuss the fence line, hopefully during March/April. In addition, a site meeting would be arranged and this would include a visit to Thrupp Lake and Lakes H/I.