

**Radcliffe-on-Trent Parish Council**  
**Minutes of the Extraordinary Planning and Environment Committee meeting held in the Radcliffe Room,**  
**The Grange, on Monday 17 October 2016**  
**at 6.45pm**

**Councillors**

Martin Culshaw (Chairman)  
 Joe Bailey (from 7.00pm)  
 Sue Clegg

Keith Agar (Vice Chairman)  
 Rod Brears  
 Gillian Dunn (A)  
 Pam Thompson (until 7.15pm)

Penny Astill (A)  
 Graham Budworth  
 Graham Leigh-Browne (A)  
 Jean Robinson (A)

Ex-Officio: Georgia Moore (PC Chairman) (A) and David Barton (PC Vice Chairman)

**Also present:** Jacki Grice (Parish Clerk) and Two Members of the Public

1. **Apologies**

Cllrs Georgia Moore, Gillian Dunn, Penny Astill, Graham Leigh Browne, Jean Robinson - Approved

2. **Declarations of Interest**

The Chair refers to item 5 of the Agenda (Shale Wealth Fund) and again confirms that he used to be employed by the British Geological Survey but this was eight years ago.

3. **Chairman's Announcements**

No announcements were made.

4. **Open Session for Members of the Public to Raise Relevant Matters**

Standing orders were suspended at 6.46pm

*A resident confirmed that the deadline to respond to HM Treasury for the Shale Wealth Fund Consultation is 26 October 2016. It is a hypothetical consultation as it has not yet been confirmed that such a scheme will be implemented, however it is likely that the Government will support it. There was further discussion with Councillors including reference to the potential of £13m worth of extraction from the Harlequin 3 well site and the depth of reserves in the Redmile Basin. There is a history of tremors in this area but it is understood that these have been insignificant.*

5. Standing orders resumed at 6.49pm

6. **Shale Wealth Fund – Government Consultation: To consider a Response**

HM Treasury are seeking the views of local organisations regarding a potential Shale Wealth Fund Scheme, enabling communities affected to benefit from Shale Gas Exploitation in their areas. Members considered and voted on the 18 questions individually and it was **Resolved:**

"The Clerk to send the final version of the consultation responses to HM Treasury by the 26 October 2016 deadline as reproduced in the attachment to these minutes."

The Chairman was thanked for his work on the consultation.

7. **Councillors' Reports**

Cllr Clegg advised that there are notices around the village advising of Road Closures that will take place during the Remembrance Sunday Parade on 13 November 2016. If anyone would like to volunteer for the organising of the Parade then please contact Cllr Roger Upton.

8. **Date of Next Meeting**

Confirmed as Monday 07 November 2016

There being no further business the meeting closed at 7.45 p.m.

Signed: Chairman ..... Date .....

## **RESPONSE BY RADCLIFFE-ON-TRENT PARISH COUNCIL TO THE SHALE WEALTH FUND CONSULTATION FROM HM TREASURY**

This response to the consultation on the Shale Wealth Fund has been written and approved by Councillors of Radcliffe-on-Trent Parish Council. Radcliffe-on-Trent is a large village (population just under 9000) located about 7 miles east of Nottingham in the Rushcliffe District of the County of Nottinghamshire and on the edge of an area in south Nottinghamshire that could be exploited for shale gas.

Consultation Question 1: Do you think that providing opportunities for both local and regional investments are the right priorities for the Shale Wealth Fund?

Answer: Yes

Consultation Question 2: Do you agree that a more local level should receive revenues before a more regional level (establishing the 'trickle-up' principle)?

Answer: No, because the overall effects are regional and those communities lying close to areas of exploitation but not directly affected should also benefit.

Consultation Question 3: Over the lifetime of the Shale Wealth Fund, what do you think the proportion of funding allocated between these two priorities should be?

Answer: Too early to say – see answer to Question 4

Consultation Question 4: Should the government retain flexibility regarding the proportion of funding between delivering benefits at local and regional levels, to enable learning from the industry pilot schemes and once the magnitude of shale revenues becomes clearer?

Answer: Yes

Consultation Question 5: Do you have views on how the "local community" to a shale site should be defined for the purposes of the Shale Wealth Fund?

Answer: Elected Councillors and others will find it difficult to discuss this question objectively and without introducing bias. Consequently, an independent panel should be appointed by government.

Consultation Question 6: Do you agree that the "local community" should be defined on a case-by-case basis?

Answer: Because the definition of eligible local communities will depend on when areas are being exploited for shale gas, the process will go on for many years, it should be done on a case-by-case basis but using a set of National principles that should be applied to each area.

Consultation Question 7: Do you think a set of principles should be developed to ensure consistency of approach for different shale developments?

Answer: Yes.

Consultation Question 8: If possible, should the government seek to align any "local community" element of the Shale Wealth Fund with the industry's community benefits scheme?

Answer: Yes

Consultation Question 9: Do you agree that at a local level, it should be for local people to determine how the Shale Wealth Fund is spent?

Answer: Yes

Consultation Question 10: How could the government ensure that all local residents benefit as directly as possible from the Shale Wealth Fund?

Answer: Some communities already have Community Plans created from a community-wide survey. Others have Neighbourhood Plans which also show priorities. Where these exist, they should be used to guide priorities. Where they do not exist the lowest level of democratic accountability should decide, that is Parish/Town Councils and the *local* District Councillors.

Consultation Question 11: At the local level, should expenditure from the Shale Wealth Fund be subject to any ring-fences for a specific purpose? If so, should these be locally or centrally determined, and do you have views on what they should be?

Answer: No, let local people decide their own priorities – the guiding principle should be 'localism.'

Consultation Question 12: At the local level, would an appropriate use of the Shale Wealth Fund be to make direct payments to households?

Answer: No.

Consultation Question 13: Do you have views on who should make decisions on Shale Wealth Fund allocation at a local level? Do you have a preference between an existing body (such as a parish or district council), using the same community led panel as the industry scheme, or creating a new body?

Answer: Parish/Town Councils should be used if they exist. If not, then the District Council should be used.

Consultation Question 14: How can the government ensure that decisions are as directly influenced by local residents as possible?

Answer: By using the existing framework of democratically elected councils.

Consultation Question 15: Do you have a view on how the boundaries should be defined for a regional level of the Shale Wealth Fund?

Answer: Use *County* Council boundaries (for example, Nottinghamshire).

Consultation Question 16: What kind of investments do you think should be made from a regional level of the Shale Wealth Fund?

Answer: Money from the Shale Wealth Fund should be invested in line with democratically determined priorities at a regional level. For example: i) Business investment to encourage jobs, particularly in less developed areas such as old coal mining districts; ii) Culture, both short term events and long term investment such as theatre, libraries; iii) Sport facilities such as indoor sports and leisure facilities, swimming pools, playing fields etc.; iv) Local transport, particularly in rural areas.

Consultation Question 17: Do you think a regional level of the Shale Wealth Fund should be administered by direct grants to specific organisations, or through an open bidding process?

Answer: Both direct grants to specific organisations and an open bidding process should be used depending upon the circumstances.

Consultation Question 18: Do you have views on how a regional level of the Shale Wealth Fund should be governed? Are there existing regional organisations or local or national governance structures that would be particularly suited to oversight of such a fund?

Answer: County Councils should provide the oversight.