

# MINUTES

## MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE FIELD HOUSE COMMUNITY LIAISON COMMITTEE (CLC) HELD ON THURSDAY 10<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2018 AT 6pm AT THE JUBILEE HALL, WEST RAINTON

### Present:

Denise Harland – Chairperson and representative of STOPWR  
Steve MacQuarrie (SMQ) – Hargreaves Surface Mining Limited  
Paul Davies (PD) – Hargreaves Surface Mining Limited  
Trevor Meek (TM) – Field House Site Manager  
Claire Teasdale (CT) (Planning Officer) – DCC Planning Department  
Mike Tweddle (MT) (Monitoring Officer) – DCC Planning Department  
Peter Morson (PM) - West Rainton Parish Council  
Arthur Dornan (AD) - West Rainton Partnership  
Danielle Pearson (DP) (Development Control Manager) – Sunderland City Council Planning Department  
Bob Heron (BH) – Hetton Town Council

### Action

### Item

#### 1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from C Cllr Bill Kellett, C Cllr David Hall, David Turnbull and Jon Steer.

#### 2. Previous Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 7 March 2018 were approved and signed as a correct record.

#### 3. Matters Arising

Action Point 9 – it was noted that CT had issued an email explaining how the start of the site is triggered.

Action Point 10 – see Item 4.

Action Point 11 – see Item 5.

Item 6 – CT confirmed the guarantee bond is now in place.

Action Point 12 – see Item 5.

#### 4. CLC Constitution

The final draft (Version V7) of the constitutional document for the CLC had been circulated prior to the meeting. It showed minor changes to the version V5 previously tabled to the CLC at its meeting on 7 June 2017. Subject to one further change at paragraph 3.1, requiring the CLC to meet at least quarterly, the CLC Constitution was approved.

#### 5. Hargreaves – Project Update

PD reported that concerns had been raised about the delay in final CLC minutes being approved and made available to the public. He proposed that Hargreaves make their usual presentation at the CLC meeting and shortly thereafter issue a summary Project Update note to all CLC members that can be made available to the public and used to inform any local newsletters or organisations. PD also noted that a number of concerns had been raised in recent weeks about site activities, however these had not always been reported in the most effective way. He proposed that the first Project Update note include contact details for Hargreaves, Durham

County Council officials and the CLC Chairperson so that any issues can be quickly reported to the right people. These suggestions were welcomed and agreed.

PD then tabled a summary note detailing ecology works undertaken to date. This will be issued with the Project Update note.

TM provided a verbal project update explaining work carried out on site to date:

- All pre-commencement Planning conditions have been discharged;
- The agreed Performance Bond is in place;
- Site Preparation Works commenced Monday 26th March 2018;
- Site entrance completed;
- Main access road into the site completed to underside of tar-macadam, work continuing to complete internal roads;
- Car park almost complete, awaiting next delivery of road planings. Site offices will be delivered to site once car park is completed;
- Fencing alongside rights of way are completed. Fencing to remainder of site boundary almost completed, access has been restricted to some areas due to standing water and vegetation;
- Coal Stocking ground prepared, ready to accept final layer. Plant yard preparation is underway.
- Surface Water treatment areas have commenced;
- Archaeological Survey, yet to be completed, work stopped in February due to adverse weather conditions. Archaeologists are programmed to return to site within a fortnight. And survey work would take around 4 weeks.
- Topsoil stripping for site preparation works and forming of site screening mounds underway;
- Noise and dust monitoring started at the end of March 2018, and the first noise and dust monitoring results have been submitted to DCC. Results to date are in compliance with agreed planning limits;
- Ecology – site visits are continually ongoing to inspect trees and hedges for nesting birds and trees that may be suitable for Bats. Also started to plant hedge for 'Dark Flight Corridor for Bats', 250m, this will not be completed until next planting season. Bird boxes put up. Bat boxes later this year following further survey work. The remainder of the ecological mitigation ponds will be completed in the next fortnight.

TM also outlined upcoming work in the near future:

- Completion of surface water treatment areas;
- Completion of soils stripping operations;
- Start to move main excavation equipment to site ready for starting work on excavating the box cut in July;
- Tar-macadam to be laid on site access and internal roads after excavation equipment delivered to site;
- Coaling operations to commence in July.

TM confirmed he would include his presentation in the Project Update note to be issued in the next few days.

PD confirmed that planning conditions 38 and 39 relating to bird and bat boxes had been discharged since the previous meeting. PD also commented that a small area of ecological enhancement work remained to be completed shortly.

## **6. DCC Officer Update**

CT advised there was little to add to the comments made under Item 5. Planning conditions have been discharged, highway works off site have been completed and site preparation work is underway. The commencement of the development being when the winning and working of minerals takes place which will then trigger Condition 6 requiring all mineral extraction to cease

no later than 2 years and 3 months from the date of commencement of the winning and working of minerals. CT promoted a CLC site inspection when conditions allow, and at regular intervals during the operations to understand the activities and change which occurs in the life of a surface mine. MT confirmed he will carry out 8 scheduled monitoring visits per annum of which one has already taken place. He will also visit the site on other occasions as necessary and has done so.

The Chairperson requested that MT send her copies of the noise and dust reports.

7. **Issues / Complaints**

The following matters or concerns have arisen since the previous meeting

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- Working on a Saturday – this is permitted under the planning consent between 7am-1pm, maintenance can continue until 5pm;
- Stockpiling of soil – soil is stored in approved mounds, largely on the perimeter of the site, some soil has been placed temporarily in windrows to assist drying prior to being placed in approved mounds;
- Flooded footpath on east side of site near access – caused by bad weather, MT inspected and reported remedial action and improvement work by Hargreaves;
- Flooding to west of site near Rainton Gate – this is an historic issue and not related to site activity;
- Delays in getting CLC information about the site – this should be resolved by issuing a Project Update note soon after each CLC meeting;
- Query about bird boxes and possible local schools involvement – not appropriate as boxes positioned at a height and safety/insurance issues, also site personnel not CBS or DBS checked, boxes made by Durham Bird Club members, locations identified by a senior Bird Club member who is also a DCC countryside ranger;
- Concerns about lorry movements in the area – HGVs serving the site must follow the approved route and all hauliers are provided with detailed instructions and will be disciplined if rules are not followed;
- General ecology concerns including lack of detailed information on protected species – our qualified ecologist works closely with DCC, Natural England and local wildlife groups, the ecology note tabled to the CLC meeting indicates the extent of survey work undertaken and mitigation measures.

Hargreaves and DCC are monitoring the site and any complaints should be directed to them.

8. **Any Other Business**

Nothing raised

9. **Date of Next Meeting**

It was agreed that the next meeting would be held on Wednesday 11 July 2018 at 6pm at the Village Hall, High Pitlington. It was also agreed that a meeting could be called at short notice, at the Chairperson's discretion, should circumstances arise which merit this.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 6.50pm.

Signed

Chairperson .....



Date: 11 July 2018

Circulation: All attendees and apologies, Jacky Worthington (Moorsley Community Association), Clerks of West Rainton PC, Pitlington PC and Hetton TC.