

## MINUTES

### MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE FIELD HOUSE COMMUNITY LIAISON COMMITTEE (CLC) HELD ON

THURSDAY 5 MARCH 2020 AT 6.00pm  
AT THE SITE OFFICES, FIELD HOUSE SURFACE MINE

#### Present:

Denise Harland – Chairperson and representative of STOPWR  
Steve MacQuarrie (SMQ) – Hargreaves Surface Mining Limited (Hargreaves)  
Paul Davies (PD) – Hargreaves Surface Mining Limited  
Trevor Meek (TM) – Field House Site Manager  
Councillor David Hall – Durham County Council (DCC)  
Claire Teasdale (CT) (Planning Officer) – DCC Planning Department  
Mike Tweddle (MT) (Monitoring Officer) – DCC Planning Department  
Gillian Patton (GP) – Pittington Parish Council  
Peter Morson (PM) – West Rainton Parish Council  
Jacky Worthington (JW) – Moorsley Community Association

#### Item

#### Action

#### 1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Danielle Pearson and Michael Hopper.

#### 2. Previous Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 5 December 2019 were considered. It was agreed that Item 8 of the minutes should report that JW had raised the concerns of a West Rainton resident. Subject to this change the minutes were approved and SMQ will liaise with the Chair to ensure they are signed as a correct record. SMQ will then forward to CT to upload onto the Council's website following necessary redactions.

AP24 SMQ

#### 3. Matters Arising

##### 3.1 Review of CLC Membership

A review of the membership of the CLC took place having regard to Clause 4.1 of the Constitution. The representatives from DCC and from Hargreaves were confirmed, having regard to the elected status of the two County Councillors. With regards to the Parish/Town Councils and the three Community Associations it was agreed that the CLC should email each of the organisations, explain the current stage of operations at the site and the planned work and timescale going forward, and request confirmation regarding their named representatives for the CLC.

AP25 SMQ

##### 3.2 Other matters

With respect to 35 annual permissible exceedances of the 24 hour mean objective for PM10 dust particles Hargreaves confirmed there was only one exceedance in 2019.

A request for less visible locations to be used for the parking of mobile plant had been considered but the nature of the site and the planned restoration programme makes such

**Present:**

action impractical.

TM confirmed he had investigated the lighting issue raised by a resident at Pittington Crossing and ensured instructions were clear to address concerns.

**4. Review of Action Points**

AP20 - Completed.

AP21 – Discussed at Item 5.

AP22 – Completed.

AP23 – Discussed at Item 3.2

**5. Community Fund Committee (CFC)**

SMQ reported that the CFC held its fourth meeting on 5 December 2019.

Two previous applications were considered. Littletown Cricket Club confirmed the conditions to satisfy their award had been met and the award was approved. West Rainton and Leamside Village Partnership had yet to confirm matched funding but this has since been notified.

Seven new applications were considered from Hetton New Dawn, Hetton Lyons Cricket Club, West Rainton and Leamside Local History Group, West Rainton and Leamside Community Association, Pittington Community Association, Church Vale Allotment Association, and West Rainton Parish Council / West Rainton Village Partnership.

Church Vale Allotments application was approved in full subject to supply of up to date banking details. Applications from Hetton New Dawn, Hetton Lyons Cricket Club, West Rainton and Leamside Community Association and Pittington Community Association received partial awards subject to banking details. Applications from West Rainton and Leamside Local History Group and West Rainton Parish Council / West Rainton Village Partnership were refused.

A total of £65,755 has been awarded and all awards have now been paid. The distribution of the funds is 43% (£28,530) West Rainton and Leamside; 37% (£24,518) Pittington; 19% (£12,707) Hetton.

Including coal production to end February 2020 there is currently a fund surplus of £12,433 available prior to the CFC meeting to be held later the same evening.

**6. Hargreaves – Project Update**

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

- Noise and dust monitoring. No noise or dust complaints received in the last period.
- Coal sales from site continue, 391,048t to end of February 2020.
- Site is progressing with excavated overburden now being placed at or below restoration contours.
- The ground around Lady Seaham Pit was excavated to a depth of approximately

**Present:**

7m, while this work was being undertaken it was monitored by the archaeological consultant. No significant findings were observed. The archaeological consultant will visit site to monitor further excavation in this area.

TM also outlined upcoming work in the near future:

- Continue to excavate overburden and recover coal from the remainder of the site, hard stone continues to be encountered above the Main coal seam.
- Coaling operations estimated to be completed June 2020 ahead of schedule as the planning permission permits until 22/11/20.
- Start removal of the overburden mound in June 2020 and backfill void to restoration contours.

SMQ confirmed he would include TM's presentation in the Project Update note to be issued in the next few days to all CLC members.

AP26 SMQ

CLlr Hall requested information be made available to inform the local community of the next stages in the project with specific information on restoration activities. Infilling of working voids with overburden will be followed by subsoil and topsoil replacement. Soils can rarely be handled in winter months due to poor weather and such work may be delayed until Spring 2021, with potential interim mothballing of the site once final overburden levels are achieved. Normal noise restrictions on site operations can be exceeded for short term activities over 8 weeks in a 12 month period to enable removal of mounds and other restoration work to take place.

CLlr Hall will send some questions to MT at DCC to support a possible FAQ section. MT will liaise with Hargreaves on an agreed statement which provides a brief summary of the current position on site and the planned steps to deliver restoration including operational impact. Reference should be made to the detailed restoration scheme required by the planning permission. CT confirmed final approval of the detailed scheme would be issued shortly. Contact details should again be included for TM and MT. The information can then be issued to all CLC members and distributed through parish magazines and websites.

AP27 MT/PD

Details of the restoration scheme will be tabled to the next CLC meeting.

AP28 TM/PD

**7. DCC Officer Update**

MT confirmed that the site is running smoothly and site operations have progressed well since the previous CLC meeting. Coal recovery is ahead of schedule and a small part of the site has been restored to final overburden level.

Limited flooding off site, unrelated to the Field House scheme, was discussed. CT will consult the flooding team at DCC.

AP29 CT

CT commented on the current planning application for a sizer, a small machine to process coal on site, noting the Environmental Health Officer had not raised any concerns. A planning decision will be made shortly.

**8. Issues / Complaints**

**Present:**

Cllr Hall queried highways works at the Robin Lane junction with the A690. The improvements were carried out by Hargreaves before coal started to be transported from the Field House site and a bond is in place for any residual work needed. DCC as highways authority have approved the works and will inspect when the site operations finish to secure any necessary remedial work prior to release of bond monies.

TM reported that a local resident had raised concerns about litter on Robin Lane. TM had inspected and much of the litter related to alcoholic drinks and fast food packaging. TM confirmed that Field House lorry drivers are subject to random drug and alcohol testing, and the weighbridge has a litter bin which is well used. Notwithstanding this drivers have been given a tool box talk on the subject and reminded of the relevant disciplinary rules.

**9. Any Other Business**

Nothing raised.

**10. Date of Next Meeting**

It was agreed that the next CLC meeting would be held on Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> June 2020 at 6pm at the Field House Surface Mine site office. A meeting of the CFC is likely to follow the CLC meeting.

It was also agreed that a CLC 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: .....

Circulation: All CLC members, Clerks of West Rainton PC, Pitlington PC and Hetton TC.