

# MINUTES

**MINUTES OF A PRELIMINARY MEETING OF THE FIELD HOUSE COMMUNITY LIAISON  
COMMITTEE (CLC)  
HELD ON  
WEDNESDAY 26<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2017 AT 5pm  
AT THE VILLAGE HALL, HIGH PITTINGTON**

<b>Present:</b>		
	<p>Steve MacQuarrie (SMQ) - Hargreaves Surface Mining Limited          Paul Davies (PD) – Hargreaves Surface Mining Limited          Councillor Bill Kellett – Durham County Council (DCC)          Councillor David Hall – Durham County Council (DCC)          Claire Teasdale (CT) (Planning Officer) – DCC Planning Department          Mike Twedde (MT) (Monitoring Officer) – DCC Planning Department          Parish Councillor John Steer – Pittington Parish Council          Parish Councillor Iain Clifford - West Rainton Parish Council          Danielle Pearson (DP) (Development Control Manager) – Sunderland City Council Planning Department          Councillor Bob Heron – Hetton Town Council          John Price (JP) – Clerk, Hetton Town Council</p> <p>There were no apologies.</p>	
<b>Item</b>		<b><u>Action</u></b>
<b>1.</b>	<b><u>Introductory Comments - Hargreaves</u></b>	
	<p>SMQ explained that Hargreaves had an obligation under the legal agreement (the Section 106 Agreement) attached to the planning consent for Field House Farm, issued in January 2016, to convene a meeting of a Community Liaison Committee (CLC). Following recent discussions with DCC members and officers it had been agreed to arrange an early meeting. It was noted that this meeting had been arranged by Hargreaves and that they had issued a draft agenda and draft (Version 3) CLC Constitution that had been produced in consultation with DCC officers.</p> <p>It was recognised that the CLC had an important role to play in providing information as the Field House project was brought forward, enabling any concerns in the local community to be addressed. This meeting was also an opportunity to discuss the constitution of the CLC and arrangements for considering distribution of allocations under the Community Fund.</p> <p>SMQ stated that Hargreaves had taken the decision to work the site but advised the meeting that there were a number of matters still to agree with DCC before the development can commence. He advised that no start date has been set but the Company has a desire to start sooner rather than later and possibly June or July.</p>	
<b>2</b>	<b><u>Introductory Comments – Durham County Council (DCC)</u></b>	
	CT confirmed that there were ongoing discussion with Hargreaves to discharge a range	

	<p>of detailed planning conditions and legal obligations, including a financial bond to ensure full restoration, prior to commencement of development on site.</p> <p>Cllr Kellett raised concerns regarding trees along the right of way/cycle track adjacent to the south east boundary of the site. Some of the trees appear likely to fall and could be a safety hazard, particularly as work on site starts up and vibration may be an issue. He also queried if there had been a survey of the trees. SMQ stated that surveys had been carried out as part of the application and had been considered by the Planning Inspector. However, Hargreaves would monitor the perimeter of the site which would identify if there were any issues. As it was thought that DCC owned the land CT will advise them of the concern raised.</p> <p>Cllr Kellett advised that he was happy with warning signs that had been erected where ditches have recently dug within the site.</p> <p>It was noted that MT is the DCC Monitoring Officer and will carry out 8 formal visits per annum to the operational site as well as informal visits. Any concerns or complaints can be raised with MT or with Hargreaves direct. Contact details are: CT 03000 261390 <a href="mailto:claire.teasdale@durham.gov.uk">claire.teasdale@durham.gov.uk</a>; MT 03000 261395 <a href="mailto:mike.twedde@durham.gov.uk">mike.twedde@durham.gov.uk</a>; Hargreaves PD 07796 446362 <a href="mailto:paul.davies@md2.org.uk">paul.davies@md2.org.uk</a> or Esh Winning office 0191 3734485. Contact details for the site manager will be provided in due course.</p>	AP1 CT
3.	<b><u>CLC Constitution</u></b>	
	<p>CLC draft Constitution (Version 3) as circulated within the papers was noted and discussed. Particular matters discussed included:</p> <p>Clause 1.4</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There was general agreement that a sub-committee of the CLC should be established to assess applications for grants from the Community Fund. There was no final decision on whether the sub-committee or the full CLC should make the final award of grant;</li> <li>• Membership of the sub-committee was discussed. Views included the need to minimise the size of the sub-committee, the need for local community views to be properly represented, and concerns that decisions should be taken by elected and accountable representatives. Hargreaves agreed with these comments subject to being represented to secure appropriate allocations having regard to the requirements of the 106 Agreement;</li> </ul> <p>Clause 2.2</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Whilst concerns were noted by some regarding the size of the CLC membership there was consensus that community representation should be expanded to assist information flow. It was therefore agreed that invitations should be extended to STOPWR, West Rainton Partnership and Pitlington Community Association for one representative from each to attend future meetings;</li> </ul> <p>Clause 2.6</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It was agreed to defer the election of a Chair until the next meeting of the CLC;</li> <li>• A proposal to rotate the position of Chair on a regular basis was suggested but no decision taken;</li> </ul> <p>Clause 2.7</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It was agreed that this clause be amended by the addition of “or raise specific local concerns” which would allow local residents to attend where necessary;</li> <li>• CT and SMQ confirmed their experience that typical CLC arrangements for minerals sites did not provide for public attendance. It was agreed that the Field House CLC would not be a public meeting. If any issues arise relating to this the CLC will consider appropriate action including stopping the meeting;</li> </ul>	

	<p>Schedule 1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CT confirmed that DCC officers would not be members of the sub-committee.</li> <li>• Discussions took place regarding possible membership of the Community Fund sub-committee. It was agreed that this would be discussed further at the next meeting when other parties were in attendance.</li> <li>• It was agreed that CT and Hargreaves would discuss ideas based upon previous CLC arrangements at other sites for the operation of the Community Fund sub-committee and a draft would be circulated for discussion in advance of the next meeting;</li> </ul> <p>Schedule 2</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Minor revisions were suggested including Item 6 “DCC Update”, and Item 7 “Complaints/Public Issues”.</li> </ul> <p>It was agreed that DCC and Hargreaves would prepare a revised draft of the constitution, including insertion of proposals at Schedule 1, and circulate these to CLC members for consideration at the next meeting.</p>	<p>AP <a href="#">2</a> CT/SMQ</p>
<p><b>4.</b></p>	<p><b><u>Field House Surface Mine – Project Update</u></b></p>	
	<p>PD confirmed that a range of information had been supplied to DCC and other bodies to seek discharge of planning conditions.</p> <p>Some site surveys had recently been completed and others are underway. These include wintering birds, breeding birds, nesting birds and newt surveys. Specialists may be observed on site from time to time.</p> <p>Highway works required at the site access, Robin Lane and the A690 junction have been submitted to DCC Highways and a legal Section 278 Agreement has been drawn up to enable such works. Discussions are ongoing with the DCC Public Rights of Way Officer regarding clearance and adjacent fencing. Hedgerow and footpath maintenance works have also been undertaken.</p> <p>Archaeological trial trenching is required and is expected to commence week commencing 8 May 2017 following the completion of Great Crested Newt surveys. Badger surveys are underway and expected to be completed within a week. PD confirmed that he would inform CT and MT in advance of any works taking place on site so that they are aware.</p>	
<p><b>5.</b></p>	<p><b><u>Issues</u></b></p>	
	<p>CLlr Heron asked about noise impact where mounds may not provide mitigation. SMQ said noise had been fully addressed as part of the planning decision process and that although the site would be audible, predicted levels were within normal guidelines. However, should there be an issue when the site is operational this would be investigated.</p> <p>No other issues were raised.</p>	
<p><b>6.</b></p>	<p><b><u>Any Other Business</u></b></p>	
	<p>Nothing raised.</p>	
<p><b>7.</b></p>	<p><b><u>Future Meetings</u></b></p>	

No future meeting date was set. It was noted that the start date for the commencement of development at the site remained uncertain and Hargreaves will arrange a meeting when appropriate. It was noted that other CLC members may request a meeting through DCC and Hargreaves if required.

It was agreed that papers would be circulated by Hargreaves 10 days in advance of the meeting. Hargreaves would also take the minutes of future meetings.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 6.10pm.

Signed (in the absence of a Chair) by

For DCC .....

Date: .....

For Hargreaves .....

Date: .....

Circulation: All Attendees