

MINUTES

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE FIELD HOUSE COMMUNITY LIAISON COMMITTEE (CLC)
HELD ON
WEDNESDAY 7TH JUNE 2017 AT 5pm
AT THE VILLAGE HALL, HIGH PITTINGTON**

Present:		
	<p>Steve MacQuarrie (SMQ) - Hargreaves Surface Mining Limited (HSML) Paul Davies (PD) – Hargreaves Surface Mining Limited Councillor David Hall – Durham County Council (DCC) Claire Teasdale (CT) (Planning Officer) - DCC Planning Department Mike Twedde (MT) (Monitoring Officer) – DCC Planning Department Melanie Toal (MTo)– Clerk, Pittington Parish Council Peter Morson (PM) - West Rainton Parish Councillor Jon Steer (JS) – Pittington Community Association Arthur Dornan (AD) – Vice Chair, West Rainton Partnership Denise Harland (DH) – representative of STOPWR Danielle Pearson (DP) (Development Control Manager) – Sunderland City Council Planning Department</p>	
<u>Item</u>		<u>Action</u>
1.	<u>Apologies for Absence</u>	
	<p>Apologies were received from County Councillor Bill Kellett. It was noted that C Cllr Kellett has been appointed Chairman of Durham County Council and will be installed as Mayor of Durham this week. He has advised that he may be unable to attend many meetings.</p> <p>MTo advised that Pittington Parish Councillor David Turnbull sent his apologies.</p>	
2	<u>Previous Minutes</u>	
	<p>The minutes of the meeting held on 26 April 2017 were approved and signed as a correct record.</p>	
3.	<u>Matters Arising</u>	
	<p>The appointment of a Chairperson was discussed. SMQ stressed that it was not a position that Hargreaves should fill although, having arranged the first two meetings as required by the legal agreement attached to the planning consent (the 106 Agreement), and having prepared the various documents and agenda, he had led the discussions to date. This had been considered an acceptable arrangement.</p> <p>It was reported to the meeting that C Cllr Kellett had proposed Mrs Denise Harland for the position of Chair. He believed she had been involved with the Field House project from the very beginning and had the necessary time to make an excellent contribution. No other proposals for the position of Chair were put forward. DH confirmed she would</p>	

	<p>be willing to accept the role but requested that SMQ continue to act as de facto Chair for the duration of the current meeting. This was agreed and it was RESOLVED that DH be appointed Chair of the CLC from the conclusion of the current meeting.</p> <p>Action Point 1 – CT confirmed that DCC were responsible for a section of the right of way/cycle track adjacent to the south east boundary of the site. DCC carry out inspections from time to time and the concerns raised at the previous meeting have been noted.</p> <p>Action Point 2 - SMQ and CT confirmed that discussions had taken place and a revised draft of the constitution and Community Fund Committee (CFC) documents were included within the papers circulated for this meeting.</p>	
<p>4.</p>	<p><u>CLC Constitution</u></p>	
	<p>SMQ referred to the various documents circulated in advance of the meeting. These included</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a revised draft (Version 5 albeit noted on the document as Version 4 in error) of the CLC Constitution, including Schedule 1: Constitution of the CFC; and Schedule 2 CLC Draft Agenda; • a draft (Version 2) Community Fund Guidance Note and Application Form. <p>There was general discussion about the detailed documentation but few specific changes suggested. SMQ drew attention to the CLC Constitution paragraph 1.4 which delegated full powers to the CFC regarding consideration and determination of awards for payments from the Community Fund. This was noted and agreed.</p> <p>The membership of the CFC was discussed, noting that views in the previous CLC meeting had included the need for local community views to be properly represented, and concerns that decisions should be taken by elected and accountable representatives. It was also noted that HSML required attendance to ensure appropriate allocations having regard to the requirements of the 106 Agreement. There was general agreement that the membership should include one elected councillor from each of the Parishes of West Rainton and Pitlington, and from Hetton Town Council together with a Hargreaves nominee. The fifth vote would be shared by the two local County Councillors who would both be entitled to attend CFC meetings.</p> <p>It was decided that the first CFC meeting should be delayed until 6 months after the end of the month in which the commencement of coal transportation from the site takes place, in line with the requirements of the 106 Agreement. This will allow an initial fund to be established.</p> <p>It was agreed that CT and SMQ should liaise on the production of revised versions of the tabled documents to take account of the comments made. The revisions will be tabled to a subsequent meeting. SMQ said that he and CT would ask their legal colleagues to look over the documents.</p>	<p>AP3 SMQ/CT</p>
<p>5.</p>	<p><u>Hargreaves – Project Update</u></p>	
	<p>PD provided an update on various steps taken since the previous meeting. Archaeological trial trenching has continued and will be completed this week. Only one small item of limited interest has been found, a small building foundation which will be examined in further detail. Ecology surveys have advanced, no great crested newts have been found, badger surveys have yielded nothing with one more survey to complete, breeding bird and bat surveys will be completed by the end of next week.</p>	

	<p>Highway works to alter the bend alignment between the A690 and Robin Lane, verge works, install kerbs and carry out initial access works are planned around the end of next week subject to DCC Highways.</p> <p>The discharge of planning conditions has been continuing, all details are now with DCC Planning and outstanding matters relate to the site compound layout, wheel wash, soil handling strategy and surface water management.</p> <p>A query was raised regarding the restoration bond required by the legal agreement. CT explained that discussions between DCC and HSML were taking place regarding the bond which is required to be in place before work starts on the surface mine. CT provided an explanation of how the bond would be managed. It was noted that a separate sum would be legally secured to cover the limited costs of the imminent early highway works.</p> <p>Cllr Hall queried the restoration scheme and if local residents would have an opportunity to input to it, CT explained that the restoration of the site was considered at appeal and the appeal decision includes an approved restoration plan. Through condition specific restoration details are required to be submitted within 12 months of the site commencing and future details are intended to support the delivery of the approved scheme. Cllr Hall asked if an information leaflet could be prepared detailing the restoration scheme, the guarantee bond and how the overall rehabilitation and future of the site would be delivered. It was noted that HSML would consider this although it was also noted that the planning consent includes phasing plans at various stages of the scheme and when the site starts future CLC meetings will take place in the site offices and arrangements will be made to inspect the site during the life of the operations. This will allow working and restoration progress to be assessed.</p>	
6.	<p><u>DCC Officer Update</u></p> <p>CT confirmed that matters discussed under Item 5 had provided a suitable update.</p>	
7.	<p><u>Issues / Complaints</u></p> <p>Cllr Hall raised concerns regarding the footpath along the eastern side of Pittington Road between its junction with Moorsley Road and Homer Hill farm shop. He reported encroachment onto the footpath by material or vegetation and asked if HSML could use a machine to remove it when they have moved some heavy plant onto the site. It was agreed that further consideration is needed and discussion with DCC Highways will be required. The matter can be discussed at the next meeting.</p> <p>No other issues were raised.</p>	
8.	<p><u>Any Other Business</u></p>	
	<p>A query was raised regarding a start date for the site but at this stage no date has been confirmed whilst various planning conditions remain to be discharged and a number of pre-commencement tasks will need to be completed before any start can take place as well as ensuring the restoration bond is in place.</p> <p>It was noted that the 106 Agreement states that the minutes of the CLC should be available to the public. CT and SMQ agreed that enquiries would be made regarding making the minutes available on the DCC online register of planning applications or HSML website respectively.</p> <p>MT suggested that a drone flyover of the site prior to commencement may be helpful if</p>	<p>AP4 CT/SMQ</p>

	<p>it could then be presented to future CLC meetings. He requested that HSML consider this.</p> <p>A question was raised about a current planning application for a dwelling on the western edge of the site adjacent to Pittington Road. CT advised that she was aware of the application but that it was being dealt with by the Council's Central and East Planning Team. She also advised that the case officer was aware of the surface mine scheme.</p>	
9.	<u>Date of Next Meeting</u>	
	<p>It was agreed that the next meeting will take place on Wednesday 12th July 2017 at 6pm at the Village Hall, High Pittington</p> <p>There being no further business the meeting closed at 6.15pm.</p>	

Signed

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Date:

Interim Chair

Circulation: All attendees, apologies and Hetton TC representatives