

005/07

## Novington Sandpit Residents' Committee

### Minutes of Meeting Held on Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> January 2007 7.30pm, Plumpton Village Hall – Committee Room

**Present:** Mike and Julie Barnard; Jean Eagle; Keith and Carol Gutteridge; John and Carol Hendry; Jeanie Muddle; Paul & Carole Nicholson; Graham Whittaker (in place of Charles Dampney)

**Others who had expressed interest in helping/unable to attend meeting:** Mr & Mrs Robin Akers; Gordon Barr; John and Sue Bonnett; Barbara Cheal; Kevin Cohen; Laurie Collins; Charles Dampney; Tim Davies; Neville Eagle; Jane Gane; Mr and Mrs Galletly; Jane George; Veronica Harris; Nigel Hills; David Holmes; Sally Huband; Tony Hutson; Graham Inglis; Rod MacLaren; Jean Scott-Moncrieff and Cornelius Medvei; Mr & Mrs Clive Mountford; John Muddle; Richard Muirhead; Julie Russell; John Sheeran; Gary & Lindsey Smith; Ginny Smith; Sue Smyth; David Tetley; Christine Thompson; Jim Thornton; Teresa Wells; Dominic Williams; Katie Wride

(All of the above listed residents will receive a copy of these minutes)

#### 1. Minutes

Those present approved the minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 15th November.

#### 2. Matters Arising

a) Paul Nicholson noted that where there was something worthwhile to say he would continue to use the Parish Magazine for updates; albeit recognising that it was difficult to link the timing of the articles to events as the submission dates are always several weeks ahead of publication. However, he noted that people obviously do read the articles as he had received several emails from residents as a consequence of the articles.

**Action: Paul Nicholson**

b) Paul Nicholson reported that both East Chiltington and Plumpton Parish Councils had each kindly agreed to help fund £150 towards the purchase of a turbidity meter by Sussex Ouse Conservation Society. East Chiltington Parish Council had already paid their amount, but unfortunately the payment from Plumpton Parish Council had been mislaid. A new cheque has been requested. Paul noted that SOCS have already started taking regular samples (about twice per month) at Ferrings Bridge so that data, prior to sand extraction, could be compared with the water quality during the extraction phase. Paul said that he had put the Operator, Steve Dudman, on notice that these checks would be taking place.

**Action: Christine Thompson**

c) Paul Nicholson noted that Tony Hutson had prepared an excellent note summarising his concerns relating to the impact of operations at the sandpit on the wildlife in the vicinity. This report has been distributed to Lewes District Council,

East Sussex District Council, Steve Dudman, Dudman's adviser, and ECOSA (Dudman's environmental advisors). It was hoped that the respective councils would take this information into account when reviewing the Conservation Management Plan.

### 3. Pre-conditions

Paul Nicholson updated the meeting on the status of each of the pre-conditions:

3	Phased working plan	Discharged
4	Landscape scheme	Discharged subject to revised planting schedule
5	Progressive landscaping	Awaiting revised Conservation Management Plan
19	Dust	Discharged
20	Archaeology	Discharged
22	Wheel wash	Discharged
23	Fencing	Discharged
24	Aftercare	Awaiting Conservation Management Plan
25	Ecological Survey	Awaiting ESCC decision

### 4. Activities on Site

Paul Nicholson reported to the meeting that Steve Dudman had postponed the Liaison Group meeting that was to have taken place on site on 8<sup>th</sup> December 2006 due to adverse weather conditions. He had wanted to show Group members how the site would typically operate but this was not possible as the ground was too waterlogged to allow work to take place.

The site has now been closed until the weather improves and Dudman does not expect to be back on site until end February/early March 2007.

Mr Dudman had indicated that he expected to have to drain water out of the quarry into the stream, which Paul Nicholson believed may contain suspended sand particles. Due to the potential hazard to sea-trout, Carole Nicholson was requested to report this potential activity to SOCS for them to monitor the stream with the turbidity meter.

**Action: Carole Nicholson**

Paul Nicholson noted that at the request of the last residents' committee he had written to Dudman expressing residents' concerns regarding the height of the bund, the positioning of the gates and traffic through the village. A reasonably helpful response had been received noting the following:

- a) Mr Dudman had agreed to reduce the height of the bund. Paul reported that this has now been done.
- b) Mr Dudman has now agreed not to bring the position of the entrance gates forward – this should help to prevent trucks parking on Plumpton Lane.
- c) As regards trucks travelling to/from the Northern part of the village, Mr Dudman confirmed that he would try to ensure, wherever practicable, that his own vehicles entered and exited to/from the site to the South. However, he did feel that his operation was being singled out as he had seen other heavy vehicles moving through the village. He was also aware of the growing

Government pressure for companies to be seen to be reducing carbon-miles which was an aspect he was keen to consider, especially if he was delivering sand to customers in the North of the region.

- d) Mr Dudman had also expressed concern that the Conservation Management Plan was taking a long time and would try to hasten this.
- e) Paul Nicholson noted that once the site is operating normally the sound from the equipment on site will probably become background noise and unlikely to be a major issue for the village

## **5. Traffic**

The meeting considered Mr Dudman's response. The main points arising from the discussions were as follows:

- a) The meeting felt that the weight and frequency of the vehicles entering and exiting from the site would be typically more than all other large vehicles travelling along Plumpton Lane, and so were seen to be different to the other users.
- b) Concern was expressed that other contractors might be accessing the site on a regular basis and would be likely to access from the North.
- c) Concern was noted about the speed of certain of the Dudman vehicles.
- d) Concern was expressed about the damage to the grass verges along the lane causing gradual erosion.
- e) Concern was noted about the danger at the Half Moon junction when Dudman vehicles swing out wide to turn left out of Plumpton Lane.

Paul Nicholson said that he would try to arrange a meeting with Tom Hawthorne (Plumpton Parish Council traffic representative), Jeremy Patterson (ESCC), Meg Stroude and Norman Baker to see how these and other traffic concerns might be resolved. It was suggested that an engineer might be asked to assess the weight limit at the white bridge as a first step towards having the weight limit of 7.5 tonnes properly imposed.

**Action: Paul Nicholson**

## **6. Date of Next Liaison Group Meeting**

In the light of the above concerns about traffic movements, it was suggested that Paul Nicholson should contact Mr Dudman to arrange a site meeting for Liaison Group members as soon as possible, preferably before the next residents' committee meeting.

## **7. Date of next Residents' Committee Meeting**

This will be held on **Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> March 2007 at 7.30pm** in the Committee Room in the Village Hall.

**Action: All**