

011/08

Novington Sandpit Residents' Committee

Minutes of Meeting Held on Tuesday 7 February 2008 7.30pm, Plumpton Village Hall – Committee Room

Present: Mike & Julie Barnard, John Bowden, Jean & Neville Eagle; Veronica Harris; Tony Hutson; Richard Muirhead; Paul & Carole Nicholson; Tim Parmenter; Julie Russell; Teresa Wells

1. Minutes

Those present approved the minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 21st November.

2. Matters Arising

Para 2 Conditions. Paul Nicholson had followed up with ESCC the apparent lack of monitoring of the site and had received verbal confirmation that visits had been made. Meg Stroude had commented "*site monitoring is very successful and ESCC call in when passing to spread goodwill – these unofficial visits are not recorded. Reports often contain commercially sensitive information and as such are not available*".

Para 4 Activities. The hedge had now been cut as requested by residents at the last meeting. The field had been topped and cut again, and now often accommodates cattle. The gate at the quarry end of the footpath across the field has been locked. However, Mr Dudman has still not erected the gate across the main entrance into the quarry. As he is concerned about trespassers into the site it seems strange that he has not yet put up the gate (which is lying next to the entrance). Paul Nicholson agreed to follow this up with Mr Dudman.

Action: Paul Nicholson

Para 5: Traffic. The sign on the Ditchling side of the Half Moon Junction still does not have the 20mph indicator. (Subsequent to meeting, Carole Nicholson has requested the Parish Clerk to request action on this from Highways).

Para 5: Traffic. An entry was made in the recent Parish News which has resulted in two reported incidents of heavy lorries moving through the village. However, one of these turned out not to be a Dudman lorry. Paul Nicholson repeated the need for dates, times and number plates to be recorded – without these vital pieces of information he cannot follow up reports.

All other points arising will be considered as part of the meeting.

3. Pre-conditions

The situation regarding the two outstanding pre-conditions remained unchanged - namely 24 Aftercare and 25 the Ecological Survey, both of which depend on the Revised Conservation Management Plan ("CMP"). Paul has continued to press the relevant parties to complete this exercise and as soon as the revised CMP is received a copy will be made available to residents. He has been advised by Jeremy Patterson of ESSC that the CMP has been completed, but has not yet been circulated for comment.

On-going conditions are generally a matter of self-policing by the Operator and it would be necessary for the Residents' Group to continue to request, where possible, that ESSC takes an active interest.

4. Activities on Site

Activity has continued with extraction of sand and stockpiling.

John Bowden noted that the water level in the quarry appeared to be constant, regardless of weather conditions. He thought that drainage channels might have been reopened which allowed water to overflow into the ditch thereby maintaining the water level at a constant level. The meeting noted that the operator does not have a Discharge Licence from the Environment Agency. This was an issue which should be followed up in Liaison Group meeting.

Action: Paul Nicholson

5. Traffic

Site traffic continues to be low with only a few movements of lorries to/from the site.

Katie Wride had reported that a series of meetings are taking place between ESSC, our PCSO, our District Councillor, two Parish Councillors, Plumpton College, Hills, to review the safety issues at the Half Moon junction. She would report to the next meeting the outcome of these discussions. The meeting requested that a mirror placed at the junction be considered as part of the deliberations.

Action: Katie Wride

The meeting noted that the B2116 has developed deep gullies either side caused by erosion of the verges by lorries, buses and other heavy vehicles. It was accepted by the meeting that Dudman lorries are not the only ones that travel along this road. However, the meeting felt that Highways might be requested to make good the verges, not by filling in the gullies with tarmac, but by repairing the grass banks.

Action: Paul Nicholson

5. Ecology

Paul Nicholson had reported earlier that the Conservation Management Plan had still not been seen. When he had requested sight of the document from Jeremy Patterson, Paul had been advised that *'it was not for him to chase it up. For your*

information, the revised CMP has been completed and Mr Symes has reminded Mr Dudman to 'sign it off' and it should therefore be submitted shortly". Paul said that he would continue to chase for the document.

Action: Paul Nicholson

6. Date of Next Liaison Group Meeting

Paul Nicholson commented that whilst Meg Stroude had been helpful in trying to set out a compromise for the attendees at any future Liaison Group meeting (ie ESCC, LDC, Dudman and Paul), Paul was not confident that ESCC was really pressing as hard as it could on several areas. He had discussed the issue with our District Councillor, Tom Hawthorne, who had agreed to discuss the matter with Norman Baker. Paul has provided Mr Hawthorne with a background paper to aid these discussions

Action: Paul Nicholson

7. Any Other Business

8. Date of next Residents' Committee Meeting

This will be held on **Tuesday 8th April 2008 at 7.30pm** in the Committee Room in the Village Hall.