

006/07

Novington Sandpit Residents' Committee

Minutes of Meeting Held on Thursday 15th March 2007 7.30pm, Plumpton Village Hall – Committee Room

Present: Charles Dampney; Veronica Harris; Nigel Hills; Tony Hutson; Graham Inglis; Rod MacLaren; Jeanie Muddle; Richard Muirhead; Paul & Carole Nicholson; Julie Russell; John Sheeran; Christine Thompson; Katie Wride.

Others who had expressed interest in helping/unable to attend meeting: Mr & Mrs Robin Akers; Mike and Julie Barnard; Gordon Barr; John and Sue Bonnett; Barbara Cheal; Kevin Cohen; Laurie Collins; Tim Davies; Jean and Neville Eagle; Jane Gane; Mr and Mrs Galletly; Jane George; Keith and Carol Gutteridge; John and Carol Hendry; David Holmes; Sally Huband; Jean Scott-Moncrieff and Cornelius Medvei; Mr & Mrs Clive Mountford; John Muddle; Gary & Lindsey Smith; Ginny Smith; Sue Smyth; David Tetley; Jim Thornton; Teresa Wells; Dominic Williams.

(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 Thursday 25th January.

2. Matters Arising

- a) Paul Nicholson reported that the £150 contribution by Plumpton Parish Council towards the purchase of a turbidity meter by Sussex Ouse Conservation Society had now been received. He had written to the Council expressing thanks on behalf of the Residents' Committee. Paul noted that SOCS have already started taking regular samples at Ferrings Bridge and at Plumpton Mill Stream (close to the White Bridge by The Old Mill House) so that data, prior to sand extraction, could be compared with the water quality during the extraction phase. Steve Dudman had said that in order to start sand extraction, it will be necessary to discharge water out of the site, presumably into the nearby stream. However, Paul had been in touch with the Environment Agency and had confirmed that Dudman has NOT applied for a Discharge Licence. It is therefore essential that turbidity levels along the stream are monitored carefully due to the presence of sea-trout. Carole Nicholson said that she would be meeting with her fellow SOCS Trustees shortly to report on this situation.

Action: Carole Nicholson

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 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

This indicates that there has been no action by any party since the last meeting. Paul had asked Jeremy Patterson of ESCC if had received any further papers in support of the Conservation Management Plan. He confirmed that he had heard nothing and would follow it up. Tony Hutson also confirmed that he had received no communication on environmental issues either.

4. Activities on Site

Paul Nicholson said that the reason there had been no activities on site (the site had been closed since December, and the site manager had moved from the site) was largely due to the wet, adverse weather conditions making vehicle movements on site virtually impossible.

A resident had asked Paul to ask Mr Dudman to arrange for the hedges to be cut alongside the site along Plumpton Lane. This had been done prior to 28th February (the date when hedge cutting has to be stopped in support of nesting birds), but unfortunately no action had been taken. Paul undertook to remind Mr Dudman of this later in the year.

5. Traffic

All the concerns noted at the last meeting had been noted and would be taken into account in any future campaign.

Paul Nicholson reported that he had met with the traffic representative from the Parish Council, Tom Hawthorne, who is also Chairman of the Village Action Plan Steering Group. They felt that as the Village Action Plan Questionnaire which would shortly be circulated to all households would be considering residents' concerns about traffic – volume, speed and weight, it would be counter-productive for the Sandpit Residents' Committee to take any separate action, for the time being. The meeting concurred with this, but requested that the VAP Questionnaire should additionally have questions specifically about the concerns relating to vehicles moving in or out of the sandpit. Carole Nicholson and Katie Wride undertook to take this request to the VAP Steering Committee.

Action: Carole Nicholson and Katie Wride

Paul Nicholson noted that the white bridge in Plumpton Lane had recently been damaged in an accident. Highways had effected repairs promptly for which Paul had written to thank them. During the course of these communications, Highways had confirmed that they could find no record of a technical weight limit on the white bridge which had been assessed by Highways as capable of carrying vehicles of 40 tonnes. They had not been able to explain why there are notices either end of the village indicating a weight limit of 7.5 tonnes.

6. Date of Next Liaison Group Meeting

Paul Nicholson undertook to contact Mr Dudman to arrange this as soon as work recommences on site.

7. Any other business

Paul Nicholson noted that the next round of reviews for the Waste & Minerals Plan at county level is just beginning and he would be attending a briefing on this.

Subsequent to the meeting Paul attended the briefing held in Eastbourne and run jointly by East Sussex County Council and Brighton & Hove City Council. This covered the initial stages of the review under the new planning rules. There is little to report at this stage except to say that the new Waste & Minerals Plan will run to 2026 (current plan runs to 2016). Paul's intention is to monitor how matters develop in order to have an early warning of any potential for an extension to Novington Sandpit in the future.

8. Date of next Residents' Committee Meeting

This will be held on Wednesday 2nd May 2007 at 7.30pm in the Committee Room in the Village Hall.

Action: All