

007/07

Novington Sandpit Residents' Committee

Minutes of Meeting Held on Wednesday 9th May 2007 7.30pm, Plumpton Village Hall – Committee Room

Present: Mike Barnard; John Bowden; Charles Dampney; Jean & Neville Eagle; Veronica Harris; Nigel Hills; Jeanie Muddle; Richard Muirhead; Paul & Carole Nicholson; Julie Russell; John Sheeran; Sue Smyth; Katie Wride.

Others who had expressed interest in helping/unable to attend meeting: Mr & Mrs Robin Akers; Julie Barnard; Gordon Barr; John and Sue Bonnett; Barbara Cheal; Kevin Cohen; Laurie Collins; Tim Davies; Jane Gane; Mr and Mrs Galletly; Jane George; Keith and Carol Gutteridge; Tom Hawthorne; John and Carol Hendry; David Holmes; Sally Huband; Tony Hutson; Graham Inglis; Rod MacLaren; 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 15th March.

2. Matters Arising

- a) Paul Nicholson reported that about two weeks ago he had heard that Dudman had intended to start on site around the middle of May. Carole Nicholson had alerted SOCS to be vigilant in case Dudman started to discharge into the nearby stream. SOCS said that they would undertake regular turbidity meter readings.
- b) Carole Nicholson and Katie Wride were able to confirm that specific questions relating to vehicle movements and damage to grass verges had been included in the Village Action Plan Questionnaire, and that there were more general questions regarding dangerous traffic spots eg at the Half Moon T junction.

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
5	Progressive landscaping	Discharged
19	Dust	Discharged
20	Archaeology	Discharged
22	Wheel wash	Discharged
23	Fencing	Discharged

24	Aftercare	Awaiting Conservation Management Plan
25	Ecological Survey	Awaiting Conservation Management Plan

The draft Conservation Management Plan has now been received. Item 6 below refers.

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 temporarily moved from the site) was largely due to the wet, adverse weather conditions making vehicle movements on site virtually impossible.

As noted above it had been intended to reopen the site around the middle of May and Dudman operatives have been on site occasionally. However, it is thought that the site still too wet to allow sensible operation from the site.

In addition, little ringed plovers have nested on site. These are a protected species. As a result, Dudman has delayed the start of operations at the site until the birds have fledged – likely to be about a further 4/5 weeks.

5. Traffic

Due to the lack of activity on site there is nothing to report.

However, one resident noted that he had experienced a ‘near-miss’ when turning right recently at the Half Moon T junction as a “Rabbit” lorry had appeared from the Lewes direction. The lorry has a similar wheelbase to that of the Dudman lorries. The meeting expressed concern that the ESCC and Highways seemed reluctant to improve safety at the junction. It was agreed that a cohesive approach between Paul Nicholson, the newly elected Parish Councillors, and the new District Councillor, Tom Hawthorne should be made – probably once the results of the Village Action Plan became known.

6. Conservation Management Plan

The CMP had been prepared by ECOSA and sent to Paul Nicholson and Jeremy Patterson for comment.

As reported above, Paul had immediately written to Mr Patterson pointing out two issues:

- a) that the CMP only covered the existing sandpit and was silent on the area around the intended new site;
- b) that little ringed plovers were nesting on site

As a result, Mr Patterson had contacted Dudman on these two points.

In addition, Paul has been working with Tony Hutson to prepare a more detailed response on the report. Paul circulated both the ECOSA report and the draft response, which in particular notes that the report appears to be silent on conservation plans to protect wildlife species other than invertebrates, such as bats, badgers and great crested newts.

Paul invited all residents to let him have any final comments. He would send his response to Mr Patterson and My Symes at the end of the week.

Action: Paul Nicholson

7. Date of Next Liaison Group Meeting

Paul Nicholson undertook to contact Mr Dudman to arrange this as soon as work recommences on site. He had also asked Meg Stroude, County Councillor, to remind Mr Dudman.

8. Any Other Business

Nigel Hills said that in view of the possibility of vehicle movement in the near future he would set up a hotmail account for people to send in details of speeding vehicle movements to/from the sandpit and any photographs.

Action: Nigel Hills

9. Date of next Residents' Committee Meeting

This will be held on Wednesday 11th July 2007 at 7.30pm in the Committee Room in the Village Hall.

Action: All