

013/08

Novington Sandpit Residents' Committee

Minutes of Meeting Held on Thursday 4th September 2008 7.30pm, Plumpton Village Hall – Committee Room

Present: Mike Barnard, Charles Dampney; Jane Gane; Tony Hutson; Jeanie Muddle; Rod McClelland; Richard Muirhead: Paul & Carole Nicholson; Julie Russell;

1. Apologies

These had been received from Jean Eagle, Jane George, Teresa Wells, Veronica Harris, Tim Parmenter.

2. Minutes

Those present approved the minutes of the meeting held on 8th April.

3. Matters Arising

Para 3 Pre-Conditions. Paul Nicholson reported that the Conservation Management Plan had been received in April and was now signed off by ESCC. All pre-conditions had now been satisfied.

It was noted that in an earlier draft, mention had been made that residents would be part of the Post-Operation Monitoring process. However, the wording was less explicit in the final version.

There was also a question asked about the length of time post-operation the site monitoring was intended to be continued.

Paul Nicholson and Tony Hutson were asked to seek clarification on this point from Jeremy Patterson.

Action: Paul Nicholson and Tony Hutson

4. Pre-conditions

As stated above, all pre-conditions are now satisfied. On-going conditions are largely self-policing.

5. Activities on Site

Paul Nicholson had been to site recently for a meeting with the site manager, Ron. Matters arising from the meeting were as follows:

- a) Wildlife enthusiasts should be pleased that Ron is interested in the local wildlife and showed Paul photographs of birds on site. Little ringed plovers had, again, nested on site this summer.
- b) Activity has continued with extraction of sand and stockpiling. The stockpile is currently at about 150 tonnes – each lorry takes about 20 tonnes. On the day Paul visited, there were only 2 lorry movements.

- c) The site is operating at a much lower level than anticipated (probably around 25% of target). It is anticipated that this will continue due to the economic downturn for a considerable period.
- d) A new digger had been brought onto site to ease the digging of sand at the deeper end of the new pit.
- e) There had recently been a break-in and efforts were being made to improve security.
- f) In an attempt to increase demand, it should be expected that new contracts will be forthcoming and this might lead to more traffic and possibly vehicles passing North through the village.

6. Traffic

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

Paul Nicholson had recently written to everyone asking them to let him know of any vehicles seen passing through the village in a Northerly direction since the last meeting, and whether any had been seen unsheeted. The only response had been that one operator (Allen) has been parking in the Half Moon layby around 7am before going to site. Paul had mentioned this to the site manager, Ron, who had undertaken to review this with Allen.

Paul Nicholson requested that residents continue to be vigilant and report to him any vehicle movements passing through the village and if they had been unsheeted.

He had sought clarification from Tom Hawthorne (as a coach and former bus company operator) as to what information is required. Tom had responded *"the crucial information is **always the time and date of the incident along with the number plate....with so many buses and coaches on the road (a very similar situation to the sandpit operator)....without all that information there would nearly always be some element of doubt"***

7. Ecology

As reported above the Conservation Management Plan has been signed off. Paul was requested to circulate a copy to all members of the committee.

Action: Paul Nicholson

8. Liaison Group and feedback from ESCC

Paul Nicholson had followed this issue up with Steve Dudman who is now refusing to meet with anyone else other than Paul. The Committee expressed disappointment, but understood the situation. Paul undertook to try to visit site more regularly and report back any findings.

Action: Paul Nicholson

9. Waste and Mineral Plan

This important review is now underway. The existing Waste and Minerals Local Plan is still operative until 2011 when the two new documents will be in place as part of the Waste and Minerals Development Framework. The consultation closed in June and we await the result of the consultation and the next stage of the process. The

Plumpton Parish Council had made representation that the community did not want to see expansion of the site to the other side of the Novington Bridleway. This was not in the current Plan, and is not explicitly mentioned in the current scoping document. East Sussex needs sand and this site is the only suitable site available so there may be pressure for expansion of an existing operational site.

Paul Nicholson reported that it may be necessary to find funding to cover the cost of an 'expert' to give advice should expansion of the site be mentioned in the next draft of the Plan. The meeting noted that it was vital for the community to keep vigilant on land ownership changes and the new Plan as it develops. Carole Nicholson was asked to see if the PPC would be prepared to add this to next year's budget should the need arise.

Action: Carole Nicholson

10. Any Other Business

Paul Nicholson tabled the Constitution. It was noted that the residents' committee has been in place for two years, at which time it had been agreed that the wording and chairmanship would be reviewed.

Paul asked if anyone else wanted to take over as Chair. The meeting felt that Paul had met the group's requirements and it requested that he stay in post. He was warmly thanked for his efforts. Paul acknowledged this and agreed to continue for a further two years as Chairman.

Rod McClelland also agreed to stay as Deputy Chairman, but requested that a second Deputy be found. It was suggested that Paul should approach John Bowden.

Action: Paul Nicholson

11. Date of next Residents' Committee Meeting

This will be held on **Thursday 27th November 2008 at 7.30pm** in the Committee Room in the Village Hall.