

014/08

## Novington Sandpit Residents' Committee

### Minutes of Meeting Held on Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> November 2008 7.30pm, Plumpton Village Hall – Committee Room

**Present:** Mike Barnard, John Bowden, Charles Dampney; Tony Hutson; Jeanie Muddle; Paul & Carole Nicholson; Tim Parmenter, Teresa Wells, Katie Wride

#### 1. Apologies

These had been received from Veronica Harris, Tom Hawthorne, Amanda Inglis, Graham Inglis, Rod Maclaren, Julie Russell

#### 2. Minutes

Those present approved the minutes of the meeting held on 4<sup>th</sup> September.

#### 3. Matters Arising

Paul Nicholson said that he was pleased that John Bowden had agreed to become a second deputy chairman along with Rod Maclaren.

Tony Hutson had been through the Conservation Management Plan in depth and he and Paul Nicholson had forwarded these findings and other points in a letter the Jeremy Patterson on 30<sup>th</sup> October. Copies were made available to those present. There had been no direct response from Jeremy Patterson although he had confirmed to Meg Stroude receipt of the letter.

There had been some confusion over the ongoing management of the site in the post-working period. Paul Nicholson had now confirmed with Jeremy Patterson that *“the CMP notes that the worked sandpit area (existing pit) is subject to a 5 year monitoring programme from May 2008, thereby taking it to May 2013. The eastern extension is subject to such a programme on completion of the restoration, which could be from 2017 (ten years from the commencement of operations), thereby taking it to 2022. Thereafter, there is no formal provision. A management committee is due to be set up and perhaps these issues could be discussed at such a forum in more detail.*

*I am copying Mr Douglas Symes into this reply and would welcome his comments as to when such a committee will be set up and if/when the next liaison committee will be arranged.”*

It was hoped that there might be representation from Plumpton/East Chiltonton on this committee.

#### 4. Activities on Site and meeting with Mr Dudman

Paul Nicholson had met with Mr Dudman recently and gave the following report: Activity has continued with extraction of sand and stockpiling, but all very slow. The eastern section has now been fully stripped of topsoil and the bunds created – all as per the working plan. The long-armed digger enables deeper extraction without the

need for pumping and this was seen by the meeting as a positive contribution as pumps would cause noise and possibly run-off into the adjoining water-courses.

Turnover from site was increasing but slowly as the economic downturn had reduced construction market demand. However, new contracts were being achieved and it was thought that these were to the north of Plumpton.

Tony Hutson asked if the slowdown meant that Mr Dudman might ask for an extension to the licence after the current 10 year period. Paul said that he was uncertain of this, but given that this is the only such site in East Sussex, he felt this might be possible. The meeting hoped that the desired planning restrictions might be considered by ESCC another time round.

## **5. Traffic**

Paul had mentioned to Mr Dudman the concern of residents over vehicles moving north through the village especially at school start and finish time. Mr Dudman said that he always advises his own drivers to move south of the site. However, if they were delivering, for example, to Travis Perkins in Wivelsfield, it made sense for the drivers to move north to cut down on time and fuel costs.

Paul asked everyone to remain vigilant and advise him if they did see vehicles moving north, especially at school times.

There had previously been complaints that one operator (Allen) had been parking in the Half Moon layby around 7am before going to site (ie ½ hour before the site is supposed to open). Mr Dudman had advised Paul that this driver had been told to arrive at the allotted time. The meeting expressed pleasure at this and noted that this lorry had not been seen arriving early since.

## **6. Ecology**

Tony Hutson had nothing to report. He hopes to visit site and review with the site manager, Ron, the wildlife that he had seen on site recently.

John Bowden was concerned about the run off from the sand into one of the lagoons which, from a distance, appeared to have made the water look a little murky. There was some concern that, in the future, if the lagoon was allowed to silt up it would interfere with the natural flow of water in and out of the lagoon which could present further problems. Paul said that when he next visited the site he would discuss this with the operator.

## **7. Meeting with Meg Stroude, ESCC**

Paul and John Bowden met with Meg Stroude, on 6<sup>th</sup> November. This meeting had been useful and covered traffic, site conditions and activity, the future of the site within the upcoming Waste & Minerals Plan.

## **8. Waste and Mineral Plan**

Paul had previously outlined the changes being made to the Waste and Minerals Development Framework. This important review is now under way with the existing Waste & Minerals Local Plan still operative until 2011 when two new documents will be in place as part of the Waste & Minerals Development Framework.

The broad timetable for the framework from hereon is as follows:

September 2008 to February 2009: One to one meetings with key stakeholders including mineral operators (the meeting with DK Symes being one of approximately 50 meetings that have been taking place since 09/08 and will continue through to early 2009);

September 2009: Consultation on a Preferred Strategy document. This is likely to include open workshops and exhibitions.

February – March 2010: Consultation on a proposed 'Submission' Waste and Minerals Core Strategy DPD. This is the final document that ESCC will want to submit to Government for its consideration.

June – July 2010: Consultation on a preferred approach for the Minerals Site DPD

At the February 2008 consultation stage, the Plumpton Parish Council had responded and amongst other points the following had been clearly stated:

*In the particular case of Novington sandpit (soft sand) the Parish Council is concerned to see no further development at this site beyond the existing permission, which runs to 2016. The site has been a blight on the local community for many years and places a severe burden on the rural surroundings from increased traffic levels. The Parish Council wishes to see a proactive stance taken by ESCC in achieving the full restoration of the site".*

It was thought that East Chiltington Parish Council had not made any submission.

The meeting felt that as East Chiltington was the most likely to be affected by any future expansion of the site, that their Parish Council should be asked to set aside a reserve for at least £250 to provide for a 'defence' fund, should legal advice be sought to help Paul Nicholson review the draft consultation papers. Charles Dampney agreed to discuss this with Amanda Inglis.

The meeting asked if Plumpton PC had set aside any reserve. Paul advised that it had felt unable to at this stage.

Paul noted that he thought that the approach to any extension would still be from Plumpton Lane.

**Action: Charles Dampney and Amanda Inglis**

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

This will be held on **Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> February 2009 at 7.30pm** in the Committee Room in the Village Hall.