

LIAISON COMMITTEE MEETING

Minutes of Committee Meeting held on Wednesday 04th October 2023 at Moons Hill Quarry, Stoke St Michael – 15.00

Present:

Phillip Ham (PH)	SCC Councillor and Chairperson
Ben Dormer (BD)	J Wainwright Aggregates Business Manager
Matt Bishop (MB)	J Wainwright SHE Manager
Barry Clarke (BC)	County Council
Amanda Taylor (AT)	Stoke St Michael Parish Council
Tim Gibson (TG)	J Wainwright
Nick Dunn (ND)	J Wainwright (L&MM)
Chloe Hart (CH)	J Wainwright Sustainability Manager
Rowena Kinsman	Stoke St Michael resident.

Apologies:

Ann Crowcombe (AC)	Cranmore Parish Council
Tony Blaker (TB)	Doultling Residents Representative
Martyn Ford (MF)	SCC Principal Monitoring & Enforcement Officer

2. Minutes of previous meeting

The minutes of the previous meeting were accepted as a true and accurate record from the previous meeting held on 15th March 2023.

AT would be interested to visit site along with others in the Committee. **BD** - 2 previous dates had been given, the first members were unable to make it and the latest date on the 8th March had been thwarted by the snow. **BD** to organise a. **Action: BD**

3. Quarry Matters

BD - John Wainwright & Co Ltd continue to operate as usual however sales volumes are down on YTD figures and the economic uncertainty that lingers over the UK has impacted on the industry with competitive pricing/margin impacts. The production operations have been as before with a focus on Stoke North and Stoke West. A small amount of overburden stripping in Moons Hill has taken place during the period, this will likely commence again in the spring/early summer 2024.

BD advised no changes to static plant have taken place during the period however a new Front End Loader has been purchased which is more fuel efficient and part of our ongoing sustainability objectives of lowering energy usage.

Employee numbers have been maintained during the period but not expanded.

BD provided a short update of the previously mentioned planning application that John Wainwright have been working towards and then an introduction was given to Nick Dunn from Land and Mineral management working on behalf of John Wainwright & Co. Ltd.

ND provided a short presentation on the planning application that has been worked on and information surrounding it. (Areas such as the existing reserve, extension reserve, phases of working, screening bunds, Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG), overburden, tips and designs for working as well as concept restoration). Question asked of the committee on the best method of engagement with the local community. Feedback was that it was important to engage with key stakeholders such as properties close to the extension as soon as practicable as well as provide accessible public consultation in Stoke St Michael Village Hall to people without vehicles that would not be able to access the SESC where proposed presentations would take place.

Approximate timescales at present are to apply for planning permission in December 2023 once this public consultation process has been carried out and all environmental impacts assessments, designs tested, and appropriate mitigation has been included.

MB advised that a litter pick had been carried out in April 2023. This was organised by John Wainwright and coordinated with other Mendip Quarry Producers to tackle some of the areas outside the quarries that are litter hotspots. In addition, a request to help a local litter pick with traffic management was carried out on Charmborough Lane this enabled 16 litter pickers to make a real difference to this area as well.

Sustainability

CH – Planning for a 1 Megawatt solar array is nearly complete for submission. This will help fix the energy costs for the business as well as decarbonise our emissions. Alongside this, we believe as a responsible business if we can invest in renewable technology we assist Somerset council their net zero target, through grid decarbonisation.

We continue to increase the recycled content in our products in a sustainable and durable way, this reduces our reliance on virgin aggregates and lowers the carbon footprint of our products. There will still be a need for the high PSV aggregates to be extracted but we hope to increase the lifespan of reserves as we increase the recycled content.

The 2022/2023 sustainability report will be released before Christmas and will be available on our webpage -under sustainability.

4. Complaints and concerns

MB - Reported that we have received No complaints since the last meeting – Discussion with AC via telephone prior to meeting discussing hauliers and the use of horns to communicate with each other while driving through Cranmore. MB to communicate with internal HGV fleet to remind them of their responsibility as ambassadors for John Wainwright in the wider community.

BD advised that should anyone have any concerns / complaints to please contact the quarry so that we can look into it and investigate/deal with any issues... if we don't know about it we can't do anything about it.

5. Parish Matters / Residents Matters

Cranmore - Nil to report.

Stoke St Michael – **AT** enquired regarding possible use of boulders/rocks to prevent vehicle access onto a grass area within Moons Hill estate in the village. **BD** advised that he enquire if we were able to offer support with this but was confident.

Doultling – Nil to report.

7. Somerset County Council Matters

Nil to report.

8. Any Other Business

BD states that snowdrops were planted as requested at the lower part of the site near Stoke St Micheal and he hoped that we would see the first signs of this next year.

PH thanked **John Wainwright** for traffic management support earlier in the year for the litter picking.

9. Date and Venue of the next meeting

The next meeting will be held at **JW's** boardroom on **Wednesday 20th March 2024 at 3pm**

Signed.....Dated

Proposed Agenda for meeting on Wednesday 20th March 2023 at 3pm

- 1. Apologies for absence**
- 2. Minutes of previous meeting**

Matters arising, to include:

- 3. Quarry Matters / Sustainability**
- 4. Complaints and concerns**
- 5. Parish /Residents Matters.**
- 6. Somerset County Council Matters**
- 7. Any Other Business**

- 10. Date & venue of next meeting**