

LIAISON COMMITTEE MEETING

**Minutes of Committee Meeting held on Wednesday 2nd of October 2024
at Somerset Earth Science Centre, Stoke St Michael – 15.00**

Present:	Phillip Ham (PH)	SCC Councillor and Chairperson
	Ben Dormer (BD)	J Wainwright Operations Director
	Matt Bishop (MB)	J Wainwright SHE Manager
	Chloe Hart (CH)	J Wainwright Sustainability Manager
	Barry Clarke (BC)	County Council
	Amanda Taylor (AT)	Stoke St Michael Parish Council
	Simon Collins (SC)	Stoke St Michael Parish Council
	Nick Dunn (ND)	J Wainwright (L&MM)
	Rowena Kinsman (RK)	Stoke St Michael resident
	Ruth Amundson (RA)	Somerset Council Minerals & Waste
	Ann Crowcombe (AC)	Cranmore Parish Council

Apologies: Tony Blaker (TB) Doulling Residents Representative

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 the 20th March 2024.

Actions update from the previous meeting:

MB updated that the Mendip Quarry producers carried out their annual Litter pick this year – they are considering putting out additional signage after next years litter pick to highlight that it had occurred and to encourage people to re-consider littering in the advent of it. Please do contact MB if you have requests to improve the activity. Liaison committee requested to be told in advance of next year's so local groups could also join.

MB Action: to provide advance dates and route map to liaison committee and the Parish Council Clerks in January.

3. A) Quarry Matters

BD Employee numbers remain similar to last meeting sitting around 135-140 employees.

BD A few senior roles within the company have changed over the last 6 months. Including new Technical, Commercial and Operational Directors.

But our core business remains the same with sales and production volumes remaining in line with our budgets, the challenge as always is the highly competitive market with pricing a challenge, energy costs have stabilized over the last 6 months and we are in a better position that we were.

BD Day to day production and load and haul remains the same with no new equipment on site. But in October we are due to receive a new EC750 excavator that is a newer version of our existing equipment at the face, this is anticipated to be more fuel efficient with the OEM working on engine upgrades since our previous model. Large mobile plant is still a challenge with no EV options/hydrogen etc. We are liaising with OEM's to ensure that when equipment is available we will look to upgrade. Discussions surrounded the 3-4x cost of the EVs/hydrogen heavy plant which is currently on the market, the grid restrictions and for the fast charging required to fuel these vehicles. Alongside the discussion on the future the availability of hydrogen and cost of 'green' hydrogen. Wainwright continues to review all options.

AC asked for an update on the HVO trials. **CH** explained HVO trials were successful technically - though we did see a fuel increase when using it. However, HVO fuel remains at a 15-20% premium compared to diesel, so we are utilising it in line with customers who it is commercially sensible.

BD Current quarry workings have been in Stoke on levels 2,3,4,5 and this will continue. We have moved material from an old, tipped area / old faces in Moons Hill to expose material to aid our short-term production until our planning permission is hopefully approved.

3 B) Sustainability

The Wainwright 23/24 FY Sustainability report will be released on our website soon. The highlights are: Wainwright's emissions were 11,161 tonnes CO2e scope 1 & 2 - up 2,000t. This was due to back up fuel use when gas supply failed, despite us choosing a liquid fuel that was 11% lower carbon than gas oil to try to mitigate the impact. However, due to this we have invested in a new burner that can use multiple fuels, including hydrogen – so we are ready to transition in future if viable. Our average recycled levels in our asphalt rose from 6% in 22/23 to 9% in 23/24. And it will be our first time reporting on some of our scope 3 emissions including haulage emissions for delivered products and raw materials – including bitumen.

Wainwright have also purchased a new EV Pick-up truck – which we have been using in quarry operations. We have adapted practices and learnt more about how best to transition operational vehicles in future.

3. C) Planning

CH Solar application submitted and live on the planning portal – links can also be found on our website under planning applications. Ed winter is the planning officer assigned. This is to decarbonise our emissions alongside future proofing us, as we require more electricity through vehicle electrification, we may not be able to get enough from the

local grid therefore producing solar behind our own meter will assist us with this. And importantly won't put strain on an already constrained local grid.

ND Quarry extension - Further information requested regarding a variety of aspects of the application. This information has been sought and we are hopeful of further progress in 2025.

4. Complaints and concerns

Quarry Complaints:

Noise - None
Dust- None
Blasting- None

Additional blast regression analysis via a third party has been undertaken to ensure we comply with our limits imposed by planning. No issues have been noted and we continue to monitor and blast within our limits.

Transport complaints:

1 Justified complaint: From stoke St Micheal – Wainwrights was called to say our vehicle was driving through weight limit, and that the driver was angry when photographed. Wainwright's contracting general manager informed as it was a contracted driver – the driver stated they didn't know about the weight limit, the driver and company used have been issued instructions on how to get to site to avoid this happening again.

2 Unjustified complaints: regarding vehicle movement in Stoke St. Michael – upon reviewing CCTV to our site entrance it was proved they were not vehicles associated with Wainwright.

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

5. Parish Matters / Residents Matters

Cranmore & Doultling - Nil to report.

Stoke St Michael – **AT** advised that drawings have been produced for the 12ft bridge at the Lychgate, costing is being reviewed then they may approach Futures Foundation for assistance.

Cranmore – General request to ask all hauliers to slow down for the Pinch point at Waterlip, just after the chapel.

Action TM – Wainwright's transport manager will to ask to go carefully especially by the culvert.

6. Somerset County Council Matters

PH: Highlighted the LCN meeting on Monday and wondered if Wainwright could attend in future – one topic discussed last Monday was the Beacon junction and discussion on whether to put traffic lights or roundabout to reduce the over turned lorries and accidents.

There is a desire to have the Mendip quarries involved, regarding if they assist with reduced rate materials – to lower costs to get approved.

Action BD to raise internally and review who could attend the next meeting.

7. Any Other Business

Futures foundation update:

Donations continue since previous meeting including: Asphalt for Doultling village hall, Stoke St Micheal Memorial hall sponsorship, Cranmore Parish Council Solar Cabinet Donation, amongst others.

BC: Feedback is that Wainwright is not subject to a vote externally e.g compared to the majors.

Date and Venue of the next meeting

The next meeting will be held at JW's boardroom on **12th March 2025 at 3pm.**

Signed.....Dated

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Proposed Agenda for meeting on Wednesday 12th March 2025 at 3pm

1. Apologies for absence
2. Minutes of previous meeting

Matters arising, to include:

3. Quarry Matters
4. Sustainability
5. Planning

6. Complaints and concerns

7. Parish /Residents Matters.

8. Somerset County Council Matters

9. Any Other Business

8. Date & venue of next meeting