

**HUNTINGTON LANE SURFACE MINE SITE**  
**COMMUNITY LIAISON COMMITTEE**  
**LITTLE WENLOCK**

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON MONDAY, 19<sup>TH</sup> APRIL, 2010 AT 7.00 P.M. IN**  
**LITTLE WENLOCK VILLAGE HALL**

**PRESENT:** Peter Whittle (Chairman), Juliet Esp, John Ferrington, Councillor Debbie Goodman, Janet Higgs, Councillor Tracy Hope, Julia Kaminsky, John Marcham and Councillor Jacqui Seymour

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Michael Barker (Head of Planning & Transport -T&WC), David Coxill (Principal Waste & Minerals Planning Officer - T&WC), Craig Ball (UK Coal), Alan Less and Trevor Parkin (Entec UK Ltd.)

**CLC1            APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Roger Seymour and Pete Lambert (Shropshire Wildlife Trust)

**CLC2            WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS**

The Chairman informed the Liaison Committee that Councillor Professor Patrick Pietroni had resigned from the Committee. On behalf of the Members the Chairman thanked him for his work in setting up the Liaison Committee.

The Chairman further informed the Liaison Committee that Warwick France had resigned with effect from 19<sup>th</sup> April, 2010. It was agreed that a replacement member would be appointed when a suitable person came forward.

The Chairman welcomed Councillor Tracy Hope and Alan Lees (editor of the Little Wenlock website) to the meeting.

**CLC3            ELECTION OF NEW CHAIRMAN AND VICE-CHAIRMAN**

It was proposed, seconded and agreed that Peter Whittle become the Chairman of the Community Liaison Committee.

Alan Lees declined the offer to be proposed as Vice-Chairman and it was proposed, seconded and agreed that Councillor Debbie Goodman become the Vice-Chairman of the Community Liaison Committee.

**CLC4            PROPOSAL TO INVITE JOHN MARCHAM TO JOIN COMMITTEE**

It was agreed that John Marcham, Clerk to Little Wenlock Parish Council, become a member of the Committee.

**CLC5**                    **MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COMMUNITY LIAISON COMMITTEE HELD ON MONDAY, 15<sup>TH</sup> MARCH, 2010**

These were agreed as an accurate record of the meeting.

**CLC6**                    **INTERIM CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

The Chairman reported that:

the Terms of Reference and the Communications Plan were ready for approval  
he had attended meetings with Michael Barker and David Coxill from Telford & Wrekin Council to update him on Council issues in relation to the site and on the uses of the Community Fund, with particular regard to school usage  
he had attended meetings with Craig Ball and Trevor Parkin, who had put forward ideas for school participation, further details of which would be provided.

The Chairman emphasised that the Committee was not a forum for problems but was a liaison group to ensure that the coal extraction was as smooth a process as possible through working with Telford & Wrekin Council and UK Coal Ltd. The Council, as the Local Planning Authority, was responsible for making progress on the day to day detail while the Committee would monitor this and raise any appropriate issues. It was the Council's responsibility to hold UK Coal to account for the extraction programme and the restitution of the site.

John Marcham informed the meeting that the Annual Parish Meeting for Little Wenlock would take place at 7.30 p.m. on 26<sup>th</sup> April, 2010 and that UK Coal and other interested parties had been invited (but not the protesters). The Chairman said that he would speak briefly on the status of this Committee but would be unable to answer any questions relating to the wildlife aspects. It was agreed that, in the absence of Pete Lambert, Julia Kaminsky would respond to these. Alternatively, Robin Mager of Shropshire Wildlife Trust might be able to attend.

Michael Barker said that he was willing to attend the Meeting to represent Telford & Wrekin Council.

**CLC7**                    **TO REVIEW/CONFIRM THE REVISED TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR THE COMMUNITY LIAISON COMMITTEE**

Following a discussion of the proposed Terms of Reference it was agreed that Michael Barker and Craig Ball liaise on the required changes to the Terms of Reference in order to clarify the where responsibility lay between the Council and UK Coal. The Terms of Reference would then be circulated for consideration at the next meeting of the Committee. Members were asked to consider the version tabled at the meeting and to confirm through David Coxill that these were acceptable. Alan Lees requested that each version included a date and version number and Councillor Debbie Goodman requested that individual sections be numbered rather than have bullet points.

**CLC8**                    **REPORTS**

a.            Telford & Wrekin Council – Councillors

No issues raised

b.            Telford & Wrekin Council – Officers

David Coxill referred to the Fencing Plan Scheme. A response setting out a number of concerns had been received from Janet Mees-Robinson, which he read out to the meeting. Craig Ball had responded to the points raised and explained that the fencing, as used on their previous sites, would be there from the commencement of the site operations until the cessation of operations following which the majority of it would be removed. In addition, Condition 41 of the Planning Permission for the site

stated that within 6 months of the commencement of the site operations a Restitution Plan had to be submitted to the Local Planning Authority for approval. Jas Sidhu, the Council's Senior Rights of Way Officer, had spoken to Janet Mees-Robinson and reassured her about the fencing and Jane Bushell, the Council's Group Landscape Architect, had requested that some of the wire fencing adjacent to the Bridle Paths should be replaced by non-barbed wire. Craig Ball confirmed that UK Coal was happy to do so and Trevor Parkin confirmed that the fencing would not be erected close to paths but would have a 5m. spread.

Craig Ball informed the Committee that it had now been decided to retain some of the trees and shrubs in the area of the sub-soil mound on the site. Therefore, the mound would be re-aligned and the fencing removed.

David Coxill informed the Committee that he would be meeting the Council's accountants to discuss the detail of the criteria to be used for the Community Fund. The criteria had to be user-friendly and appropriate for this project. He would report on the outcome of the meeting at the next Committee Meeting.

David Coxill reported that he had received a letter from P. Thomas, Solicitors, regarding the protection of New Works Wood. He confirmed that the only designation on the site was some area of the AONB but there were no Tree Preservation Orders in place and no area of Ancient Woodland. Trevor Parkin added that the SAM designation applied only to the monument itself and not to the vegetation.

David Coxill reported that he had received complaints from the protesters regarding the width of the trees and the internal haul road within New Works Wood. Trevor Parkin explained the process that had taken place to create the haul road and said that he was confident that all the work had been carried out as agreed. This had been set out in a letter to the protesters. Michael Barker confirmed that the Council was responsible for checking the width of the road and said that it was currently satisfied that the work was being undertaken within the terms of the planning consent.

Trevor Parkin explained the process which had been followed to mark out the road and confirmed that the road would be fenced along the red line boundary at a width of 30m. The figures stated by the protesters as to the width of the road were inaccurate.

With regard to the issue raised by Pat Judson regarding non-compliance with the Sustainable Communities Act 2007, David Coxill explained that the Council's Planning Solicitor had stated that the reference with regard to the distance coal could be transported was only an aspiration and had no relevance to this scheme.

David Coxill confirmed that Telford & Wrekin Council was responsible for planning control, environmental health and liaison with other agencies. The danger of the protesters digging within the area of the Scheduled Ancient Monument was being monitored.

In response to a question from John Ferrington Craig Ball said that the fencing would be standard boundary fencing and not security fencing. UK Coal would decide upon the level of security fencing required as and when this became an issue.

c. UK Coal Ltd.

Craig Ball said that the only work currently being undertaken on the site was by Central Networks diverting some pylons in the south of the site and the following week replacement wiring would be done. Central Networks would cut the power off on 23<sup>rd</sup> April, 2010 and there would be a short delay before power supplies were re-routed. The new Site Manager, Peter Greenwood, would attend the next meeting of the Committee. Work would start in June 2010 prior to which UK Coal would be discharging its conditions.

Following discussions with West Mercia Police, they had asked that a representative attend a future meeting, which was agreed. WMP would undertake an ongoing monitoring role and answer any questions.

With regard to Air Quality, the current data had been collected over 2 years at Rose Villa and would provide the base line. Michael Barker requested the Committee to bring any issues to the Council as Local Planning Authority and it would take these up with UK Coal.

John Ferrington commented on the state of the protesters' vehicles but Craig Ball said that UK Coal would not take a view until it had commenced site operations.

**10. Response to Protesters on Site**

Michael Barker stated the Telford & Wrekin Council had no responsibility for this, which lay with UK Coal as the owner and the police. Craig Ball said that UK Coal would consider the situation in June and then decide upon action in liaison with the police.

Trevor Parkin said that the protesters could cause a problem to the Limekiln Brook and the Environment Agency might have to monitor the situation.

**11. REVIEW/CONFIRM REVISED COMMUNICATION STRATEGY**

The Chairman said that an entry had been placed in the Community Newsletter setting out the status of the Committee.

Alan Lees, editor of the Little Wenlock website, said that an additional page could be added for the Community Liaison Committee with a link from the home page. The cost of an additional page would be approximately £75-100 and Craig Ball asked that he be provided with details by e-mail following which he would take it forward.

The proposed communication strategy was agreed in order that Alan Lees could start work on the new web page.

It was agreed that the following information be provided on the web page:

- UK Coal's Complaints Procedure
- Frequently Asked Questions
- Names and affiliation of Committee members but no contact details – only one contact point to be given
- Dates of the Committee meetings should make it clear that they were not public meetings and that any questions should be submitted before hand.
- Once web site had been created, adjacent parishes to be informed, i.e. Wellington Town Council and Dawley Hamlets and a link placed on the web site.
- With regard to complaints received, no need to provide these on the web site but a log to be maintained for the Committee's use.
- Craig Ball agreed to report all complaints received by UK Coal to the Committee

With regard to nominating two members as focal points for collating information, the Chairman to deal with.

Trevor Parkin asked that the term 'surface mining' be used rather than 'open cast'. He offered to provide copies of the Secretary of State's approval documentation and the Planning Inspector's report via CD.

John Marcham and Alan Lees to liaise on site content and ensure there was no negative input.

Press Release

Publication of press release in Shropshire Star outlining role of Committee, etc. including details of Community Fund and to solicit proposals. To be issued when work commenced on site and following agreement of Terms of Reference. Wording to be agreed at the next meeting.

John Ferrington suggested holding an open meeting but the Chairman thought this was too early in the programme. It was suggested that the new web page would be appropriate place for publicity and to access the Committee rather than a meeting. It was agreed that this was a decision for a later date and following feedback from the public and meetings of the Community Fund Sub-Group.

## **12. ISSUES FROM INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS**

Councillor Jacqui Seymour asked the following:

following restitution of the northern end of the site, would it be used for future building

Craig Ball responded that, in line with the Restitution Plan, the site would be returned to agricultural use. UK Coal had put forward representations to the Local Planning Authority for potential development on the site but restoration would be in accordance with the plans submitted. Michael Barker further explained that there was no allocation for built development following restoration. Determination of the future land use would be for the Local Planning Authority following revision of the current Core Strategy.

was the site designated as brown or green field?

The site was greenfield and had never been designated as brownfield. A condition of the approval was the restoration of the site to Greenfield.

article in Private Eye relating to Leicestershire County Council and UK Coal.

Craig Ball to liaise with John Marcham to deal with the content.

Michael Barker agreed to deal with any queries relating to planning policy.

## **13. To address any issues raised by residents**

- a. Fencing plan concerns from Janet Rees-Mogg – dealt with under agenda item CLC8(b).
- b. Councillor Debbie Goodman raised the issue of which body was responsible for maintenance of the roadway from the exit of the site to the Candles site. She considered that Telford & Wrekin Council should bring the rest of the road up to a good standard from the Horsehay By-pass to the Candles site before the additional traffic commenced. Craig Ball referred to the Section 278 contribution made to the Council for the road between the surface mining site exit and Candles – this to be paid upfront. John Marcham referred to the Section 106 contribution for £46k for work from Coalmoor to Candles – when would this be done?

Michael Barker replied that the Council had limited funds available through S106 contributions and no funding had been set aside for work on this road but he would clarify the situation for the next meeting. Trevor Parkin said that the £46k was to be used for maintenance of the road between the surface mining site and Horsehay.

## **14. To confirm the date of the next meeting**

It was confirmed that the next meeting would be held on 24<sup>th</sup> May, 2010 and future meetings would be held monthly for the foreseeable future.

The meeting ended at 9.07 p.m.

DRAFT