

LEIGH ON MENDIP PARISH COUNCIL
Meeting held at Memorial Hall on Monday 18th July 2022

Present: Cllrs Dave Mattick, Paula Freeland, Vicki Taylor (Chair),

Also in attendance: Kate Egan (Clerk)

Items were taken out of order from the agenda

1 Public Forum

There were no members of the public in attendance

2 Welcome by the Chairman

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting

3 Apologies for absence

Cllrs Iain Kirby, Estelle Kirby, Martin Carter and Neil Crump

4 Absent

No Councillors were absent

5 Declaration of Interests, Dispensations and Requests for Recording

There were no Declaration of Interests, Dispensations for Requests for Recording.

7 To confirm the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 20th June, previously circulated

Following amendments, the Council **RESOLVED** to accept the minutes from the meeting held on 20th June as a true record and were signed by the Chair.

6 County and District Councillor Reports

District Councillor Alan Townsend sent his apologies. County Councillor Phillip Ham was in attendance and gave a verbal report.

8 Matters arising from the minutes but not on the agenda

A possible enforcement issues was discussed in the village and Park Corner.

9 Planning Applications – If other planning applications are received between the date of this notice and the date of the meeting, they may be considered

No planning applications had been received but the following was brought to the Council's attention.

(a) 2022/1230/APP – Approval of details by condition 3 on planning consent

2022/0299/LBC (Fire Risk Assessment Works to include the installation of a fire door to the first-floor corridor, replace the existing window within Bedroom 1 with a new window, reinstate a gate within beer garden, adapt existing doors to form a resistance). Bell Inn, Leigh Street, Leigh on Mendip. **Update** The Parish Council had no issue with the application even though they had not been consulted.

(b) 2020/1877/OTS / APP/Q3305/W/21/3284378 It was noted that the Questionnaire (S78) and (S20) Planning and Listed Building Consent had been completed incorrectly by Mendip District Council. The planning department will be contacted with the corrections and copied to the Planning Inspector

10 Planning Applications – Responses to be noted from Mendip District Council and Being Monitored

No responses to be noted from Mendip District Council had been received although the Parish Council went through applications still awaiting a decision. Cllr Dave Mattick agreed to contact Somerset County Council regarding mineral safeguarding

11 Grants**(a) Grant application from the Friends of Leigh on Mendip School for £344.99**

The Parish Council **RESOLVED** to agree in principle the grant for £344.99 but will query the VAT amount as to whether it can be reclaimed back or not. **Update** Following the meeting it was confirmed that the Friends of Leigh on Mendip school are unable to reclaim VAT, the amount will be awarded.

12 Policies**(a) Health and Safety Policy**

This was deferred to the next meeting

13 To Be Resolved / Discussed.**(a) Proposal to approve the application for a community grant from Halecombe Community Fund Quarry and submit on behalf of the Parish Council**

The Council **RESOLVED** to approve the application for £5,000 to the Halecombe Quarry Community Fund and this will be submitted before the deadline of 31st July.

(b) Proposal to support the Halecombe Quarry Community Fund Request Form from Friends of Leigh School for £3,114.00.

The Council **RESOLVED** to support the Halecombe Quarry Community Fund Request from Friends of Leigh School for £3,114.00

(c) Proposal to accept the quote from Mark Reynolds to represent the Parish Council at the appeal hearing, approximate costs £9,000

Following the receipt of a revised quote the Council **RESOLVED** to accept the quote from Context Planning (Mark Reynolds) for approximately £1,900 plus VAT. The costs are for Mark Reynolds to attend the Appeal hearing, making the case to the Inspector and responding to the appellants. The quarry will also be approached to see if they can help with covering the costs.

(d) Proposal to accept the job description for the role of Volunteer Parish Tree Advisor for the Parish Council

This was deferred to the next meeting

(e) Proposal to accept the quote and detailed works to be carried out at Park Hayes and a Proposal to accept the division of work between contractors and the community

This was discussed and there were two offers of help. The Council **RESOLVED** in principle to accept the offer from Tarmac, Halecombe Quarry. Confirmation needs to be received from the quarry and which dates are available so they carry out the works.

(f) Discussion on further action required to implement the new cemetery

This was deferred to the next meeting

(g) Proposal to apply for the Community Planning and Engagement Project, the deadline is the end of July

The Council **RESOLVED** to apply for the Community Planning and Engagement Project and will submit the application before the deadline of 31st July.

14 Clerk's Report.

(a) Update from the Rangers on risk assessments and signing of the volunteer policy **Update** the Rangers will sign the volunteer policy and provide risk assessments for work carried out around the village.

(b) Update from Cllr Vicki Taylor on the informal meeting between Eastern Mendip Parish Councils that was held on Thursday 7th July **Update** Cllr Vicki Taylor gave a verbal report and the next meeting is on Thursday 11th August at 7.30pm at Doulling Village Hall.

- (c) Further to giving a small presentation and flowers to Cllr Dave Mattick and his wife, a card has been received thanking the Parish Council

18/22-23

15 Finance

Bank Balances as at: 11th July 2022

Current Account £19,319.73

Reserve Account £9574.95

Quarterly Review of the Budget – This was noted by the Parish Council

Approval and signature of the Quarterly Bank Reconciliation

The Council **RESOLVED** to approve the Quarterly Bank Reconciliation and it was signed by the Chair.

Receipts

(a) Bank Interest – NS&I - £0.96

Payments.

(b) SALC Councillor Training Course - £50.00 – two invoices

(c) Jubilee Expenses - £651.51

(d) Ionos – Web Hosting - £1.20

(e) Ionos – Monthly email charge - £3.60

(f) Leigh on Mendip Memorial Hall – hall hire - £42.00

(g) Idverde – Grass Cutting - £113.53

(h) Unity – Quarterly Bank Charges - £18.00 – pd by DD 30.06.2022

(i) Context Planning Ltd - £2,520.00

The Council **RESOLVED** to approve the above payments and receipts and also **RESOLVED** to approve the additional payment below

(j) Friends of Leigh School - £344.99

16 Councillor Reports

(a) Quarries – Report sent prior to the meeting – Appendix A. Cllr Dave Mattick also spoke about various quarry issues.

(b) Schools – Report sent prior to the meeting – Appendix B

(c) Highways – Cllr Martin Carter was not in attendance but had sent out an email prior to the meeting stating that 'Abandoned' vehicles were not deemed to be abandoned. Impressively within two days of reporting potholes they had been attended to.

(d) Allotments The Parish Council were thanked for the support of the grant from Halecombe Quarry, the money has been received and they are getting on with putting in the order for the storage unit.

17 Correspondence

(a) ICCM Newsletter – forwarded 07.07.22

(b) Next Frome LCN Meeting 3rd August – forwarded 11.07.22

18 Matters to report / items for next agenda

Those matters deferred and a request to review the budget

19 Date and time of next meeting: Monday 19th September 2022 in the Memorial Hall starting at 7.00pm.

Meeting Closed 8.58pm

Appendix A

HALECOMBE QUARRY

Dave Mattick briefing:

Dave has written Neil a briefing document on past quarry activities as well as providing a copy of the S106 – a document that supported the planning decision to deepen the quarry.

Dave and Neil are planning to meet on Wed 12th July over lunch to run through the briefing.

Direct liaison (2-hour meeting) handover with Neil, David Sparkes, Vaughan Gray and Jack Cartwright - Thurs 30th June 2022

David Sparkes handover:

Neil is extremely grateful to David Sparkes for his kind handover. David is grateful to relinquish the role and focus on his Rangers work around the village. David is happy for Neil to ask him further questions, he does not want to come to further meetings and considers himself stepped down from the role.

David Sparkes organised a handover meeting for me with Vaughan Gray (retiring General Foreman) and Vaughan's replacement in the role of community liaison, Jack Cartwright (Quarry Supervisor).

History:

Vaughan shared experiences of past engagement with the village. Including challenging times with planning applications.

Traffic control policy (no loaded vehicles through Mells, Chantry, LoM,, Coleford, Limekiln), Tarmac lorry trackers, as well as weigh-limiting lobbying by 12 villages (including Maiden Bradley and Chapmanslade) were also discussed.

Vaughan and Jack are committed to ensuring good relations with LoM.

I thanked them for all the kind support that they have given and will continue to offer – they really appreciated this.

Information on the site:

Neil and David had a tour of the asphalt lab and were given information on the ULTILOW warm mix asphalt now being created (see flyer attached). From 1 July 2022, all Tarmac delivered base and binder asphalt materials default to this format. This means that bitumen, requiring higher heats of up to 190 oC is replaced with a 'foam' binder at lower temperatures (as low as 100 oC). This supports Tarmac's net zero ambitions.

Neil was promised a tour into the quarry by Vaughan as part of the Village Fare activities.

Supporting our village:

In addition to the established Community Fund, the quarry team work with LoM and other villages directly (including Coleford). This activity sits under a Tarmac-wide programme to contribute 30,000 hours each year to the local community around their UK sites. With this they are able to provide time and skills. They are typically not able to give additional money to support initiatives.

The exceptions, where they annually allocate budget are for the LoM school (including Xmas presents for the children) and support of the Village Fair (where they have a stand and organise visits to the Halecombe quarry).

To obtain the skills / hours contribution for projects, we need to outline our request in an email to Vaughan and Jack. They then secure sign-off from the site manager / regional managers.

I was encouraged to think about all PC projects that they could support. We simply need to be bold and ask them. The chances are that they will say 'yes'.

NOTE: in a subsequent follow-up call with Vaughan, Neil asked if the quarry might be amenable to the preparation work for the Park Hayes parking project. Vaughan confirmed that this is exactly the type of project that they can easily undertake and well within their skill set. They would do the risk assessment etc, in line with their standard practices.

Neil called Martin to flag that this could be requested and might be a way to save allocated budget to be redeployed on other PC priority areas e.g. use of planning consultant.

Supporting the school:

The quarry has supported the school for many years. Vaughan (post retirement in Dec '22) is hoping, health dependent, on continuing to be a Tarmac ambassador for the school.

School support has included:

- Erection of school equipment
- Maintenance of ground and the pond within the school grounds
- Provision of money for Xmas presents for the school kids
- Provision of the Forest School set-up on the edge of the quarry
- Presentations to the school on safety around and within the quarry
- In addition, Vaughan personally gives the school cakes and sweets at Xmas for them to distribute

In discussion with Vaughan and Jack, a number of topics were raised. This includes upping the safety of children attending the Forest School, with a teacher able to obtain a site radio on each village. This would mean that if there was ever an incident, the quarry team can be raised straightaway and can attend in a matter of minutes following standard protocols that would include one of seven trained first-aiders.

Parishioner Leigh Thomas engagement with quarry over rubble on the road:

Leigh was in contact with a manager who has left the business (now works for Hanson at Whatley). Neil to connect Leigh with Vaughan over email. Neil to then step back.

How the village could support the quarry:

- Removal of now unnecessary plastic tree protectors from across the periphery of the site
- o Neil to raise this in the September 2022 PC meeting – can this be added as an agenda item please?

Opening of ‘admin’ road entrance onto Limekiln Lane:

- Needs to be completed by quarry by October ‘

22 WHATLEY / WESTDOWN QUARRY

Neil attended online Community Liaison Group meeting – 28 June 2022 (17:30 – 19:00)

The meeting was challenging to participate in because the internet bandwidth from the quarry was poor. So, the people in the room had to turn off the camera to stabilise the audio. It was at times difficult to work out who was speaking or responding.

The meeting was well attended by a range of Hanson staff and included updates on planning, environmental aspects, as well as operational presentations on the impact and measurement of explosions at the quarry.

Neil made contributions in three areas (all of which I have followed-up on and actioned):

- Asking if shooting is allowed in Asham Wood. The answer is ‘no’. I flagged that there are areas in the wood that are full of shot gun cartridges (that I constantly litter pick). I asked if they could add signage to remind people that shooting is not allowed, and to inform the public of what to do if shooting is heard. The Senior Landscape Architect, Alexandra Hemmings, has followed up with me on email and asked me to mark on a map where the shot gun cartridges are found and where I would suggest putting signage, which they are currently putting together.
- There was a presentation from Alexandra on the removal of Ash in areas of dieback and removal of dangerous invasive species which they undertake as default on all their land. I flagged the existence of Giant Hogweed in the Hanson-owned field to the east of the village, near the footpath approach to the quarry. I was asked to mark up on a map where this was and send it to Alexandra so they could deal with it. The school had flagged the concern of parents to me on my meeting and follow-up email from Sara Claxton. I have actioned this with Hanson.
- I also flagged extensive littering that occurs on the Northern edge of Asham Wood - again this has been reported to Alexandra.

Following the online meeting, Neil and Andy Bramston (Chantry PC and their quarry liaison person) connected by phone. We are planning to meet in future weeks and discuss working with quarries.

Appendix B

School tour and meeting, Neil, Sara Claxton (Administrator) and Dan Turull (Exec Head) – Wednesday 22 June

Neil had a tour around the school and its facilities. Sara and Dan were very welcoming.

As well as the PC's support of the school, with my quarry liaison hat on, we were able to join some dots as, for example, Sara has been trying to follow-up with someone who no longer works for Halecombe.

At my 30 June meeting with the Halecombe team, I was able to discuss the school and have subsequently connected them over email on varying projects for the school and quarry to action. Detail is provided in the separate quarry report for the 18 July PC meeting.

Sara had asked if the Giant Hogweed on the footpath and the quarry forest school could be addressed. The opportunity to address this came up at the Whatley / Westdown quarry community meeting (28 June). This has been actioned – Sara has been updated.

The School PTA were putting together a PC grant application. I was able to update them on the new process and flag the correct policy and form on the PC section of the village website. This application is submitted for consideration at the 18 July PC meeting. It is within the budget allocation and policy requirements to be approved.