

HALECOMBE QUARRY COMMUNITY FUND

Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 12th March 2025

Present:	Andy Cadell – AC	Strategic Planning Manager – Tarmac
	Luke Wilson LW	Operations manager – Tarmac
	Colin Arnold - CA	Somerset Council – Planning & Development
	Ian Tier - IT	Somerset Council – Finance manager
	Philip Ham – PH (Chair)	Somerset Councillor
	Paul Bell – PB	Coleford Parish Council
	Vicki Taylor – VTa	Leigh on Mendip Council
	Vicki Trundle – VT	Leigh on Mendip Council
	John Henderson - JH	Mells Parish Council
	Steve West - SW	Mells Parish Council
	David Rawlins – DR	The Asham & East Mendip Group / CPRE
	Andrew Bramston – AB	Whatley & Chantry Parish Council
	Vickie Watts - VW	Administrator

1. Apologies

Somerset Cllr Barry Clarke sent apologies.

2. Approve minutes from the last meeting: 18th September 2024

Those present agreed that the minutes previously circulated accurately reflected the meeting held on the 18th September 2024.

3. Somerset Council Report

CA reported that Somerset Council has a £50 million capitalisation agreement in place and are selling assets to provide everyday spending. There are 150 redundancies to be made although it has been agreed that new planning officers will be recruited. The new Local Plan is progressing well. It was confirmed that all quarry planning applications are dealt with by the strategic office.

AC said that it was important that there was a good relationship between the quarry and the planning department and hoped to meet soon to discuss.

CA said that there will be a monitoring meeting planned for Halecombe later in the year.

4. Environmental Health Office Report

No report received.

LW said that the quarry is having the burner downrated to produce lower emissions and electrifying to reduce fossil fuel.

5. Tarmac Report

LW reported that production was down by 20%. Tarmac was the main supplier for asphalt for the A303 project (Sparkford Bypass) which has now been completed. Tarmac will supply the Gravity Project at Bridgwater but this will fall in September. There are 25 employees at the quarry with no contracted labour employed.

The tar plant runs from 5am to midnight.

The quarry supplied the prizes for the Leigh on Mendip parish Xmas tree event which was a great success. A restoration plan meeting will take place soon. The bat box has been cleaned out and there are some boggy patches on the circular path which has stopped the tree felling and clearing, although about 50% of this has been completed. There has been direct contact with Leigh on Mendip Parish regarding the work being completed.

It was confirmed that Leigh on Mendip Parish Council is informed of blasting times so that they can share with parishioners. They take place between 1 and 2pm and are approximately once a month. All blasts are monitored at 4 locations and are not exceeding permitted levels. LW has agreed to share data so that it can be circulated to the committee.

Action: LW to send data from blast monitoring with VW so that it can be shared with committee

The annual litter pick will take place in the next month.

Action: LW agreed to liaise with Nunney Catch stop to ask if they could install lorry friendly litter bins as well as at the quarry

6. Leigh on Mendip PC Report

VT asked for a notice to be erected to warn of the new entrance on the Mells road. LW said that a new gate was due to be installed March /April and signage will then be put up.

The boulders agreed at the last community fund meeting have now been delivered to the recreation ground, although not yet to their final resting place.

7. Coleford PC Report

Nothing to report but agreed that signage at the new entrance was required and asked that the vegetation be cut back to ensure good visibility. LW confirmed that this will be added to the ongoing ground maintenance plan.

8. Whatley & Chantry PC Report

There were no issues to report.

9. Mells PC Report

There was nothing to report from Mells or Vobster.

10. Any Other Business

It was asked if the Moons Hill planning application had been passed. AC confirmed it had not.

It was hoped that work would start at Westdown next year but there were still some conditions to deal with first.

11. Date of Next Meetings

Wednesday 17th September 2025 @ 10am to be held at the meeting room at Rookery Farmhouse, Halecombe Quarry.