

HALECOMBE QUARRY LIAISON MEETING

Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 17th September 2025

Present:

Andy Cadell – AC	Strategic Planning Manager – Tarmac
Alex Johnson - AJ	Area Operations manager South West – Tarmac
Ian Tier - IT	Somerset Council – Finance manager
Philip Ham – PH (Chair)	Somerset Councillor & Coleford Parish Council
Barry Clarke – BC	Somerset Councillor
Vicki Taylor – VT	Leigh on Mendip Parish Council
Sue Sweet - SS	Leigh on Mendip Parish Council
Steve West - SW	Mells Parish Council
Vickie Watts - VW	Administrator

1. Apologies

Colin Arnold	Somerset Council – Planning & Development
Paul Bell	Coleford Parish Council
John Henderson	Mells Parish Council
Estelle & Ian Kirby	Leigh on Mendip Parish Council

2. Approve minutes from the last meeting: 12th March 2025

Those present agreed that the minutes previously circulated accurately reflected the meeting held on the 12th March 2025.

3. Somerset Council Report

CA did not attend but provided the following written update on the Minerals and Waste Planning Service, covering staffing arrangements and key service developments:

Staffing Update

- Louise Martin (Senior Policy Officer) is currently concluding a year-long secondment from her substantive post as Senior Policy Officer. She continues to support the team one day a week, with her secondment due to end on 26th January.
- Grant Scott is currently covering the Senior Policy Officer role.
- Charlotte Rushmere is providing agency support in the Principal Policy Officer role.

Recruitment Plans

To support service delivery and fill current vacancies, we are preparing to advertise the following roles in the coming months:

- Senior Development Management Officer
- Principal Policy Officer
- Monitoring and Enforcement Officer

Development Management Updates

- The Section 106 agreement for Westdown Quarry is expected to be completed shortly.
- Applications for quarry extensions at Moons Hill Quarry and Torr Works are currently under review.

Policy Updates

- The 2023 Local Aggregate Assessment (LAA) is currently out for consultation with Exmoor National Park, for whom we prepare the document.
- Work has commenced on the 2024 LAA, with consultation expected to begin in October.
- Contracted work through BPP continues, including contributions to the Annual Monitoring Report (AMR), Waste Needs Assessment, and Strategic Flow Analysis.

4. Environmental Health Office Report

VW said that the usual email for Richard Keith-Hill was not working and was bouncing back to sender. An email had been sent to Somerset Council asking for clarification as to whether he was still working for the Council. She had received a message saying that a message had been passed to the department and someone would be in touch.

POST MEETING NOTE: It had been established that Richard Allard richard.allard@somerset.gov.uk would be our point of contact regarding future Halecombe Quarry Liaison Group Environmental Health agenda items.

5. Tarmac Report

AJ provided a powerpoint presentation which would be shared with the minutes.

AJ said that the Environmental Agency had made 2 visits to check compliance for water extraction but no major issues had been raised. It had been identified that an inadequate amount of water was getting to Soho, which was being addressed.

6. Leigh on Mendip PC Report

VT said that there had been no complaints about blasting. She asked if the new manager would be able to implement the old system of notifying the parish in advance so that it can be publicised on social media, which parishioners really appreciate.

It was understood that a quote had been obtained from Hans regarding maintenance work on the right of way located at the southern end of the quarry. VT asked if this could be discussed and progressed with Chris Cudmore in order to keep it accessible.

VT asked when the signage would be erected for the new entrance to Rookery Farmhouse. AJ said that the signage had been received but needed to be installed, which he said he would progress.

VT said that she had been asked to raise the need for safe parking for parents dropping and picking up at Leigh on Mendip school. The road outside the school and around the corner towards Coleford is often full of parked cars making it difficult for other vehicles passing by and creates a safety concern for the young children being dropped off. It had been suggested that the quarry may be able to accommodate car parking within the field which is adjacent to the corner where the issue is at its worst. AC said that the quarry may not be the landowner but suggested that the proposal be shared with the quarry for future discussion.

7. Coleford PC Report

Nothing to report.

8. Whatley & Chantry PC Report

There were no issues to report.

9. Mells PC Report

SW said that there seems to be more empty lorries (Wainwrights & Tarmac) passing back through Vobster at various times of the day. The odd one is not necessarily an issue but if it starts to become a regular cut through then that would be a concern.

Action: AJ to raise this with hauliers to ensure this doesn't happen.

PH said that following an accident between a van and an outside haulier at Railford in Chantry, Whatley Quarry banned the outside haulier for breaching the agreed contract for taking the route they had, which was not on their approved route which formed part of their contract.

10. Any Other Business

There were no issues raised.

11. Date of Next Meetings

Wednesday 11th March 2026 @ 10am to be held at the meeting room at Rookery Farmhouse, Halecombe Quarry.