

HALECOMBE QUARRY LIAISON MEETING

Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 11th March 2026

Present:	Andy Cadell – AC Jack Cartwright - JC George Rossiter - GR Ruth Amundson - RA Ian Tier - IT Philip Ham – PH (Chair) Barry Clarke – BC Paul Bell – PB Vicki Taylor – VT Joe McGhee - JM John Henderson - JH Steve West – SW Andrew Bramston – AB Vickie Watts - VW	Strategic Planning Manager – Tarmac Technical Supervisor Somerset Council – Planning & Development Somerset Council – Finance manager Somerset Councillor Somerset Councillor Coleford Parish Council Leigh on Mendip Council Leigh on Mendip Council Mells Parish Council Mells Parish Council Whatley & Chantry Parish Council Administrator
-----------------	--	--

1. Apologies

Apologies were received from Colin Arnold the Principal Planning Development manager for Somerset Council and Richard Allard Environmental Health Officer for Somerset Council.

2. Approve minutes from the last meeting: 18th September 2025

Those present agreed that the minutes previously circulated accurately reflected the meeting held on the 18th September 2025.

3. Somerset Council Report

RA reported that the transformation project at Somerset Council is ongoing with Bill Cotton taking his new role under the Chief Executive as the Interim Service Director, for Planning. He has previously worked for Oxfordshire County Council and has a good understanding of minerals and waste. Alyn Cooper will be leaving this week.

Somerset Council are recruiting across the planning department. They are looking for 2 posts in monitoring and enforcement and 3 in Policy. Interviewing is taking place this week.

Transformation extended but now over to implementation stage.

2024 Local Aggregate assessment is now on the website.

There are 4 major applications for the quarry with a few other schemes expected to come in along with other applications so things will be ticking over during the coming months.

The Council is currently working on integrating the 5 systems which have been in place since before the creation of the Unitary Council. Recovery from the financial emergency is on track. Indications are that we are where we need to be, 2 years into a 4-year planned process.

There are 4 people working on the Minerals team but 1 is on secondment so only working one day a week. They are hoping to recruit a principle plus a temp to cover the secondment

It was agreed that RA would investigate with the planning team if there was anything that could be done to prevent the traveller's creep.

4. Environmental Health Office Report

Richards Allard confirmed by email that he did not have any updates from an Environmental Health point of view to share at the meeting.

5. Tarmac Report

JC reported that work has been taking place on the South faces at levels 4 and 5, concentrating on crushing. Work will soon start on the East face which will take the next 12 months.

Production crusher has been produced 40 – 500 tonnes a year?

Projects have continued in Bridgwater but the next big project will be Gravity Parks which has just started. Asphalt continues for ongoing maintenance with the plant performing reasonably well, although it has been difficult to recycle with everything being so wet.

GR explained that he held a technical position with the quarry, testing and grading aggregates, designs mixes for asphalt and controls production and mixes.

AC asked if there had been any complaints since the last meeting. A Leigh on Mendip resident had complained about vibration levels, but nothing has been recorded onsite to show any excessive levels.

No one has been in touch to complain about hauliers.

AB complained that there had been issues in the past with Whatley being used as a short cut but this is not common. The lorries are using the faster Bulls Green link road. PH stated that Hanson had said they would cover the cost of signage in Whatley to stop lorries driving through.

JC said that work with the local school continues with them providing the presents at Christmas and help with delivering the Christmas trees for the school to sell. He said that they had also provided the rocks to Leigh on Mendip Playing Field and stone for the allotment parking area.

It was noted that there would be a Car Rally in Leigh on Mendip this year which the quarry will be happy to help at again. It was agreed that JC would be the point of contact.

The Quarry will complete the annual litter pick next week.

6. Leigh on Mendip PC Report

VT said that the Parish Council hadn't been notified of any issues. Prior notice of blasting times really helps reduce complaints.

7. Coleford PC Report

There were no issues to report. PH said that it was disappointing to hear that there are regular discharges polluting the river in Coleford (Approx 1700 hours in the last year) This has resulted in there being no fish. He asked were there any issues with pumping to the lakes? It was confirmed that Soho get constant flow 2.5ltrs per second all year round.

8. Whatley & Chantry PC Report

AB said that the layby next to the circular walk around Halecombe Quarry was in a terrible state and needs stone to fill the holes.

Action: JC confirmed that he will get this completed.

9. Mells PC Report

There was nothing to report from Mells or Vobster.

10. Any Other Business

VT said it was mentioned at the last meeting that the notice/signage for the new quarry entrance would be erected but it's not been completed. It was agreed that the gate needed to be installed and fully working before the signage was installed.

Action: *AC asked for this to be accelerated*

11. Date of Next Meetings

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