

DRAFT**Minutes of a meeting of the Marsh Farm Liaison Group held on Thursday 12th. July at 7.30pm at Salford Priors Memorial Hall.****Attendees:**

Cllr. John Stedman, Chairman, Salford Priors Parish Council.
 Cllr. Lindsay Wright, Salford Priors Parish Council.
 Cllr. Joy Keeley, Bidford Parish Council.
 Cllr. Joe Harvey, Bidford Parish Council
 Cllr. Maurice Howse, Stratford on Avon District Council.
 Cllr. Peter Barnes, Warwickshire County Council.
 Mr John May, CEMEX. Estates & Development Manager
 Mr Ian Southcott, CEMEX, Community Affairs Manager
 Mr Wayne Strevens, CEMEX, Area Operations Manager
 Mr Nigel Taylor, CEMEX, Quarry Manager
 Mr Alan Granger, Land Agent, Ragley Estate
 Mr Liam Maude, South Warwickshire Environmental Association.
 Mr John Fenlon, South Warwickshire Environmental Association.
 Mrs Elizabeth Uggerløse, Clerk to Bidford Parish Council.
 Mr Michael Philpott, Clerk to Salford Priors Parish Council.

1. Opening of meeting by Chairman of Salford Priors Parish Council, Cllr. John Stedman

The Chairman welcomed all members to the meeting.

2. Introduction of new members of Group

Each member introduced themselves to the meeting.

3. Apologies for absence

Mr Matthew Williams, Senior Planning Officer, Warwickshire County Council.

4. Agreement of Minutes of last meeting held on 26th. January 2012.

The Minutes of the meeting held on 26th. January were agreed and signed by the Chairman.

5. Progress of extraction, filling, and restoration of Marsh Farm Quarry including agreed monitoring information.

Mr Taylor reported that CEMEX were on target to import a total of 60,000 tonnes of fill for the year. The current total was 29,000 tonnes. In response to a query from Cllr. Barnes he said the total time left to fill the quarry was 8 to 10 years. The Chairman said that there was a requirement in the original Inspector's Report for the fence along the B4088 to be maintained and remedial works needed to be done. Mr Taylor agreed to do this before the winter. Cllr. Wright said that he had observed a lorry attempting to use the site early in the morning. Mr Fenlon mentioned two lorries using Broom Lane and Cllr. Wright said that drivers entering from the B4088 were not respecting drivers on New Lane and on three occasions he had had to brake suddenly to miss them. Mr Taylor said he would keep checking on these items and place clear warning notices in the weighbridge office. Mr Fenlon asked that the CEMEX sign be cleaned and Mr Taylor agreed to do this. Mr Maude asked if new silt ponds were to be constructed and Mr Taylor said that the existing ponds would be sufficient for the remaining minerals to be processed. Cllr. Wright said that filling needed to be progressed from the Broom Lane direction and Mr Taylor replied that he was aware of this but access was difficult whilst the dumpers were still bringing aggregates to the processing plant. He agreed that fill would be re-directed as soon as conditions allowed.

The Chairman referred to the site visit last year when CEMEX advised that an access would be created to the restored area and that sheep would be introduced onto the land. Mr Granger said that the access had been created but the land was not yet ready.

DRAFT**6. Progress of extraction, and restoration of Marsh Farm Quarry extension North of Broom Lane.**

Mr Taylor reported that extraction was on programme with an end of 2013 finish anticipated. Cllr. Wright asked if the quantity of mineral expected had been found and Mr May said this was the case. In response to a question from the Chairman, Mr Taylor said that the archaeological finds had proved to be burning pits and not of great interest. The Chairman asked if CEMEX had any plans for other sites and Mr May said they had no such plans at present.

7. Drainage of Broom Lane

The Clerk reported that he had met Mr Taylor and David Elliston of WCC regarding the drainage at the bottom of Broom Lane. He said that CEMEX had constructed grips through the verge to link with the ditch and this appeared to have worked as there was no flooding during the extremely heavy rains over recent weeks. WCC had agreed to arrange for a pipe in the ditch to be jetted and the Clerk said he would chase this work. Cllr. Barnes agreed to raise the matter as well. The Clerk asked if the proposal to install a soakaway for the long term drainage of the site had been factored in and it was agreed to review just what was necessary when the North of Broom Lane works neared completion.

8. Discussion of possible revisions to restoration plans.

The Chairman referred to a request from the group for an area of the site including two ponds adjacent to the A46 and a small triangular area which was CEMEX freehold land to be retained as an ecological site for the benefit of the local community. Mr May said that he had no issue with retaining the ponds and these could be made available as they were not required for operational use. However, Mr May said that the proposal would mean a revision to the current restoration plan and CEMEX would not wish to get involved in a lengthy planning process which required a new environmental assessment. The Chairman said that he hoped that Cllr. Barnes might be able to facilitate a simplified process.

Mr Granger said he had discussed the ponds and had no problems with them being left and he suggested that Ragley would help with long term maintenance. He was concerned about access and particularly would want to prevent any access for motor bikes. Cllr. Wright suggested some form of restricted or permitted access might be possible. Cllr. Harvey said he welcomed the idea as a potential educational resource and he hoped that access would be available for local schools.

Mr Granger then referred to the three fields which had already been restored and said that substantial work remained to be done before they were suitable for agriculture. Cllr. Wright asked what the quality of the land would be when restored and Mr Granger emphasised the very long time it would take for the land to be suitable for crops. He anticipated that the initial use would be for summer grazing with sheep. He also mentioned that the restoration conditions required that underdrainage be provided.

The Chairman said he was pleased to hear that Ragley and CEMEX were minded to agree in principle to the idea of an ecological site and suggested that the Group should visit the site on the next quarry inspection to firm up ideas and that the Clerk should then write to the planners with support from Cllr. Barnes to seek a simplified planning process. This was agreed.

9. Update on County Minerals Strategy and enforcement arrangements.

Cllr. Barnes reported that he had asked a question in full Council and had been told that priority had to be given to the Waste Management strategy. However, he hoped that the response to the consultation on the Minerals Core Strategy would be produced by Spring 2013. The Chairman asked if Ragley Estates were looking at using any other operators and Mr Granger said "no". Mr May said that many counties were in a similar position to Warwickshire and staff were very stretched.

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10. Dates of future meetings

2012

Thursday 6th. September 2012, Inspection (meet 6.00pm at Quarry Office)

Thursday 11th. October 2012, Meeting (Date to be reviewed at Site Inspection)

2013

Thursday 7th. February 2013, Meeting

Thursday 6th. June 2013, Meeting

Thursday 8th. August 2013, Inspection

Thursday 10th. October 2013, Meeting

11. Any other business.

There was no other business.

12. Closure of meeting by Chairman.

The Chairman thanked members for attending and closed the meeting at 8.20pm.

Signed.....

Date.....