

DRAFT**MARSH FARM LIAISON GROUP****Minutes of a meeting held on Thursday 9th. June 2011 at 7.30pm at Salford Priors Memorial Hall.****Attendees:**

Cllr. John Stedman, Chairman, Salford Priors Parish Council.

Cllr. Joy Keeley, Bidford Parish Council.

Cllr. Hedley Langston, Bidford Parish Council

Cllr. Maurice Howse, Stratford on Avon District Council.

Cllr. Daren Pemberton, Stratford on Avon District Council.

Cllr. Peter Barnes, Warwickshire County Council.

Mr Tony Rowley, Development Manager, CEMEX.

Mr Nigel Taylor, Site Manager, CEMEX.

Miss. Sue Broomhead, Senior Planning Officer, Warwickshire County Council.

Mr Jeremy Gascoigne, South Warwickshire Environmental Association.

Mr Liam Maude, South Warwickshire Environmental Association.

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 new members Cllr. Maurice Howse, SDC Ward Member, and Mr Jeremy Gascoigne representing South Warwickshire Environmental Association. The Chairman referred to Cllr. Brian Slaughter's retirement and said he had served on the Group with distinction ever since its formation many years ago. The Clerk was asked to write to Cllr. Slaughter thanking him for his contribution to the work of the Group.

2. Apologies for absence

Cllr. Lindsay Wright, Salford Priors Parish Council.

Mrs Elizabeth Uggerløse, Clerk to Bidford Parish Council.

3. Agreement of Minutes of meeting held on 10th. February 2011

The Minutes of the meeting held on 10th. February 2011 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

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

Mr Rowley said that there had been no extraction during the period since the last meeting. Landfilling had continued in area R1 adjacent to Broom Lane and they were now working on the next strip. Just 20,000 ~~em~~m³ of fill had been deposited but he still hoped to get near the target of 60,000 ~~em~~m³ for the whole year. He mentioned the dip in the construction industry and competition from a site at Long Marston and said they had been moving some material from within the site to the area by the A46. This would enable winter tipping to be carried out in less visible areas. Mr Rowley pointed out that a reduced input during the dry period was beneficial in terms of dust creation but a balance needed to be struck. In response to questions from Mr Maude, Mr Rowley confirmed that there would be no imported landfill to the extension area and that CEMEX were looking further afield for landfill to boost input rates. Cllr. Stedman said that CEMEX had reported that several landfill contracts were being pursued at the previous meeting and Mr Rowley said these had not materialised. Cllr. Pemberton asked what would trigger searching for available fill from greater distances and Mr Rowley said it would be pressure from the local community. However, the increased costs of haulage would usually militate against such an option.

5. Progress of extraction, and restoration of Marsh Farm Quarry extension North of Broom Lane.

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Mr Rowley said that extraction had commenced in the second week of January and since then, 68000 tonnes had been removed. Sales of sand and gravel were improving and they were now two thirds through phase 1 which he expected to complete by the end of the year. He reported that the progressive restoration was on-going and ahead of schedule.

Mr Maude asked if there would be any more extraction North of Broom Lane. Mr Rowley said there were no proposed extensions but CEMEX were continually searching and reviewing their options and would discuss any proposals with the Group.

6. Operational Issues.

Cllr. Stedman said there had been issues raised regarding dust from the workings. Mr Rowley said that a complaint had been received from the MP regarding a resident of Mill Close, Mr Hubbard, who had alleged that dust on cars and observed when walking had emanated from the site. He said that CEMEX had delivered cards to all residents in this area of Broom giving contact details for the site so that action could be taken immediately. Time was of the essence and Mr Rowley noted that it had been proven that sand from the Sahara had been recorded in the UK. Mr Maude said that details with the quarry telephone number would be provided on the various web sites and also in the parish newsletters. Mr Rowley agreed that a contact telephone number could be posted on a board at the site to improve local communication. Cllr. Stedman said the dust appeared to “hang” over the site and confirmed that it was the movement of vehicles which was the main cause. Mr Rowley said that that they did damp down but the ground dried very quickly. The MP had visited the site but it had been very wet and he had made only a brief inspection. Cllr. Stedman then enquired regarding the fencing and the queuing of vehicles on the B4088. Mr Rowley confirmed both these problems had been resolved.

Cllr. Stedman reminded CEMEX of the drainage problems at the corner of Broom Lane and Mr Rowley said some work had been done but this would be reviewed as necessary.

7. Discussion of possible revisions to restoration plans.**7.1 CEMEX report on meeting with Ragley Estates.**

Mr Rowley said that he had met Ragley Estates earlier in the day. Ragley are taking back areas to the south of the main site this summer and initially the land will be used for grazing. The three water areas are to be retained subject to a revised planning application. He said the settling lagoon will take a further two years to complete but the next area to the north will also be returned to grazing. This would result in about 100 acres being returned to agriculture. Access will be by Marsh Farm and the land will be out of the quarry jurisdiction. Mr Gascoigne asked if the land would be drained and was told that this would be the case eventually.

Regarding the remainder of the site, Mr Rowley said that the area by Broom Lane would be returned to agriculture and the central area would remain for plant and sand and gravel operations. He said the small geo-site of about 5 acres will remain and be transferred from CEMEX either to Ragley or to the public authorities and would be included in the revised restoration plan. Cllr. Stedman asked if field boundaries would be retained and Mr Rowley said they would but possibly in revised positions subject to the new plan. He agreed that the revised plan would be made available in draft for the Group to make its views known.

7.2 Proposal from Bidford Football Club.

Cllr. Pemberton declared an interest and did not take part in the discussion. Cllr. Barnes and Cllr. Keeley said that sites in Bidford were being considered and the Parish Council was in discussion with the Club. Cllr. Stedman felt the proposal was outside the remit of the Group and this was agreed. He also felt that the whole timescale was not right. Mr Rowley said that any such proposal would

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require new planning and he believed Ragley Estates were of a similar mind. The Clerk was asked to inform the Club accordingly.

8. Update on County Minerals Core Strategy

Sue Broomhead and Cllr. Barnes both referred to the difficulties in the WCC Planning Department with a reduction in resources and concentration on the Waste Strategy. The Minerals Strategy was not seen as a priority and no new work was being undertaken on it. Mr Rowley said that the County should be holding a 7 year land bank but in his view it was only about 3 years. He also reported on the uncertainty this caused the industry with new planning applications being very expensive to prepare in addition to a fee of £165,000. In response to a question from Mr Gascoigne, Mr Rowley said that Warwickshire was a net importer of sand and gravel with other counties such as Staffordshire providing more than 5 times the quantity each year. Cllr. Stedman asked if the reduction in the land bank would lead to more ad hoc applications and Mr Rowley said this was likely. However, gravel could only be dug where it existed and some 20 per cent of the supply was now from recycled aggregates.

9. Dates of future meetings

The Group agreed the arrangements for the following meetings

Wednesday	10 th . August 6.30pm.	Meet at Quarry Office	Site inspection
Thursday	13 th . October 7.30pm.	Salford Priors Memorial Hall	Meeting

CEMEX agreed to ensure that a representative from Ragley Estates attended the October meeting.

10. Any other business.

Sue Broomhead reported that WCC had not received any complaints but did refer to some issues with a Mr Beamish of Dunnington. The meeting believed this related to a procedural dispute with SDC from the original planning for the extension site and no further action was necessary from the Group.

12. Closure of meeting.

Cllr. Stedman thanked all members for their attendance and closed the meeting at 9.04pm.