

South Warwickshire Environmental Association Meeting Minutes

Held: 17th November 2009 19:30 at Dunnington Baptist Church Hall
Minutes by: Liam Maude cc: Attendees, Salford Parish Council

AGENDA

1. INTRODUCTION TO THE AIMS OF THE ASSOCIATION
2. PROPOSAL TO FORM A COMMITTEE WITH REPRESENTATIVES FROM EACH VILLAGE OR HAMLET
3. NOMINATIONS FOR THE ELECTION OF A CHAIRPERSON AND SECRETARY
4. EXISTING MARSH FARM QUARRY
5. THE PROPOSED NORTH BROOM LANE EXTENSION TO MARSH FARM QUARRY
6. REGULATORY COMMITTEE MEETING OF COUNTY COUNCIL ON DECEMBER 14th.
7. PROPOSED BERRY COPPICE, MILLERS BANK AND EAST OF A46 QUARRY EXTENSIONS.
8. OTHER LOCAL ISSUES OR CONCERNS
9. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

1. Introduction to the aims of the association. Chris Beamish

Chris outlined the aims of the South Warwickshire Environmental Association (SWEA) as a group to progress concerns of residents to local issues. The main focus at the moment being planned quarries in the area but any issue may be raised for consideration.

In answer to a question from the floor the current quarry situation was stated as being: the planned extension of the Manor Farm quarry to the area north of Broom Lane has been put forward to the Warwickshire County Council Regulatory (planning) committee. See 5 and 6 below. The proposed sites at Berry Coppice, Millers Bank and East of A46 site are still part the minerals core strategy but have not yet been put forward to planning.

2. Proposal to form a committee with representatives from each village or hamlet. John Fenlon

John Kemp volunteered to represent Weethley and Liam Maude Wood Bevington.

Mr. Burton from the Abbots Morton Residents Association volunteered to get his group to propose a representative. He also stated that SWEA would need to raise funds to engage professional services. His group charge their members £5 annually to raise funds.

With respect to funds the SWEA will need to appoint a treasurer
Melanie Holland volunteered to represent Bidford.

A speaker from the floor asked for the SWEA to create a constitution.
Another proposed that South Warwickshire be removed from the name so as not to exclude
people in Worcestershire.

It was also mentioned that Parish Councils are restricted by laws that Associations are not, and
by working hand-in-hand can strengthen cases against issues. To this end it was suggested that
once the association is up and running, with regard to important issues relating to proposed
sites by Ragley estates, we should try and arrange a meeting with Alan Granger, the Chief
Executive, to voice our concerns.

3. Nominations for the election of a Chairperson and Secretary. John Fenlon

John asked for proposals for committee members and was promptly elected as Chairman.
Liam Maude was elected as Secretary.

4. Existing Marsh Farm Quarry. Lindsay Wright

The aim here is to get reinstatement of the site prior to any further development occurring. We
believe that reinstatement must happen within six months of excavation terminating. We don't
know what constitutes excavation being terminated or how the reinstatement can be enforced.
There has been no visible restoration so far. We intend to try and get representative on the
Salford Parish Council / Cemex Liaison committee.

Question to be asked at Salford Parish Council meeting tomorrow.

A speaker from the floor stated that the plan for re-instatement can be found in the original
planning document: reference S2141/07CM032

It was suggested that the plan is no longer achievable as some of the soil for refill has gone and
suitable inert material is not available.

A speaker from the floor suggested that a recently implemented act may be relevant if the
quarry is below the water table: Water Resources Act 2003. Contact Environment Agency Mr.
Steve Brown – Tewkesbury or Lichfield.

DEFRA offer a free service for reinstatement of quarries.

Direct contact with Cemex was also mooted from the floor as a possible procedure for voicing
our concerns and resolving further quarry issues.

5. Proposed North of Broom Lane Extension to Marsh Farm Quarry

Chris Beamish

Chris stated that the planning document for the extension was at best ambiguous and in some cases contradictory. The planned extension of the Manor Farm quarry to the area north of Broom Lane has been put forward to the Warwickshire County Council Regulatory (planning) committee.

A speaker from the floor mentioned that at a previous meeting earlier this year that Salford Parish Council had mentioned that there were funds (£2,000) to enlist professional services where necessary.

Question to be asked at Salford Parish Council meeting tomorrow.

6. Regulatory Committee Meeting of County Council on December 14th.

The meeting to review this was scheduled for the 14th December but has now been postponed to January/February next year. We believe the reason for the delay is to address concerns lodged by the Highways Agency. We intend to have a representative for the group speak at that meeting.

7. Proposed Berry Coppice, Millers Bank and East of A46 Quarry extensions.

There have been statements from sources unknown that the proposed Berry Coppice site will be restricted to "behind the tree line". At the last Salford Parish Council meeting the Chairman Kim James stated that the processing plant is to be moved from Marsh Farm to Berry Coppice.

Update to be asked for at Salford Parish Council meeting tomorrow.

8. Other local issues or concerns

A speaker from the floor asked that people respond to the Warwickshire Fire & Rescue Service consultation document which targets the closure of Bidford Fire Station. This closure will impact on all local Villages and Hamlets with Extended call-out times of up to 20 minutes from Alcester as opposed to 5 minutes now. This document can be accessed on-line at <http://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/fireandrescue> and clicking on [Fire and Rescue Improvement Consultation](#)

Restriction on vehicle weight on the B4088 – is this being enforced.

Question to be asked at Salford Parish Council meeting tomorrow.

A traffic census was carried out at the cross roads earlier this year. From 08:00 to 17:00 more than 5,000 vehicles were counted, the majority of traffic using the Evesham road and the B4088 past Hillers. A similar survey of traffic on Broom Lane may now be relevant.

Local road flooding in Broom Lane and at the bottom of Kingley Hill was raised. There is a Broom action group who have been informed that the quarry would be beneficial to this. SWEA to make contact.

It was asked that the SWEA keep any eye open for any wind farm proposals in the area.

It was asked that as many people as possible attend Salford Parish Council meetings which are held on the third Wednesday of the month.

Two planters have been acquired for Dunnington as a result of approaching Salford Parish Council. These have been adopted by two volunteers.

The County Land Owners and Business Association are holding a three yearly event at Ragley Hall which are said to attract 160,000 visitors. There is concern on the effect of traffic in the area. It was asked that the SWEA liaise with Ragley and the event organisers on this issue. Ask for Parish Councils view at meeting tomorrow.

Appointment of a treasurer and draft constitution to be put on the agenda for the next meeting of the SWEA.

All information and these minutes will be published on the SWEA web site at www.enviro-watch.co.uk

We will also circulate minutes to our email list. If you want to be included in this circulation please send your email address.

Our email address is envirowatch@live.co.uk

9. Date of next meeting.

T.B.A. January 2010

And finally thanks to Ernie Couchman and Dennis Colbourne for making this hall available to us.