

South Warwickshire Environmental Association Meeting Minutes

Held: 19th January 2010 19:30 at Dunnington Baptist Church Hall

Minutes by: Liam Maude cc: Distribution list

1. INTRODUCTION John Fenlon
Members of the press to identify themselves
Preston Witts Stratford Herald
Sarah Hickinbotham Evesham Journal

2. APOLOGIES. Liam Maude
Tony Wolfe – Salford Priors Parish Council
Marianne Myers – Salford Priors Parish Council
Elisabeth Uggerløse – Bidford on Avon Parish Council
Peter Barnes – Warwickshire County Council
Trevor Wellings
Cyril Burton – Abbots Morton Residents Association
Geoff Birks
Mr. Bowskill
John Bradfield – Salford Priors Action Group

3. REVIEW LAST MEETING MINUTES John Fenlon

Matters Arising – nothing noted.
Agreed as true representation nominated Daryl Bailey and Lindsay Wright

4. COMMITTEE MEMBERS John Fenlon

Treasurer Appointed – Daryl Bailey
Broom Representative – Melanie Holland

John asked for other representatives – none forthcoming.

5. EXISTING MARSH FARM QUARRY UPDATE Lindsay Wright

Cemex have made a very urgent start to some form of restoration to the boundary of Broom Lane. Quote from Stratford Herald 'to satisfy local concerns'.
We remain very sceptical about this landscaping as we feel it is just a gesture in order to gain planning consent for the North Broom Lane Planning Application.

We have, since the last public meeting asked to be represented on the Cemex/Salford Parish council – we were advised that this is not allowed. However we have reviewed where available, the minutes of the liaison group, and can only comment that there seem to have been an awful lot of discussion about restoration but little actual remedial work.

The Parish Council had in fact asked back in April of last year in a question to Cemex how much material they needed to restore the site – up until now no figure has been forthcoming.

The bund walls that lie to the side of the A 46 have been removed – these bund walls contain 100 % valuable top soil which was supposed to be used to recover inert landfill material so that the land could be returned to Agricultural use.

Jeremy Gascoigne – format changed for re-instatement – soil movement diagrams to prevent runover topsoil compaction. Re-instatement plan 2007 now impractical. No one knows where soil has ended up, question into Warwickshire County Council (WCC).

Initial program for soil reinstatement is 5 years, DEFRA recommendation, hedgerows further 10 years, trees 25 years.

A speaker from the floor asked if it could be a wildlife refuge. Can we get a current landscape plan.

A speaker from the floor stated that plan is irrelevant; easement can be used to change conditions.

A speaker from the floor stated everybody should get involved

Lindsay stated that our stance is no more quarries anywhere.

Jeremy Gascoigne - If left long enough rare species move in and no further reinstatement is possible.

6. THE PROPOSED NORTH BROOM LANE EXTENSION TO MARSH FARM QUARRY Melanie Holland/ Liam Maude

Melanie Holland – Broom flooding, talking to various agencies to establish truth behind statements of flood alleviation.

Planning Application item withdrawn from Stratford upon Avon District Council (SDC) planning meeting Agenda for North of Broom Lane. Proposal of no objection with 5 conditions to be passed to WCC. Conditions have not been met in the past so no confidence that they will be in the future. Waiting to hear from SDC to our objection to process of removal. WCC deals with proposal but we wanted to get SDC to represent our objections.

Daren Pemberton SDC update: formal letter to Pat Reid is being considered, decision to delegated officers in abeyance awaiting result of this enquiry. We are asking for the North of Broom Lane application to be put back on Agenda for next meeting.

Melanie Holland – The Application in itself premature as the site is in core minerals strategy which is awaiting report from consultation, this states 1 year extraction of 250,000 tonnes whereas the planning application states 425,000 over two years.

Crossing for lorries and dump trucks with traffic light also cause for concern, noise and dust.

Regulatory Committee Meeting of Warwickshire County Council date not yet set

Speaker from the floor said that information on the Salford Priors Parish Council's stance on quarries must be logged on council meeting minutes and the public need to ask questions of outstanding items.

We (the association) are trying to get to grips with technical aspects of proposal to ensure we give the facts.

A speaker from the floor - environmental agency, CPRE, Highways Agency and others hydrological reports must already exist.

A speaker from the floor spoke to foreman at Marsh Farm who said very little objection coming from Broom as land would be used for bund to protect houses.

A speaker from the floor asked who had removed item from agenda. There is a public questions section at Salford Priors Parish Council (SPPC) meeting tomorrow if people want to ask about this removal.

A speaker from the floor stated that it is absolutely vital to contact responsible officers to get reports.

A speaker from the floor - ask for repeat commitment of SPPC to support opposition to quarry proposals.

A speaker from the Salford Priors Action Group (SPRAG) said they had received no support on Marsh farm from SPPC and WCC who have final say didn't visit the site during a tour because they ran out of time.

A speaker from the floor suggested that we lobby to co-opt members on to SPPC.

A speaker from the floor noted that Bidford Parish Council should also be involved.

A speaker from the floor asked if the committee had approached Ragley and Cemex. Not yet but we do want to set up meetings with Cemex and Ragley.

A speaker from the floor mentioned the possibility of lobbying County Councillors to represent our position.

A speaker from the floor mentioned that Cemex are reportedly in financial difficulties.

We have to be aware that other quarry companies could be involved as they have been historically.

A speaker from the floor mentioned that planning being granted makes this a more interesting proposition to other companies.

A speaker from the floor suggested coordinating letters to press.

7. CONTRIBUTIONS

Daryl Bailey

If organisation is to have legs and ability to challenge issues we will need funds for newsletter, hall, professional advice, etc.

Buckets at back of hall for donations, anyone can contact Daren independently to make donations.

A speaker asked if the association has a bank account. Daryl is currently setting one up and will publish the account name once complete.

8. PROPOSED BERRY COPPICE, MILLERS BANK AND EAST OF A46 QUARRY EXTENSIONS

Melanie Holland / Liam Maude

We have heard that the response to the Mineral Core Strategy – revised spatial option is now expected in September instead of March. The Local Minerals Plan is current framework for planning. The Minerals Core Strategy – revised spatial option is in a consultation phase.

We do not have details for the proposed Berry Coppice replacement for Marsh Farm and wonder at the viability of a processing plant in the available space and also how disposal of used water would be achieved. How water is sourced may also be of concern.

A speaker from the floor asked if access has been discussed. We are not aware of the current proposed access to the site.

A traffic survey showed 5,500 vehicles used road from 8 until 17:00 with a consistent volume of traffic throughout the day.

Berry Coppice is partly in the parish of Salford Priors and partly in the parish of Arrow with Oversley & Weethley. We intend to approach Arrow with Oversley & Weethley Parish Council for their stance on the quarry proposals.

9. OTHER LOCAL ISSUES OR CONCERNS

Flooding at bottom of Kingley Hill

Chris Beamish

Road from Alcester to Dunnington at Wixford junction flooding causes drivers to go on wrong side of road and causes collisions and damage to verges. Road gullies blocked and vegetation growing out of them. Gullies need to be maintained regularly. We will write to highways authority.

Flooding on Mill Bank

Melanie Holland

Action Group Melanie speaking to chairman as they have a lot of knowledge. Melanie is going to liaise on flooding.

Jeremy Gascoigne stated that this is a very complicated issue, more tests required, if flooding improved at one point it can move elsewhere and carry topsoil with it.

CLA – Ragley Game Fair July 2010.

John Fenlon

Fiona Eastman Director of Marketing contacted John Fenlon regarding making a presentation at one of our meetings. She wants to embrace the support of local community to this event. She feels she has a good argument to put forward. We have welcomed her to speak at next meeting. A speaker from the floor asked that Local Police, Fire Services, etc should also be invited to next meeting to represent traffic concerns.

A speaker from the floor suggested that we should placard the event.

A speaker from the floor has been invited to attend CLA meeting on 5th February at Ragley and offered to present our concerns.

A speaker from the floor does not object to CLA game fair which is good for local economy, and stated that this organisation should not become an objecting society.

We do not object to the Game Fair but have been asked to represent concerns about traffic management at our last meeting.

A speaker from the floor stated that the game fair presents a PR opportunity but a three day event should not to be a distraction to the main issue of the quarries.

A speaker from the floor stated that this event is very well organised and that access to the site is likely to be well managed.

10. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Will be advised once there is more to report, probably in two months time.

Meeting closed at 21:30