

CROMFORD QUARRY LIAISON COMMITTEE

Chair: Councillor M Birch (Cromford Parish Council)
Clerk: Mrs Sian Bacon (Clerk to Cromford Parish Council)
Email: cromfordparishcouncil@hotmail.com

Minutes of the Meeting of the Quarry Liaison Committee held at the Cromford Institute, Cromford on Wednesday 14 February 2024 at 6pm

PRESENT: Cromford Parish Council: Cllr M Birch, Cllr I Page,
Bonsall Parish Council: Cllr R Grover,
Middleton Parish Council and Derbyshire Dales District Council: Cllr Peter Slack
EH Officer: Karen Carpenter,
Planning Enforcement and Monitoring Officer at DCC: Andy Porter,
Collins Earthworks: Dave Collins,
Slinter Mining: Tony Gregory, Helen Ward,
Member of Public: Mr J Beckett
Clerk: Sian Bacon (CPC)

24/2.1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from: Andy Caile from Tarmac, Cllr Dermot Murphy (DCC), and Cllr D Greatorex (Middleton PC)

24/2.2 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

The minutes of the last meeting held on the 20th September 2023 were agreed, with spelling amendments to pages 194 and 192, as a true record of that meeting.

24/2.3 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

None

24/2.4 SPILLAGE FROM LORRIES/DUST IN CROMFORD

24/2.5 REPORTS FROM:

i. Environmental Health

Karen Carpenter reported that she undertook an inspection at Dene in October. On the way to the inspection, she noted that the road conditions were poor as the second wheel wash was out of operation and was out for repair and replacement. It was noted how important that second wheel wash is and how that needs to be operational. No complaints have been received and Slinter inspection is due in March.

ii. Tarmac Ltd

Andy Caile sent the following report to the Clerk: Andrew Newbold is now appointed 81c for Dene Quarry now but unfortunately he too has other commitments with his wife on Wednesday, so can't make it.

In relation to the Dene Hollow footpath complaint - Thompsons have recently removed the loose surface material from the footpath that was raised last meeting as slippery under foot, we did try ourselves but it didn't achieve what was needed so contracted it to Thompsons to carry out an assessment and action as appropriate given the issue, so hopefully this has been rectified and all that use the footpath have seen an improvement, if not please let me know if it's raised again with details.

We have some Planned Tarmac surfacing / patching works within Dene site on Saturday to improve areas of the roadway in and out of site. One area to be repaired is at the wheel wash, whereby there is a worn down speed hump upon the approach to the wheel wash, which is will be removed and replaced, this is constructed in a way that it is supposed to prevent dirty wheel wash water from running back and on to the footpath that crosses nearby, but silt has been noted settling for some time now, so this should address the dirty water being able to run back, should it have been raised by anyone.

Mr Beckett noted the thanks of a number of residents for Dene quarry's cleaning of the Bear Pit. Tarmac ran dye from the top of the hill and it showed dirty water was possibly running into the Bear Pit from the quarry so a team was sent out to clean it. The job was excellent and had received many compliments. The Arkwright society are going to look at maintaining it the rest of the year now it has been sorted out so well. Jet washing of the pavements are also going to be restarted.

iii. Slinter Mining Co. Ltd

Tony Gregory reported that they had a small blast in the floor of the quarry and it was a day of complete cloud cover so it acted like a thunder clap. The rare atmospheric conditions caused the loud bang but on a clear day it would not have been noticed by anyone. There was one complaint from Bonsall received

There has been record rain and because of the high volume of rain the landfill tip has covered the limestone. The planning application to expand the site which has been ongoing for years is now vital for the continuation of the business. Tony Gregory has written to the MP and planning department asking for a resolution. The DCC has requested more information which had been supplied. Tony Gregory noted that he had concerns that the business won't be viable in 6 months if the planning is not sorted out.

iv. Collins Earthworks

Dave Collins reported that Balleye had had a blast last week which had caused complaints so he had met residents at Bonsall and is looking at the blasting and will reduce blast size down. He will go and see how the next blast it is at a neighbouring property.

The state of the perimeter fence was raised as a problem and the hedge has been cut back to fix the fence which has caused a few complaints. There will be a bund of topsoil going in and wildflower seeds planting on it.

The current crushing is for stone being used around the quarry. The water is now under control. The concrete is still happening and there will be a clean up on site soon.

The ash die back of the trees on Via Gellia was raised and Balleye were going to do the removals soon but the permissions have not all come in for the removal so it will likely be September time before the work is done to avoid nesting. It will cause disruption on the Via Gellia but the work needs doing. Cllr Grover noted that Arkwright have done all theirs. Dave Collins noted that DCC were going to sort all the permissions as part of the Via Gellia works but nothing came from that and there are a lot of permissions required in the area. So Colins are sorting the permissions themselves. They will let everyone know when the work is happening so the residents have warning of the road closure that will be needed.

Dave Collins reported that he had won a job starting in March and would like to take stone out then.

v. Minerals Officer – Derbyshire County Council

Andy Porter reported that things have been reasonably quiet with a few enquiries. There was a Balleye enquiry received from a Bonsall resident concerning the drag out of material on to the main road and a general query about lorry movements and whether lorries out of the quarry were going to turn right. Dave Collins stated that he is not interested in doing that as it is a difficult turn. There were concerns about the security fence raised but this is in hand now. Andy Porter called in to Balleye around Christmas to introduce himself and has been back and caught up with the new manager. There had also been an email enquiry from Cromford resident about lights moving around at Balleye.

Regarding Slinter the blast on the 19th December had resulted in one enquiry and 27 facebook comments. Andy Porter also was aware of it from 4 miles away.

The Balleye blast was on Thursday and had caused some concern and Andy Porter had received a complaint about shaking but it was noted that Dene had done a blast just before Balleye. Dave Collins had sat in Bonsall village to listen for the blast and couldn't hear the 18 holes blast at Balleye. Andy Porter noted that he isn't sure who's blast was the cause of the shake.

On the Slinter planning application Andy porter has caught up with case officer today and the DCC has received the requested further information last week on translocation. This is to do with the new biodiversity net gain rules. It was reported that the new details will need to be consulted on. Slinter would like this to hurry up as it has dragged on. Dave Collins offered the loan of a translocation bucket if needed. Andy Porter reported that the case officer will work through the consultation as quickly as is allowed.

An inspection was done at Slinter and things are quiet. They have now completed the alternative access route.

Andy Porter did note that for the blast on the 19th December there had been a breakdown in communication so he didn't put notice out about the blast because he didn't know it was happening. Tony Gregory noted that usually blasts down into the floor don't cause any issues. Andy Porter in 2017 started informing Bonsall residents of when blasts were

occurring. It was noted that there was not much blasting to be done on access route going forward. Tony Gregory noted that there should have been an email and this will be done going forward. Cllr Grover noted that he puts blast warnings on the village facebook page which had received a positive result. He suggested that the quarries could do this on Cromford, Bonsall and other villages to notify people with the comments turned off to warn it is coming with time of blast.

Mr Beckett noted that an RAF jet had broken the sound barrier over Cromford and the sound had been mistaken for quarry blast.

24/2.6 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Cllr P Slack reported that Middleton Mine is being opened to be used as an adventure film set with 150 people on site.

Andy Porter has been offered new contract at the County Council and is now the DCC planning enforcement and monitoring officer.

24/2.7 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next quarterly meeting would be held on Wednesday 19th June 2024 at 6.00pm in the Cromford Institute, Cromford.

I hereby certify that the above minutes are a true and accurate record of the Cromford Quarry Liaison Committee meeting held on Wednesday 14 February 2024

Signed.....Chair Dated.....