

# **SANDHOE PARISH COUNCIL**

## **DRAFT UNTIL APPROVED BY COUNCIL**

The minutes of the Council Meeting held on Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> November 2018 at 7pm in Beaufront County First School, Sandhoe.

### **Present**

Councillor M. Baxter (Vice Chairman of the Council in the Chair)

Councillors D. Browell, H. Mole

### **Also Present**

County Councillor N. Oliver

Bill Grigg (Clerk to the Council)

20 Residents of the Parish

### **Apologies**

Councillor J. Middleton

### **Declaration of Interests**

There were no declarations of interests declared.

### **Presentation on behalf of Thompson's of Prudhoe by Katie Wood (LLP Planning) and Ryan Molley (Thompson's of Prudhoe)**

Councillor M. Baxter welcomed Katie Wood and Ryan Molley to the meeting.

This is the presentation given by Katie Wood:

#### **'Explanation of Sand and Gravel Quarrying**

*Firstly, I explained the process of sand and gravel quarry. I underlined the fact that there was no blasting at the quarry and that the majority of the sand and gravel would be extracted by wet working. In relation to sand and gravel extraction, the top and sub soils are removed and stored on site, the mineral is then extracted using a long reach excavator. The depth of the extraction will vary depending on the local circumstances and the quarry. For 'wet working', that is working in ground water, the resulting void will backfill with water and create a lake. Sand and gravel workings are normally work in a phased approach and therefore only a small area of land is disturbed at any one time. Land that has been worked will be restored straightaway*

#### **Anick Grange Sand and Gravel**

*The scheme presented to the Councillors / residents is a draft scheme and reflects the work done to date.*

*I explained that Anick Grange sand and gravel site would be worked in a phase manner as set out above. There were 6 phases to the scheme. Phase 1a and 1b would be worked above the water table ie. 'dry working', the soils removed, the sand and gravel extracted and then phase 1a, which is allocated for employment land in Northumberland County Council's draft Local Plan, will be backfilled with clays in order to create a development platform. Phase 1b would then be restored to agricultural use. Phase 1A and 1B will only be down to a depth of approximately 4 metres and it will take approximately 5 years to work out.*

*The drilling that was undertaken in September has identified that the water table is between 3m and 5m below existing ground level.*

*In phases 2 to 6 each phase will be approximately 5 years and worked as 'wet working'. So, the soil will be extracted from the working area and stored on the site. Sand and gravel will be extracted using a long reach excavator which have a maximum reach of 15 metres. The ground water will backfill the void and a lake will be created. There will be the opportunity to create margins around the lake that will encourage particular wildlife.*

*I explained that the proposed access to the site would be to the north potentially using the existing agricultural access into the site. This access would need to be improved but it would serve both the employment land and the sand and gravel site.*

#### **Other matters of detail**

*I did briefly mention that the site could be opened up and act as a flood plain to alleviate the impact of any future flood event and this was being discussed further with Arups (Thompsons appointed consultants in relation to flood and surface water) and the Environment Agency. No final conclusion had been reached in relation to this.*

*A range of ecology surveys have been undertaken on the site to identify wildlife habitats and wildlife on the site.*

*A traffic consultant has been appointed and it is estimated that approximately 50 HGVs will leave the site exporting mineral from the site in any one day.*

*The residents then raised a number of questions and concerns and I will take this opportunity to update you as follows:*

- *Impact of Noise – one of the residents raised concerns that the noise from the Egger plant is ‘funnelled’ by the landform and this can cause residents of Oakwood/Anick an issue. I passed this concern onto the Noise Consultant and suggested that they speak to the Environmental Health Officer at NCC in order to discuss this matter further.*

- *Highway Access/Traffic – this was raised on a number of occasions by residents. There was a concern that the road between the proposed access point and the existing access into Egger was narrow. There is no pavement along this stretch and it is a cycleway. I have passed these concerns onto the traffic consultant (SAJ Consulting Ltd) and asked them to look into the nature of this section of road carefully and identify mitigation measures that can be undertaken in order to seek to improve this situation.*

- *Wildlife/Wildlife Habitats – I have asked our ecological consultant to pass all the current survey work through to the Council Ecologist for their consideration. It will be anticipated that the proposed restoration scheme will incorporate habitats that will seek to encourage a wider diversity of habitats within the site.*

- *There was obviously a lot of discussion in relation to the impact the scheme may have on hydrology/hydrogeology. As I said, Thompson have appointed Arups to look at flooding and the other concerns will be discussed with the appointed hydrologist/ hydrogeologist.*

- *Process – at the present time we are hoping to submit the application, which will be accompanied by an Environmental Statement as required under the Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 in Spring of next year. At that point, all of the residents, and the Parish Council, will be able to make their comments to NCC who will consider the application in the light of third party and statutory/non-statutory consultees.*

*If there are any further questions from local residents or from the Parish Council, Ryan Molloy (Thompsons of Prudhoe) and I will endeavour to answer them as best as we can. As we move forward with the scheme, I am more than happy to continue the dialogue with Sandhoe Parish Council. I appreciate that residents may wish to object to any future planning application, however I don't see why this should prevent the dialogue continuing. To that end, if there is any particular matter that is of concern to the Parish or residents please do contact me.'*

Following the presentation Katie Wood and Ryan Molley tried to answer resident's questions and concerns.

Councillor M. Baxter thanked them both for attending the meeting and at this stage they left the meeting together with local residents.

## **1 The Minutes of the Council Meeting Held on 11<sup>th</sup> July 2018**

The minutes of the Council meeting held on 11<sup>th</sup> July 2018 were fully agreed and duly signed as a correct record.

## **2 Any Matters Arising from the Minutes of the Council Meeting Held on 11<sup>th</sup> July 2018**

### **a) Ref 2b) Saplings Oakwood Bank**

The Saplings have now been removed finally by Northumberland County Council.

### **b) Ref 6d)**

The leak appears to have been repaired and there is no running water.

c) Ref 2c)

County Councillor N. Oliver agreed to speak to officers at Northumberland County Council to see if Northumberland County Council could carry out repairs to the road at the Green Anick and recharge the Parish Council.

d) Ref 6c)

County Councillor N. Oliver agreed to speak to the planning department at Northumberland County Council in regards to the untidy A Boards on the entrance to Hexham on the Garden Centre frontage.

### **3 Repairs to Road Anick the Green**

As stated in the minutes under matters arising, County Councillor N. Oliver agreed to speak to Northumberland County Council officers to see if they could carry out the works and recharge the Council.

### **4 Financial Matters**

<b>a) Payments</b>		
<b>Date</b>	<b>Payee</b>	<b>Amount</b>
2/8/18	WC Grigg Salary	£192.00
2/9/18	WC Grigg Salary	£192.00
2/10/18	WC Grigg Salary	£192.00
2/11/18	WC Grigg Salary	£192.00
18/11/18	Northumberland County Council Rent of Room	£20.00
18/11/18	RBL Wreath	£30.00
18/11/18	HMRC (Paye)	£253.80

b) Precept 2019/2020

It was fully agreed the precept requested would be £6,000.00.

### **5 Any Other Business**

- a) Footpath sign below the RAT indicating to Bridge End Roundabout is in need of repair / replacing, Tim Fish Northumberland County Council to be informed.
- b) The Lonnon still needs cutting back, Tim Fish Northumberland County Council to be informed.
- c) When Northumberland County Council were weed killing Oakwood was missed out.
- d) County Councillor N. Oliver would ask Northumberland County Council if they could clean the Gullies on Oakwood Bank when in the area.
- e) Councillor M. Baxter suggested that Northumberland County Council could widen the road at the roundabout at the Bridge End and place white lines in the middle of the road which would make traffic flow easier for wagons coming from Egger.

### **6 Date of Next Meeting**

To be confirmed.

Meeting closed at 9.10pm.