

Liaison Group Forum

Minutes of meeting: 13 December 2016, 1pm

Venue: Sneaton Castle Centre, Whitby, YO21 3QN

Present:

Chair, Gareth Edmunds (GE) – Sirius Minerals
Matt Parsons (MP) – Sirius Minerals
Simon Carter (SC) – Sirius Minerals
Heather King (HK) – Sirius Minerals
William Woods (WW) – Sirius Minerals
Mark Hill (MH) - North York Moors National Park Authority
Adam Key (AK) - Savills
Cllr David Chance (DC) – Scarborough Borough Council / North Yorkshire County Council
Cllr Guy Coulson (GC) – Scarborough Borough Council
Cllr Gerald Dennett (GD) – Scarborough Borough Council
Cllr Steve Kay (SK) – Redcar and Cleveland Borough Council
Cllr Helen Swiers (HS) – North Yorkshire County Council
Cllr Rose Stainthorpe (RS) – Sneaton Parsh Council
Cllr Barry Truman (BT) – Eskdaleside & Ugglebarnby Parish Council
Cllr Ted Sanderson (TS) – Egton Parish Council
Cllr Jane Mortimer (JM) – Scarborough Borough Council
David Slater (DS) – Redcar and Cleveland Borough Council

1. Introduction

GE outlined the proposed purpose of the Liaison Group Forum (LGF or “the Forum”) – essentially a channel to provide project updates and receive community feedback on the Project through the construction period. Future meetings would be open to the public, but local councillors and Parish Councils had been invited as logical ‘members’ of the group as community representatives. Each attendee then introduced themselves to the group.

2. Declarations of Interest

Given the nature of the Forum – and that it was clear who attendees were representing – GE suggested that this item was not required on the agenda. There were no objections to this proposal and this was agreed.

3. Apologies

Cllr Derek Bastiman , Cllr Sandra Turner, Cllr Graham Irving, Cllr Phil Trumper, Cllr John Cummins

4. Terms of Reference

The draft terms of reference (TOR) were discussed and the following questions and issues were raised:

- SK asked for clarification on the group’s membership and whether members of public in attendance would be able to have a vote.

GE said that he envisaged LGF membership would comprise those on the invitation list but that recommendations for others to be invited were welcome. No other recommendations were made and it was agreed that this could be reviewed as construction progressed.

GE stated that the LGF was mainly concerned with information sharing rather than decision making as the Project was dictated by its planning consent and planning conditions. It was agreed however to amend the TOR in the event that the Forum did undertake a vote and that only LGF members could vote.

MH gave some background to the LGF stating that the idea for a forum started about two years ago with the intention of it being a mechanism for addressing any problems that arose as a first resort to addressing issues. As such it was unlikely that a vote on any issues would be required.

Action – TOR wording to be amended to include a section on voting.

- AK asked whether a quarterly meeting was sufficient.
- JM asked if a special meeting could be called if necessary.

All agreed that meetings should be more frequent than quarterly if required and to revisit this in agenda item 7 after receiving a project update.

- DC highlighted that Cllr Alf Abbott should be added to invite list. It was confirmed that this had already been picked up.

Action – Add both Cllr Alf Abbott and the Chair of Fylingdales PC to the membership list.

- TS asked whether the construction workers villages would be built first.

This was deferred to agenda item 5.

5. Project Update

GE and SC went through slides on a presentation (that is was agreed would be circulated) covering a general update and the headline construction schedule.

- SK asked for clarification on whether Lockwood Beck would be the only shaft required for the mineral transport system (MTS) other than the mine site and if so whether more excavated material would be distributed at the Lockwood Beck. SK asked and how long works at the site were likely to last.

SC said that work to confirm this was still ongoing, but that shafts at Ladycross Plantation and Tocketts Lythe might not be required for construction, but that smaller shafts may be needed for ventilation. More would be known about this early next year. SC explained that if only Lockwood Beck was to be used it would not mean that significantly more spoil would be distributed at the site as the diameter of the tunnel had decreased.

SC answered an earlier question by TS about the construction workers village by stating that it would not be the first element of construction and it had not yet been decided whether it would be required. Further work by the Company's contractors would determine that.

- SK asked whether the road junction of the A171 and Swindale Lane was being realigned and requested that local people were fully informed about the proposal.

GE confirmed that A171 / Swindale Lane junction is part of the approved planning application and that residents would be informed before works commenced.

- DC asked how long the initial highway works would take and whether they would be finished before the tourist season.

WW confirmed that the initial highway works were scheduled to be completed by April 2017.

- JM highlighted the issue of light pollution from Hawsker and Stainsacre and asked whether bunds to mitigate this were going to be built.

SC confirmed that bunding was being used to screen the site in operation, together with other measures to mitigate light pollution. GE said that if more could be done during construction then this would be considered as it had been during previous exploration drilling at the mine site when the lighting rigs were repositioned in response to resident feedback.

Action – circulate the presentation with the minutes

6. Community and Stakeholder Engagement

MP outlined the approach to community engagement and delivering local economic benefits. He explained that the Company wanted to try and make sure that people were kept well informed and had good notice of when various works were due to start. The Company is continuing with its education and skills programme.

7. Future Meetings

It was agreed to hold the next meeting in mid-March and that meetings could be convened at short notice if needed. Minutes of the meeting are to be made available on the Sirius Minerals website.

DC requested that future meetings are arranged to avoid clashing with council meetings.

8. AOB

RS suggested that some neighbours may be concerned and was pleased that they were already being visited and provided with a project update.

GD commented that his main interest was that opportunities were provided to local people and that there would be trade union recognition.

SK requested that councillors are regularly kept up to date.

TS said he had not been in favour of the Project but did believe in democracy, and therefore wished the project the best of luck.

HS apologised for initially arriving late and declared an interest in that she is a mineral rights holder.

JM expressed thanks that parish councils have been kept updated and requested that schools are informed of any highway works in Whitby.

MH said NYMNPA were continuing to process work around planning conditions and that they are currently recruiting two planners dedicated to the project.

GE closed the meeting and thanked everyone for attending.