

Published

Penderyn Quarry Liaison Group

Minutes of virtual meeting held 28th January 2021 at 17:30

Attendees:

- Councillor Graham Thomas (GT) - Chair
- Councillor Colin Woodley (CW) – Hirwaun & Penderyn Community Council
- Victoria Bond (VB) - Penderyn Resident
- Anthony Hope (AH) - Penderyn Resident
- Gareth Purnell (GP) – RCT
- Neil Pilliner (NP) – RCT
- Tracy Nettleton (TN) - Brecon Beacons National Park
- Julian Radcliffe (JR) – Hanson UK
- Luke Owen (LO) – Hanson UK

Apologies

- Julian Atkins (JA) – Brecon Beacons National Park
- Hugh Towns (HT) - Brecon Beacons National Park

General

1. The background to the selection process for the Penderyn Residents was run through by GT, AH and VB were the only two residents to come forward negating the need for an election.
2. It was proposed GT that a declaration of interest be added to the agenda, all agreed.
3. Everyone introduced themselves.
4. A selection process for the resident's representatives was presented by GT, there were some changes suggested – a copy of the Method for Selecting Members PQLG Residents Section agreed in the meeting is included t the end of these minutes.

Minutes of previous meeting – 26th November 2020

Clarification was sought by CW on the number of Community Council representatives. GT explained that the original draft Terms of Reference proposed 1 not 2 Hirwaun and Penderyn Community Councillors. Therefore, there had been no reduction and the inclusion of 2 representatives for the Community Council was not part of the subsequent motion. CW had suggested that the number of resident representatives should remain 3 as an increase would be too cumbersome. CW thanked GT for clarifying these points.

Request made to move and second, NP moved, and TN seconded all agreed.

Matters Arising

AH advised the meeting that Non Thomas was his mother in law.

Site Operations

5. LO - Advised that planning approval had been received for the reserve swap area. A plan was shared showing the red area where working would be allowed and the green area where operations were prohibited – along the Twyn y Glog Ridge. He explained that there would be an increase in blasting for the next 5 months to develop this area. There were no exceptional activities associated with aggregates production. There were currently 12 weeks of night works planned for the asphalt plant. GT explained that the Welsh Assembly Government had lifted its holding letter.
6. AH asked if the green area could be worked in the future. JR advised that it would not be worked.
7. GT advised that the new planning permission had more effective and transparent conditions which applied across the site.
8. AH recognised the operation at Penderyn Quarry as being a key part of the community.

Monitoring Visit Reports

9. LO advised that in response to the pandemic visits to site were being assessed on a case by case basis. Gareth Purnell was expected to attend site in early March to complete a routine assessment. Laura Simpkins – representative of BBNP had not been to site, LO was confirming dates and times of blasts – no issues raised.
10. The results of the monitoring visits were not publicised. VB asked if there were plans to publish the reports.
11. AH suggested the use of Balance score cards, these would indicate performance which could be shared with the community.
12. GP Inspection records available to members of the public included environmental performance measures. The reports included an evaluation of the performance of the operation and compliance with the environmental permit. He was unable to comment on the inspections undertaken by BBNP. TN advised that she check with HT.
13. JR suggested that they could be circulated to all on the liaison committee and posted on a community notice board.
14. GT would confirm where the notice board would be erected. CW suggested the ideal site would be at the start of the Arcway footpath, to the left on the small patch of green, dog walkers would be able to see it. GT to check with RCT and advise.
15. VB proposed a traffic light system be developed to indicate environmental performance. JR said he would take the idea away for consideration. AH suggested the traffic light system could be posted with some narrative if any ambers or red were raised to help the community to understand what is being done. VB suggested a simple system is a good one.

Environmental Issues

16. GT Gave an introduction and background. This meeting was the first business meeting in many years. Since the first liaison committee the community would feed issues back to me including complaints relating to Dust, Noise, Odour, Transport and pollution on the highway. Complaints reduce in the winter months. There was a noticeable increase between April and November last year. The new planning permission included planning conditions to mitigate impact. There have been several complaints about the Roadstone Coating Plant in particular dust, noise and odour. The road stone coating plant is not necessarily covered by the Reserve Swap planning conditions as it was constructed under permitted development in 2003. Last May there was a large blast which affected electrical trip switches and the alarms at the school. The issues are not simply of a statutory nature but reflect the impact as felt by residents.

7(a). Noise

17. NP advised that noise limits are set by BBNP and compliance may normally be sufficient to prevent a nuisance from arising, however, if any noise complaints do arise that cannot be resolved by planning condition, RCTCBC may be able to further investigate the issues with respect to statutory nuisance. GT complaints are higher during the summer months.

18. AH In three and a half years I have not experienced any issues relating to noise. There was an exceptional explosion my daughter was on a horse at the time, thankfully she was okay. I contacted the quarry and the quarry responded well

7(b). Odour / fumes

19. GP Odour is harder to look at site and identify the cause. In spring and summer of 2020, the community at Beacons Park complained. Investigation offers but it was difficult to capture the issue. There was strong dialogue with the operator, switched to a cleaner burning fuel. At the time of this meeting, since the established change in fuel used by the road-stone coating plant no further complaints have been received but that this issue will, for now, be kept under continuous investigation/review should further feedback from the community be received

7(c). Dust

20. GP Several issues raised to us. Dust emissions were identified while monitoring from the community a couple of issues were identified and an enforcement notice was issued as a result to reduce dust issues these were resolved by the operator. There is potential for dust, regular inspections of the site allows us to keep on top of the site. Concern has not disappeared, and we will continue to monitor.
21. GT asked if there could be a presentation of the monitoring report, JR suggested that the report be circulated to all on the PQLG and any issues to be raised at the next meeting by individual members.
22. GP Advised it would be okay to circulate the report and that he may be able to prepare a short executive summary. Yet to determine when the next inspection will be completed.

7(d). Lighting

23. GT Not aware of any issues around this topic.

7(e). Blasting

24. GT Blasting in May generated a greater level of complaints.
25. JR ran through the issues caused by blasting – Air Overpressure, vibration and the controls put in place to mitigate the impact.
26. TN advised that the blasting was monitored, and HT would be better able to provide any explanations.
27. VB There were any number of issues and concerns raised on social media including dishes on shelves rattling, children covered in dust in the playground. There is a gap in communication, use this forum to close the gap.

7(f). Water

28. GT not aware of any issues

General

29. VB and GT advised that the problem with odour had been raised on social media.
30. GT said it was important to have contacts listed on the Quarry Community Page.
31. AH Important that we share good work with the community do not focus on everything negative.
32. GP Awareness – engage with us, if someone has a concern let us know, let the quarry know. Resolve the problem, don't feel you have to suffer if you see dust or vehicle unsheeted, etc. let us know.
33. LO The sooner we know the sooner we can investigate and act as necessary.

8. Highways Matters

34. GT Material taken onto the highway down to the school. Stone coming off lorries at Trebanog Terrace, hitting windscreens on cars. Speed of trucks complaints at the change of speed areas 30/40 mph and through the time limited 20mph zone. It's puzzling why they can't get a handle on this; the quarry should issue penalties to contractors who break speed limits due to the dangerous nature of speeding.
35. AH Current requirement in my business for all vehicles to have trackers which has led to a reduction in speeding and better driver behaviour with a cost saving.
36. JR I will investigate conducting a speed monitoring exercise.
37. GT Adherence to sheeting to prevent what is deposited on the highway, focus on prevention. Cleaning up spills, is there a cleaning programme operated, not aware of current arrangements.
38. CW Complaint from the bottom end of Trebanog Terrace empty lorries making noise early morning – may be related to speeding.
39. LO Vehicles sheeting is a site rule inspected prior to weighbridge wheel wash. Sign reminding of time limited speed zone posted before leaving the quarry. A

road sweeper operates daily this clears drains, site roads and the highway passed the school and back as far as the war memorial.

40. GP Any vehicle carrying aggregate must be sheeted from site. On a couple of occasions in the past this has not happened remedial measures were completed however we will continue to monitor site compliance.

9. Community Engagement

41. VB Should include notification of blasting and feedback of environmental monitoring.
42. VB Is there an impression of the skyline once the reserve swap area has been worked and the ridge stays, it would be nice to see.
43. LO An exercise was carried out for the planning permission I will arrange for a copy to be sent through to you.
44. VB Would it be possible to send individuals emails warning of blasting operations.
45. LO If I have their email addresses, I will send them an email advising of the blast.
46. LO – Hanson have donated chocolate boxes to elderly residents for Christmas. In addition, we have donated for the Christmas Lights.
47. GT would it be possible to help improve the surface of the Arcway.
48. JR If I can, I will. TN to forward details for Richard Farquhar who can provide details of the issues along the trail

Any other Business

49. VB asked if the time of the meeting could be changes. It was agreed to move it back to 17:00
50. Several the PQLG expressed their sadness that TSH had been subject to negative social media messages and hoped that she might reconsider her position.

51. JR called on the community to get in touch with the quarry with any issues.

52. GP advised that people should feel confident contacting his team who are independent and can help resolve issues.

Date and Time of the next meeting

Agreed for the next 4 meetings – subject to change nearer the time: -

22nd April 2021

22nd July 2021

21st October 2021

20th January 2022

Method for Selecting Members

PQLG Residents Section

1. Advertise the vacancies via Penderyn Quarry Community Page; local social media and public notice for a period of two weeks.
2. Interested resident's application will provide details to Group Secretary via email or post/hand delivery to Quarry Offices. Including contact details for matters relating to their role as members of the Liaison Group and a statement of up to 75 words supporting their application. (GDPR forms to be completed by applicants).
3. If there are less or the same number as there are vacancies, then those nominated will become members of the resident's section. (See 6 for filling a vacancy if their fewer applicants than vacancies).
4. If there are more applicants than vacancies, then a ballot box for residents to make their selection will be provided. (if possible, using same day/venue as a council election).
5. Term of office to be for the period of an RCT Council term and renewed at the start of a new term of office.
6. Should a vacancy exist because there are less nominations than vacancies or arise during the term of office then co-option will apply following 1 to 3 above but with the Liaison Group deciding the successful applicant by a majority decision.