

Liaison Group Forum

Minutes of meeting: 17 September 2019, 1.00 – 2.30pm

Venue: Sneaton Village Hall, Whitby

Present:

Gareth Edmunds (GE) – Sirius Minerals (Meeting Chair)
Matt Parsons (MP) – Sirius Minerals
William Woods (WW) – Sirius Minerals
Heather King (HK) – Sirius Minerals
Glenn Dunn (GD) – Sirius Minerals
Cllr Jane Mortimer (JM) – Scarborough Borough Council
Cllr Marion Watson (MW) – Scarborough Borough Council
Cllr Glen Goodberry (GG) – Scarborough Borough Council
Cllr Stewart Campbell (SC) – Scarborough Borough Council
Cllr Michael Stonehouse (MS) – Scarborough Borough Council
Cllr Sue Tucker (ST) – Scarborough Borough Council
Cllr Les Atkinson (LA) – Fylingdales Parish Council
Cllr David Rowland (DR) – Hawsker Parish Council
Cllr Christine Kingham (CK) – Lockwood Parish Council
Cllr Steve Kay (SK) – Redcar and Cleveland Borough Council
Cllr Clive Pearson (CP) – North Yorkshire County Council, Scarborough Borough Council
Cllr Mike Holliday (MH) – Sneaton Parish Council
Briony Fox (BF) – North York Moors National Park Authority
Mike Hawtin (MH) – North York Moors National Park Authority

7 members of the public were in attendance.

1. Introduction

GE opened the meeting, welcomed members of the public in attendance and asked each LGF member to introduce themselves.

2. Apologies

Rob Smith, Cllr. David Chance, Graham Clarke

3. Minutes of previous meeting

The minutes were accepted as a correct record.

4. Matters Arising

Action 1 – MP reported that he had sent SK a list of projects in the Lockwood Beck area that had received Sirius Minerals Foundation funding.

Action 2 – In response to a question at the previous meeting, MP explained that the bunding at the east of the site, which would provide screening from the Hawsker viewpoint, was already starting to be formed and would be gradually built up throughout construction.

Action 3 – In response to a question at the previous meeting, MP reported that there were 130 people working at Lockwood Beck and 50% of them were from the local area.

5. Financing and development update

GE made the meeting aware of the Company's market announcement to the stock exchange that had been released that morning. He explained that, due to poor market conditions, the Company had not been able to deliver its stage 2 financing plan. As a result, the Company was reducing the pace of development across the Project whilst it undertook a six-month strategic review to identify and implement an alternative plan.

Questions

- SK asked whether workers would be laid off and if completing construction would be delayed.
 - GE responded that it was not yet known what the impact would be on workforce numbers and that the Company would work towards minimising any delay in delivering the Project. Further information would be made available in due course.
- Member of the public asked why the Government had not provided assistance.
 - GE said that the Government had responded that it was not in their remit to provide the guarantee that Sirius was seeking.
- SK asked whether the tunnel would continue at the same rate.
 - GE responded that there had been great progress and that tunnelling would continue.
- Member of the public asked if it was possible that two tunnel boring machines would be used to construct the tunnel, rather than three.
 - GE responded that this was something that was being looked at as part of the strategic review, as a result of faster than expected tunnelling rates.

6. Construction update

MP gave a construction update covering the last three months.

Questions

- SK asked whether the winding tower at Lockwood would be similar to the one at Woodsmith.
 - MP responded that it would.
- ST asked whether there be two winding towers or one at Woodsmith.
 - GE replied that there would be one, which is reduced from the three that the Company has planning permission for.
- SK asked whether the tower at Lockwood would be camouflaged with a special material.

- BF responded that the colour would be the same as the tower at Woodsmith - a grey top and green lower part to blend in with the tree-line.
- On behalf of a Hawsker resident, DH expressed concern about the level of lighting at Woodsmith.
 - MP explained that the lighting on site was monitored and that the lower part of the winding tower, which was currently the source of additional lighting, would soon be clad.
- Member of the public asked about the depth of the service shaft and whether there was going to be a segment factory at Woodsmith.
 - MP replied that it was -118m, which is the depth from which the main shaft sinking would start. He confirmed that there would not be a segment factory at Woodsmith.

7. Planning

Conditions

BF reported that NYMNPA were working through discharging the conditions related to Phase 11 of the development and expected to be in a position to determine this shortly.

Section 106

For the benefit of new members of the group, BF gave a summary of the S106 including the tree planting programme, landscape and ecology projects, rail enhancements and tourism promotion. MH gave a brief update of a selection of the thirty projects currently ongoing. MP encouraged people to view the Sirius website which has an interactive map of S106 projects.

- SK asked what would happen to the sites if the project did not go ahead.
 - BF responded that the S106 agreements included reinstatement security provisions for both the Woodsmith and Lockwood Beck sites.

8. Complaints and Correspondence

MP reported that the Company had received eight complaints since the last meeting four months ago. Six of these related to traffic related issues – four about parking, one about the speed of vehicles and another about white van deliveries through Littlebeck. The other two complaints were about lighting and noise. There was one complaint associated with Lockwood Beck related to noise.

9. Community Engagement

MP reported that the community drop-in events held in July at Sneaton, Hawsker, Moorsholm and Lingdale were attended by approximately 350 people. In addition, the Company attended seven town and parish council meetings, presented to seven local interest groups and went to three jobs fairs aimed at adults. The Company's education outreach programme has continued, with 26 activities attended since the previous meeting.

10. A.O.B

No other business was raised. GE thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting.