



[OFFICIAL]

Liaison Group Forum
Minutes of meeting: 24 October 2024, 11.00
Hawsker Village Hall

Present:

Matt Parsons (MP) – Anglo American (Meeting Chair)
Heather King (HK) – Anglo American
Mark Pooleman (MPo) – Anglo American
Briony Fox (BF) – North York Moors National Park Authority
Rob Smith (RS) – North York Moors National Park Authority
Cllr Tony Cross (TC) – Sneaton PC
Cllr Dave Brown (DB) – Sneaton PC
Cllr Alf Watson (AW) – Eskdaleside cum Ugglebarnby PC
Cllr Steve Kay (SK) – Redcar and Cleveland Borough Council
Cllr Neil Swannick (NS) – North Yorkshire Council
Cllr John Nock (JN) – Whitby Town Council

Three members of the public were in attendance.

1. Introduction

MP welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. Apologies

No.

3. Minutes of previous meeting

Members were satisfied that the minutes were an accurate record of the last meeting.

4. Matters Arising from previous meeting

A member of the public asked whether the minutes could be available to the public in good time before the meetings. MP agreed to ensure they were on the website within a month of the meeting as per the terms of reference for the group.

5. Project Update

MPo gave a presentation, including images of the different sites, covering construction progress since the last meeting and MP elaborated on the slowdown **regarding concerns about the impact on jobs in the area and the future.**

- SK asked why reinstatement of Lockwood Beck intermediate site couldn't start?
 - MP replied that the site would be needed once the slowdown period was over and **there were current restrictions on the project budget.**
- JN asked whether there was a new date for production?
 - MP explained that the production date depended on when construction could ramp up again.
- A member of the public asked some technical questions about the shafts at Woodsmith and whether a conveyor was being installed in the mineral transport system tunnel?
 - MPo said that good progress was being made in the service shaft but the rate of sinking would slow due to the hardness of the sandstone. He also said a temporary conveyor was being put into the tunnel and work would

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recommence around Christmas time with the tunnel boring machine from Ladycross.

- NS asked for thoughts around BHP following recent media articles.
 - MP replied that there had been media reports about BHP submitting another bid for Anglo American, but stressed this was speculation and that any bid would be required to be formally announced.
- RS asked whether probe drilling in advance of the sinking of the service shaft would be happening?
 - MPo confirmed that it was,
- A member of the public asked about the risk of gas.
 - MPo replied that it whilst it is a hazard with all underground works, it has not been an issue to date.
- SK asked whether Polyhalite is as valuable now as ten years ago and whether the market was convinced about it?
 - MP responded that over 2,000 crop trials and research projects have proven polyhalite's efficacy that the company was satisfied of a global market for polyhalite.
- A member of the public asked about the Memorandum of Understanding with two Chinese companies?
 - MP detailed the plans to work with the two fertiliser companies announced in July to promote polyhalite in China.
- A member of the public asked about how many steel tubes had been put into the service shaft so far and whether Anglo American were happy with the progress?
 - MP confirmed that Anglo American were satisfied with progress.

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A member of the public queried the responsibility of Anglo American to pay for Strabag employees as part of the slow-down scheme. ¶ MP said the company agrees it is the right thing to do. ¶

ACTION 1. – HK to ensure slides from Liaison Group Forum meetings are put on the website.

6. Planning update

Conditions

RS reported that NYMNPAs were fully up to date with respect to the discharge of planning conditions and in close dialogue with Anglo American whilst continuing with regular monitoring. He added that an application to extend the drilling permission at the Woodsmith site had been received recently and was being assessed.

Section 106

BF provided an update on some of the recent work with respect to the Section 106 funding.

- A member of the public asked about the ventilation shaft.
 - MP said that options were currently being explored as part of the ongoing studies.
- A member of the public asked that BF's update regarding the 106 agreement expenditure be put on the North York Moors National Park Website and asked if there had been any changes to the planning consent? She went on to ask whether the planning permission allowed the company to mine any other mineral other than Polyhalite?
 - RS replied that there had been a change in the planning permission granted through a Section 73 application and confirmed there was currently no permission to mine any other mineral other than Polyhalite.

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BF invited people to come forward with their ideas for s106 funding.

7. Complaints

MP reported that two complaints had been received since the last meeting. One involved weed management at the Woodsmith site and one was regarding hedge cutting in Lockwood Beck.

ACTION 2: MP to follow up hedge cutting complaint with Redcar and Cleveland Council.

8. Community

MP reported that the programme working in partnership with local councils, combined authorities and the National Careers Service, to support people across the Woodsmith workforce that had been impacted by the slowdown was going well.

9. A.O.B

- JN wanted to express gratitude on behalf of the ~~communities~~ who had ~~benefited from social~~ investment. He said that considering the company was not in production yet the commitment to social programmes was impressive.
- MP explained that the company was consolidating the workforce and that the Teesside and Scarborough offices would temporarily close until further notice.
- DB thanked ~~Anglo American~~ for the works that the Skills 4 Work team continue to do in Sneaton.
- A member of the public asked about whether the gas fracking company investigating in the area would affect the project?
 - MP ~~replied that they were~~ aware, and ~~following~~ it with interest.

MP thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting.

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