



Liaison Group Forum
Minutes of meeting: 15 April 2026, 13:00
Hawsker Village Hall

Present:

Matt Parsons (MP) – Anglo American (Meeting Chair)
 Phillipa Starmer (PS) – Anglo American
 Heather King (HK) – Anglo American
 Jess Taylor (JT) – North York Moors National Park Authority
 Cllr Steve Kay (SK) – Redcar and Cleveland Borough Council
 Cllr Neil Swannick (NS) – North Yorkshire Council
 Cllr David Chance (DC) – North Yorkshire Council

Five members of the public were in attendance.

1. Introduction

MP welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. Apologies

Briony Fox

3. Minutes of previous meeting

- A clarification was requested regarding figures previously quoted for water ingress.
 - PS expanded upon this later in the meeting.

4. Matters Arising from previous meeting

- **ACTION 1.** - MP to give SK a more detailed timescale regarding Lockwood remediation. (completed)
- **ACTION 2.** - HK to change agenda going forward from Community to Social Programmes. (completed)
- **ACTION 3.** - MP to invite Leah Swain to talk to the group about the Woodsmith Foundation. (follow-up required)
- **ACTION 4:** - HK to ask re Sneaton speed limit at TMLG and report to DB (completed)

5. Project Update

MP confirmed that current construction activities would continue for the next two years and that the workforce numbers are expected to remain broadly stable (~1000).

MP talked about the announcement of an initial strategic investment agreement with Mitsubishi, focused on supporting global market development of polyhalite. He described how there is a potential pathway for Mitsubishi to acquire a significant minority stake (up to 25%) subject to future conditions. MP ended by describing the Final Investment Decision (FID) process including the role of the feasibility study in securing full project approval.

PS provided a construction update which included continued tunnelling progress, Shaft construction and ground-grouting works to manage water inflow. PS explained that water ingress is currently well within management capacity. PS explained the grout curtain methodology and long-term shaft integrity.

- Questions and a discussion about the technical aspects of the construction such as shaft depths, groundwater management and tunnel-shaft connections followed the update.
 - In response to a question about what would happen to the site in the event that the project did not proceed, MP confirmed that remediation funding is available via the Section 106 agreement with the planning authorities.

ACTION 1: HK / MP to let SK know when winders are being removed from Lockwood site.

ACTION 2: HK/ MP to send SK the digital version of the Non-Technical Supplementary Environmental Statement that has been submitted as part of the planning application focused on the amendments to the current approved development at Woodsmith Mine, and the sites at Ladycross Plantation and Lockwood Beck.

6. Planning update

Conditions

JT confirmed that two planning applications had been submitted for exploratory boreholes. She said both applications are under consultation with statutory bodies; no decision has yet been made. JT went on to explain that public representations had been received, primarily relating to noise, traffic, visual impact and safety. She also clarified that the applications are temporary and require full site restoration.

JT reported that a Section 73 application had been submitted to vary the existing permissions at the mine and intermediate shaft sites. MP provided an overview of the proposed amendments.

JT confirmed that public comments can be submitted anonymously, but that named representations were required for formal objections.

7. Complaints

HK explained that there had been one complaint regarding parking near Hawksgarth Lodge in Hawsker but the issue had been resolved satisfactorily but ongoing monitoring will continue.

8. Social Programmes and Community Funding

MP explained that the Social Impact Report is due for publication and will be circulated. He said that support for local programmes would continue as would funding for the Woodsmith Foundation.

- Discussion was noted regarding the discontinuation of the North Yorkshire Council Skills 4 Work scheme.
- MP provided an overview of the Parish Fund that had been set up to focus on the type community projects previously undertaken by Skills 4 Work.
- Councillors emphasised the importance of future skills and employment initiatives.

9. A.O.B

- In light of the sale of Resolution House, Woodsmith's future office accommodation requirements were discussed. MP confirmed that no decision had been made.
- NS asked for it to be minuted that he had not participated in any discussion related to the planning application by Europa Oil and Gas due to his role in the planning committee.