**Ringstead Grange Quarry Liaison Group Meeting**

**Ringstead Village Hall, 7th August 2018**

**MINUTES**

**Attendees;**

RP (Chairman) – Richard Phillips, Ringstead Parish Council  
CH – Cliff Harris, Ringstead Parish Council  
HM – Harry Mayes, Great Addington Parish Council  
BT – Cllr Bob Tyman, Raunds Town Council  
DM – Cllr Dave Munday, Stanwick Parish Council  
EB – Elliott Barry, Environment Agency  
DS – Dan Szymanski, Northamptonshire County Council  
DG – Darren Griffiths, Mick George Ltd  
JG – John Gough, Planning Director, Mick George Ltd  
CS – Charlotte Spry, Planning Assistant, Mick George Ltd

1) **Introductions and Apologies**

Apologies received from Sue Kitchener (Stanwick Parish Council)

2) **Reflection of previous minutes**

No comments on previous minutes.  
DM – Noted that in the last meeting, it had been noted that a vehicle had driven through Stanwick, asked if any further details were provided by Sue Kitchener in order that the matter could be investigated.  
JG/CS – Confirmed no further details had been received.

3) **MGL report on quarry progress and summary of any complaints received**

DG – Advised that extraction operations were currently being undertaken within Phase 7, with progressive backfilling. Phases 1-4 are near to restoration levels. Noted that the mineral was very clayey in parts.  
MD – Asked if the trommel was operational given that the mineral was clayey.  
DG – Confirmed the trommel hadn’t been used for 3 to 4 months but would be needed at some time in the future.  
BT – Sought clarification about imported material.  
DG – Advised that in fact more material was coming in but voidspace was limited.  
BT – Sought clarification on whether there was still an intent to raise the restoration levels at the site.  
JG – Confirmed that an application would be submitted towards the end of 2018. The previous application was not registered by NCC and subsequently withdrawn.  
DS – Asked whether the clay material was being put back into the quarry void.
DG – Confirmed the material was being utilised as engineering clay for cell creation and lining. Some clay has been exported off site.

4) Planning Officer’s Comments

DS – Advised that the Northamptonshire had begun reviewing their Minerals and Waste Local Plan however given the financial situation of the authority, this has been put on hold although it will need to be reviewed at some point (possibly 12-18 months). Confirmed that the last site monitoring visit took place on 3rd May 2018 and it was suggested MGL look at management options for the calcareous grassland and seeding of wild flowers.

JG – Confirmed MGL’s consultant ecologist had completed an assessment followed by a short summary report which could be circulated.

DG – Further advised the calcareous grass would be cut on Friday (10th August), although not at a low level due to the wild flowers that have now established. The final cut will be made in September 2018.

JG – Advised that the calcareous grassland would show different levels of establishment at different times of the year. Referred to another MGL site in Peterborough where the wild flowers have better established and not the grass whereas this is the opposite at Ringstead.

DS – Informed the group that calcareous grassland is not easy to get right and the results are not instant.

JG – Noted that it also takes some time for residual fertilisers from previous crops to leach from the soils.

DS – Also advised MGL there was some hedgerow translocation works to complete although it’s currently the wrong time of year. The final matter was that of an agricultural aftercare scheme which needed to be submitted for the site. MGL have since submitted the scheme which has subsequently been approved. Nothing else outstanding. Next site visit to be undertaken October/November 2018.

JG – Advised that in addition to the calcareous grassland, some agricultural land had been restored.

DG – Advised this area contains Chinese grass which can grow to several metres and is cut annually. The grass could grow for up to 15-20 years and would then regenerate itself.

5) Environmental Protection Officer’s Comments

MD – Confirmed no complaints received and it had been blissfully quiet since the last liaison group meeting.

JG – Noted that dust was generally the biggest concern at this time of year but the site had coped extremely well in controlling the situation.

6) Environment Agency Comments

EB – No complaints or issues. Minor elevated levels of chloride were found in monitoring results although this was considered to be due to atmospheric conditions. A secondary monitoring exercise was undertaken and the chloride had subsided back to acceptable levels. Due to complete a visit next month, particularly to look at the dust suppression measures in place on site.

BT – Asked how the borehole samples were collected.
EB- Advised MGL employed a 3rd party each quarter who then sent the samples to the EA. Also advised waste returns were received each quarter in compliance with the Environmental Permit.

7) Councillor Comments

7a) County Councillor Comments – none present
7b) District Councillor Comments – none present
7c) Parish/Town Councils;

BT – No comments/complaints from Raunds Town Council. Asked if HGV movements will be increasing.
JG – Advised this would be linked to the planning application to raise the levels. The Company are aware they are in technical breach of their planning restrictions although the HGVs are travelling directly to the A45 and it doesn’t appear to be causing any concerns at present.
DM – No comments/complaints from Stanwick Parish Council.
HM – No comments/complaints from Great Addington
RP – Confirmed no complaints received. A few residents had mentioned dust although this could be due to the harvest. Also noted that the stream to Kinewell Lake usually dries up at this time of year however it’s still currently flowing; wondered whether this was due to the removal of the limestone in that it may have previously soaked up the water.
JG – Advised that this wasn’t the case as water would flow through the limestone and not be stored within the measures.
CH – Lives on the outskirts of the village close to the quarry and advised he has not heard anything recently.

8) Any other business

No other business.

9) Date of next meeting

All agreed that the meeting could be held at 12-monthly intervals although JG advised the offer is open to bring meetings forward if there are any particular issues or concerns.

Next meeting arranged for Tuesday 6th August 2019, 2pm.