

LIAISON COMMITTEE MEETING

**Minutes of Committee Meeting held on Wednesday 12nd of March 2025
at Somerset Earth Science Centre, Stoke St Michael – 15.00**

Present:	Phillip Ham (PH)	SCC Councillor and Chairperson
	Ben Dormer (BD)	J Wainwright Operations Director
	Matt Bishop (MB)	J Wainwright SHE Manager
	Chloe Hart (CH)	J Wainwright Sustainability Manager
	Amanda Taylor (AT)	Stoke St Michael Parish Council
	Simon Collins (SC)	Stoke St Michael Parish Council
	Nick Dunn (ND)	J Wainwright (L&MM)
	Rowena Kinsman (RK)	Stoke St Michael resident
	Ruth Amundson (RA)	Somerset Council Minerals & Waste
	Ann Crowcombe (AC)	Cranmore Parish Council
	Tony Blaker (TB)	Doulling Residents Representative

Apologies:

Barry Clarke (BC)	County Council
Darren Portch (DP)	J Wainwright Quarry Manager

2. Minutes of previous meeting

The minutes of the previous meeting were accepted as a true and accurate record from the previous meeting held on the 2nd of October 2024.

Actions update from the previous meeting:

Previous Action: MB to provide advance dates and route map to liaison committee for the MQP Litter Pick.

Update: This year's Litter Pick will on the 24th - 28th of March with all 5 Mendip Quarry Producers volunteering. The proposed maps have been shared via e-mail.

AT can the community do an extra day? liaise with MB on this.

Action:

All in attendance: Please share the litter pick information via all local channels so the public are aware of rolling traffic management during that week.

MB: Matt to include the chapel to Longcross on planned route.

AT: Can the quarries provide bins to assist with litter management around sites?

MB: Wainwright & Morris and Perry are looking at the possibility of designing a bin together, which is the correct height for HGVs to use without leaving cab hopefully this. Wainwright already provide welfare and toilet facilities.

3. A) Quarry Matters

Ben Dormer is now the Operations Director. Darren Portch is the new Quarry Manager and is available to contact for any day to day reasons (Darren.portch@wainwright.co.uk).

Wainwright currently has 147 employees in the business, one of the new roles includes a Transport Manager to help improve efficiency and impacts of Wainwright livered haulage.

Operations continue to focus on producing from Stoke Quarry in a north-westerly direction. With volume aligned with predicted budgets. Quarry outputs may reduce slightly next year and will utilise Moons Hill Quarry in conjunction with Stoke, whilst waiting for a decision on the Quarry extension planning application.

PH: Is the government cut back on major schemes impacting Wainwright commercially?

BD: Due to a regional customer base there has been no notable impact on Wainwright at present, however competitors will most likely be impacted which has the potential to filter through to Wainwright in the longer term.

3 B) Sustainability

Wainwright has relaunched its sustainability strategy internally with a focus on an Operational Efficiency programs to reduce waste, reduce fuel use, and gas per tonne usage. Getting the foundation of sustainability through operational efficiency is a business priority, whilst reviewing and adopting new technologies as they emerge.

Wainwright has been contributing to the Avonmouth Local Industrial decarbonisation plan at it's Avonmouth site. This is a collaboration between industry to establish a route for decarbonisation, to share resources and requirements. Ultimately this aims to attract support and investment into the area. This is providing learning opportunities for actions that may be required in future at Moons Hill.

As part of it's contract with North Somerset, Directors and Managers at Wainwright planted trees in Western Super Mare. Alongside, providing environmental education for North Somerset schools at the Somerset Earth Science Centre – as part of Wainwright's values of 'doing the right thing'.

3. C) Planning

Quarry Extension Planning Update

ND: Planning application was submitted at the end of 2023 – Wainwright have been asked to provide further information on a range of matters such as ecology and the proposed foot path diversion. Which has been provided.

An objection and request for further information was requested from Natural England, Wainwright are addressing the matters raised which will be submitted. Wainwright hopes to be at planning committee this year. The extension still has objections from parish councils and local residents.

Solar Planning Update:

CH: A 2 MW ground mounted Solar application has been approved with some conditions. The site is located immediately to the east of the short stretch of Long Cross Bottom (running north/south between Stoke St Michael and Cranmore) where Old Wells Road, Chelynch Road, and Old Frome Road converge.

This will account for 23% of Wainwright's current electrical usage, and provide additional capacity for Wainwright's transition to electrical vehicles, whereby the grid may not have enough capacity in future. The BNG predictions are a 18.39% Net Gain and 10.84% habitat increase. The final Ecology plans are being created currently. The construction period will take place over 3 months in summer should all go to plan.

Cranmore: Why wasn't Cranmore consulted and is Cranmore tower impacted?

Action: Wainwright will review why Cranmore hasn't been consulted.

CH response the open evening event was shared on Cranmore e-news Facebook page on the 9th and 14th of August 2024 to provide opportunities for consultation, alongside Wainwright's own social media and website pages. A leaflet drop was also completed but Cranmore was not reached – a team of 4 employees were sharing leaflets locally. The solar has been mentioned numerous times in Liaison meetings also. In regard to the tower this has been assessed as part of the planning location/ visual impact assessment and has been deemed to be not significant.

4. Complaints and concerns

Quarry Complaints:

Noise - None

Dust- None

Blasting- None

Transport complaints:

MB: New Transport Manager Darren Moore has joined the business to assist managing our fleet.

Unjustified complaints: none

Justified complaints: HGV carrying fine dust, had a small hole in, thus a small dust cloud was created, and a car was impacted. Wainwright compensated and rectified, and the hole has since been fixed.

Wainwright have also reported the large pothole to Somerset Council in the road –we are not permitted to fix it due to it being a highway.

Reports there are community complaints about all HGVs, not specifically wainwright but all MQP and non-Quarry related traffic movements, specifically at Longcross where drains have fallen.

Action: Tim May / Darren Moore – check speeding at that site and provide data.

Matt Bishop has been sent a link on a possible person who can assist with fixing the culvert. However, upon review this person can only access the culvert but cannot carry out repairs. Ultimately all are struggling to find a company who can repair it, due to the specialisms required to fix it.

PH – Have we had any lorries topple over at Longcross and the beacon.
MB: No Wainwright known incidents to report.

5. Parish Matters / Residents Matters

Stoke St Micheal – currently nothing happening with the bridge closure due to complexity of the services below and risks.

SC : Emergency plan - parish village / town councils are being encouraged to put an emergency plan in place. Question for Wainwright is what are the risks of stored explosives. What are the fire risks at Wainwright?

BD: Wainwright don't store explosives on site – we use and dispose of them on the same day. Explosives transport to site have been risk assessed. Chemicals on site are stored appropriately and also risk assessment with controls in place.

Action: BD & MB – to provide further detail on Wainwright's risk management.

SC: As part of the emergency plan the community are looking for spaces of safety, could the Somerset Earth Science Center be an option for this?

Action: BD / MB to consult with MQP

SC what is Wainwright's flood risk to village?

BD Wainwright have limits on pumping volumes as part of discharge licences, these are controlled and monitored both by the company with daily procedures as well as internal and external audit. Wainwright pump only when necessary due to high cost and energy usage, with pumping only to control the water level in the extraction areas. Controls are in place to ensure limits aren't exceeded.

6. Somerset County Council Matters

Nill to report – discussed above.

7. Any Other Business

Action BD to provide futures foundation update – please see the below not mentioned in the meeting but added on request.

‘The Wainwright Futures foundation has donated £6,982 to local causes since the last meeting. Those include a donation to Forest Schools and Frome Rotary club, amongst a number of other charities and community sports clubs.

BD – Ash die back works continue Wainright site prioritised based on safety.

Date and Venue of the next meeting

The next meeting will be held at JW’s boardroom on **17th September
March 2025 at 3pm.**

Signed.....Dated
.....

Proposed Agenda for meeting on Wednesday 17th September 2025 at 3pm

1. Apologies for absence
2. Minutes of previous meeting

Matters arising, to include:

3. Quarry Matters
4. Sustainability
5. Planning
6. Complaints and concerns
7. Parish /Residents Matters.
8. Somerset County Council Matters
9. Any Other Business
8. Date & venue of next meeting