



PREESALL TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Extra Ordinary meeting of the Town Council held on Wednesday 30th August 2023 at 7.00pm at Preesall and Knott End Youth and Community Centre

Present: Cllrs J Lewin (Mayor), T Johnson, S Dobbie, P Orme, C Rimmer, K Shepherd – many members of the public

56.1 Apologies

Cllrs R Drobny, K Woods

57.2 Declarations of interests and dispensations

As it was apparent that all Councillors had an interest in the Quarry Application it was proposed by Cllr Johnson and seconded by Cllr Orme that there be a blanket dispensation for all attending Councillors in relation to the application. It was resolved that a blanket dispensation given to all Councillors with having an interest in the Quarry Development

58.3 Public participation

Councillors **resolved** to adjourn the meeting to allow non-councillors to speak.

Participant 1 – Reported that he lived in a bungalow on Bourbles Lane, 10 yards from the proposed Quarry boundary and suffered from COPD. His view was that the Quarry would result in silica dust in the air and he would not be able to sit outside his property, do any gardening and he would have to seal his windows and stay indoors making him a prisoner in his own home.

Participant 2 – Reported that they had 2,200 members in their Anti-Quarry Group. Following investigation, it had been identified that there was more land in the hands of the developer than was declared. Opposition was strong and the participant wanted to acknowledge the help given to them by the late Harold Elletson. Mentioned that the Scoping document was vague and that they had leafletted the village and registered thousands of objections at that point. A suggestion was put forward that Preesall join with Pilling to co-ordinate their approach. Also wanted to link in with Stalmine Council. Highlighted the importance of documenting details of wildlife, roads and provide evidence of building works. Regarding Temporary access at Bourbles Lane, Group are pushing for Environmental Impact Assessment as they were very concerned for the residents, 111 in vicinity already have medical conditions 14 of which are children. Cllr Rimmer reported that she had a Zoom call with doctor who was surprised how many already had conditions in area.

Resident requested that Parish Council request data from Over Wyre Medical Centre of residents with Cardiovascular and Upper Respiratory conditions. Mayor Lewin reported that privacy had to be respected.

10k leaflets are to be distributed explaining that help is available in responding to Planning Application, deadline is 23/9/23 if letter received as a Consultee.

There have been several site visits by Bird and Ecology Experts and the Solicitor of the group.

It was reported that 4 reports had been commissioned and were to be funded by the Group, Highways, Noise, Dust Pollution and Ecology and Environmental.

Re Roads, vehicles must turn left out of site but no further control of HGV's. The Group reports will be made available to Council to support their response.

Participant 3 – Provided areas for thought, the Air Quality Assessment predicted figures, but company was paid to show document in favour of the Developer. Anti Quarry Group commissioned report and it would be interesting to see differences. Dust mitigation, 1 water bowser, speed limit, road surfaces, mobile plant exhaust pointing upwards.

There were many omissions from the Application documentation eg Sunflower/Horseshoe Barn plus others.

Inaccuracies – Involuntary Receptors (People) 250m from site, properties recorded 14, correct figure more like 149 (conservative estimate). Misquoted figures included by 100 times, demonstrates incompetence or a lie. Developer quoted as having lengthy discussions and liaised with residents, no one was aware of this liaison. 5 Councillors in attendance reported that they had had no discussions with Developers with 1 reporting no comment. It was suggested that only discussions were to purchase land.

Anti Quarry Group Solicitor stated that it was clear that the report was misleading and quoted Legal Framework 2017, H & S Environmental Act 2022, and Public Sector Equality Act 2010. She believed that the Group were doing an excellent job.

Participant 5 – Reported that they had a Septic Tank and dug down 5ft and water filled hole and had to be pumped out, he had concerns that digging down with water filling the holes would unsettle foundations in the area. Water table not below 4ft. Sheet Piling was required and backfill; the next phase was to drill down 6m.

Participant 6 - Residents in Sandicroft Place not included on map or figures but are within 250m of phase 1. A child (age 6) on Sandicroft was already on a ventilator. Tried to get on LCC Letter list but couldn't get through. Attendee confirmed that you do not to be on list to respond to application.

Reported that Map used was not ordinance survey and not to scale.

Anti Quarry Group reported that they would provide help for people to get responses in by deadline., Implored the Council to accept invites to work together.

Cllr Sorenson – Explained that matters needed to be looked at appropriately. Suggested that funding be made available to produce a 3D model to put to LCC. Important to identify flaws in the report and suggested contacting other Quarry Groups.

At the conclusion of the public session councillors **resolved** to reconvene the meeting.

59.4 Planning Applications

Application Number: LCC/2023/0030

Proposal: The extraction and processing of sand and gravel including the construction of new site access roads, landscaping and screening bunds, minerals washing plant and other associated infrastructure with restoration to leisure end-uses, agricultural land and biodiversity enhancement, using imported inert fill.

Location: Land off Bourbles Lane, Preesall

Councillors Responses:

Cllr Shepherd – Suggested that some of the land involved had covenants stopping any mineral extraction. Explained that Bird Data was already available.

Cllr Johnson – Reported that page 13 stated that there would be no significant Impact and that this was comical. Hrs of operation were down as 7am to 6pm but traffic high flow was around 8.30 to 9am with both vehicles and pedestrians. Employment was just 5FTE for a period of 7 years.

Access – Report stated HGVs not permitted to drive through the village, but Preesall boundary was beyond the entry/exit of the site, so this was impossible. Report also stated no archaeological impact – but how would they know this? Omission re mitigation for groundwater in area. As the Planning Application was now available the Council were able to respond. The adopted Mineral aggregate supply figures no longer relevant and the document was slanted towards the Developer.

Cllr Rimmer – Raised concerns re access arrangements on Bourbles Lane whilst access point being built, concern over control over the hours and how Bridleways would work. Suggested looking at Ecological 20199 survey for leisure.

Cllr Orme – Very concerned re property undermining and additional stress on traffic. Previously Highways had asked a company to stop transferring sewerage from Preesall to Lancaster as roads were not fit for purpose, how has this changed? Reported that residents could attend the Development Control Committee but must turn up if invited.

Mayor Lewin – Requested full Health Risk Assessment but suggested that this may come under Environmental Risk Assessment. Suggested that Mental Health should be also considered. She had walked the site and gained an understanding of the impact on people’s homes and Businesses.

LCC had issued an Environmental and Climate Strategy stating, at the beginning, that LCC has placed protecting our environment as a top priority.

Reported that NBN Atlas data already identified.

A letter was read out from Cllr Drobny, who was unable to attend the meeting, stating he was sorry that he was unable to attend and that he was opposed to the plans for the Quarry, he suggested that the Community would be destroyed if the development went ahead. He was not able to vote but if he could it would be against the plans.

Mayor Lewin requested a vote on the Planning Application:

6 votes against

Nil in Favour

Carried unanimously.

It was resolved that Preesall Town Council would object to the application.

It was further resolved that a meeting/working group be convened to coordinate the response from the Council.

60.5 Items for next agenda

The next full council meeting will be held on **11th September 2023** - councillors were asked to raise matters to be included on the agenda and provide updates from working groups by notifying the clerk **in writing by Thursday 31st August 2023** at the latest.

There being no further business the Mayor closed the meeting at 8.11pm.