



FRESH PRODUCE

**S&A PRODUCE & KINGS CAPLE COMMUNITY
LIAISON GROUP MEETING**

Wednesday 16th August 2017 7.00 p.m. @ Old School, Kings Caple

MINUTES OF MEETING

ATTENDEES:

Adrian Harvey (AH)

Simon Lennane (SL)

Jan-Willem NAEREBOUT (J-WN)

Jude NORCOTT (JN)

Mark Whitehead (MW)

- Group Operations Director – S&A Produce
- Public Relations Manager – S&A Produce
- Director of Operations (Hereford & Wales Crop Production)

APOLOGIES:

Russell Nunn (RN)

Angela Williams (AW)

1. Minutes of last meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on 1st February 2017 were approved with the following matters arising -

o Access routes

AH to send information regarding school traffic to the Company in September when the new school term begins, in line with last year. MW advised that S&A's tractor only uses this route once a day as a maximum. SL mentioned a complaint that had been made by a local resident where on one occasion, an S&A vehicle had not taken the regular route past the church. JN confirmed that the complaint had been dealt with and additionally SL confirmed that he had subsequently spoken with the resident himself.

AH mentioned Elwyn Brookes' intention to construct an additional track alongside the asparagus fields. J-WN commented that if this were to go ahead, it would not result in any change operationally for S&A; if the track were to be hardstanding then it would be an advantage.

J-WN thanked AH for the information with regard to the school traffic, adding that to his knowledge there were no issues with any other routes.

ACTION: AH

o Noise

AH advised that a resident at Kings Caple Orchard had mentioned that they considered noise from pickers at 5.30 a.m. on a Sunday morning to be distracting. After discussion, the Committee suggested that given the resident's location, perhaps instead the noise heard was from the pickers when they arrived at the fields, as they were disembarking.

SL commented that the tractors appeared to be quieter than from the previous season. It is possible that this may be as a result of the hedges having grown but despite the reason, the noise had become much less which was pleasing.

○ Spraying

SL raised the issue of the late-night spraying on one night in June and pointed out that expectation of similar would in future be most welcome. MW advised that the fields are due to be sprayed early next week, most likely on Monday.

○ Flooding

J-WN advised that the Environment Agency had contacted him to ask if he was aware of any irrigation issues as there had been a report of water running past RN's property. J-WN had responded that he was not aware of any issues. In respect of water in the vicinity of AW's shed, it was agreed that the straw bales appeared to work, although AW would check with her father to ascertain if there had been any further problems. AH commented that the Company's system in respect of grass types for ground cover was clearly effective and J-WN advised that this system would be adopted again next year.

ACTION: AW

○ Electricity supply

A quotation had been obtained including a bigger transformer for the bottom of the site, which would negate the need for the existing generator. J-WN advised that the associated cost of £15k would be included in the Company's operational budget for next year. The Company will update the Committee at the next meeting as to whether the budget has been approved.

ACTION: J-WN

○ Communication

As discussed at the last meeting, it was confirmed that upon completion of documenting the minutes, JN will circulate a draft copy via e-mail to all Group members. Following approval of the minutes by the Group members via e-mail, JN will circulate a final copy to all Group members which AH will also submit for publication on the Parish website.

○ Ditch

It was noted that Elwyn Brookes had carried out a considerable amount of work on clearing and fencing along the ditch.

In respect of cutting SL's hedge, SL & MW agreed that the same process would be adopted as last year, whereby after 1st September, S&A will top the hedge and SL will cut the sides.

○ Heritage Group request

AH & JN confirmed that the Company had made a donation of £250 which had been utilised towards funding the cost of heritage trail leaflets and a noticeboard. JN advised that she had attended the Heritage Group open day in August which she had found most interesting. AH once again expressed the gratitude of the Heritage Group for the Company's support.

○ Rabbits

SL advised MW that he was welcome to have access to SL's land to try to eradicate the problem. In the meantime, the situation had been helped by the intervention of SL's cats!

- Strimming
MW confirmed that strimming would take place 2-3 times a year.

2. Operational up-date

- Activity to date
 - The Committee were advised that the Company had experienced an excellent season of asparagus. A good, early start had been achieved resulting in a very positive season. J-WN continued that the Company is extremely satisfied with the Kings Caple site, highlighting that the composition of the soil is particularly ideal.
 - All fields had now been redrilled with the grass types and orchard mix.
 - There is some disease in the ferns which will require 2 or 3 further spray treatments. Following this, when the right window in the weather is apparent and the ground is hard and cold, the ferns will be topped.
- Proposed future activity
 - J-WN advised that no new activity is planned and that the process will be as per last year.

3. Local community issues

- The Company were advised that local residents had been instructed to contact JN with any immediate serious issues, but other matters should be taken to the village Liaison Group members for addressing at the next meeting.

4. A.O.B.

- The Company thanked the other Committee members for their co-operation to date and commented that having now experienced two growing seasons, all should be as expected.
- Next meeting
JN to circulate some proposed dates.

ACTION: JN