



FRESH PRODUCE

**S&A PRODUCE & KINGS CAPLE COMMUNITY  
LIAISON GROUP MEETING  
Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> April 2018 7.00 p.m. @ Old School, Kings Caple**

## MINUTES OF MEETING

### ATTENDEES:

Adrian Harvey (AH)  
Simon Lennane (SL)  
Jan-Willem NAEREBOUT (JWN) - Group Operations Director – S&A Produce  
Jude NORCOTT (JN) - Public Relations Manager – S&A Produce  
Mark Whitehead (MW) - Director of Operations (Hereford & Wales Crop Production)  
Angela Williams (AW)

### APOLOGIES:

Russell Nunn (RN)

### 1. Minutes of last meeting held on 16<sup>th</sup> August 2017

The Group agreed amendments to the minutes in relation to 'noise' and 'land drain'. JN to recirculate the amended set of minutes for final approval, including an additional copy to AH for posting on the Parish website.

**ACTION: JN**

Additionally, the following matters arose -

- School traffic  
AH advised of one addition to the previously circulated analysis by place of residence, who would be travelling into the village via Hoarwithy Bridge . All agreed that it was not necessary for AH to recirculate an amended list.
- Noise  
The warning 'beeping' noise from tractors and trailers can still be heard, however the Company advised that as this is a Health & Safety measure, the alarm cannot be disabled.
- Kings Caple Parish Council  
AH advised that he is now a Parish Councillor and subsequently will be seen as a representative of Kings Caple Parish Council in this Liaison Group. The Company was asked of any objections to this and for feedback from these meetings to be given to the Parish Council. On behalf of the Company JWN advised that this is welcomed, as several Parish Councillors sit on the Company's other Liaison Committees that are operated in relation to its Brierley & Marden sites. Similarly the minutes of those meetings are published on the corresponding Parish Council website.

- Spraying  
AH commented how the advance e-mail advice to the distribution group seems to work well. The Company agreed, adding however that the spraying process continues to be operated by a third party contractor and as a result the Company does not always have full control of the schedule, which is not ideal. MW advised that the next spraying is due to take place from 22/23 June, once picking has finished, unless any pests need to be eradicated beforehand.
- Land drain  
It was agreed that any further discussion should be taken outside of this meeting with which SL and JWN concurred.
- Planting  
Replanting of the small area where some plants had previously died is scheduled for around the end of May. The new plants are disproportionately heavy so as to be in line with the existing crop. JWN commented that this would incur an extra cost but is preferable to having a gap in the field. Additionally the Company has installed a new land drain which has been connected to the already existing other land drains.
- Flooding  
In respect of the previous issue of water in the vicinity of AW's shed, AW advised that the area does appear to be wetter and that she would continue to monitor it. AW's father is curious as to why this is, if the Company's system of planting different grass types for ground cover is working. JWN advised that this method is effective, with orchard mix planted in all respective areas. This mix will shortly be sprayed off and weather dependent, it will be reseeded in July.
- Electricity supply  
This process is ongoing with the Company currently looking at wayleaves. Additionally there is an issue with a piece of land which is currently in Probate. MW is meeting with Western Power next week to ascertain if it may be possible to reroute away from this piece of land. The aim is to replace the existing generator with a new source of power, including for the water pump.
- Ditch  
The Group further acknowledged that Elwyn Brookes had carried out a considerable amount of work to improve the ditch. In respect of the cutting of SL's hedge, it was agreed that where the hedge grows on the Company's side, the Company will cut it.
- Rabbits  
SL commented that there appears to be less crop damage from rabbits this year. MW advised that the Company had engaged someone to assist with eradicating the rabbits and he advises Elwyn Brookes when he will be on site. AW asked how it would be possible to know if this person's methods were legally acceptable and MW suggested that AW contact Elwyn Brookes in order to find out.
- Strimming  
As the farm is more controlled now there should be less work required in keeping it tidy.

## 2. Operational up-date

- Activity to date
  - Due to the recent weather conditions it has been difficult to keep to the usual operational timetable. Picking has finally commenced however the harvest window will now be smaller due to the later start, as the end date does not move. The Company advised that it was not expecting such a successful harvest this year as last year. As previously mentioned, replanting of the problem area is due to take place at the end of May and should take 1-2 days. Picking will cease somewhere between 20-25<sup>th</sup> June, after which time the entire cycle of fertilising, spraying etc. will continue as per last year. Lines may be put through the rows although this will depend on how compact the soil is and not on flat beds.

- Transportation of the crop will be the same as last year. The Company has duly noted the school travel times and will avoid this where possible. Loading practice will also be the same as last year. AH asked if the seasonal workers' bus will still be going to the barn and the Company confirmed that this would be the case. It was noted that a transit van had recently stopped by The Rectory which was not as per the original agreement and MW is to check the reason for this.

***ACTION: MW***

- Operationally, procedures will remain very similar, if not the same, to last year; the site is at full capacity again this year. SL asked if it would be possible to pick the side of the field nearest to his property first. MW advised that this could be trialled however the picking usually takes place there by c10am, which it was thought was more preferable than picking there at 5am. SL appreciated this however if at all possible, SL would prefer to have the picking closest to him taking place first, then it is over and done with and this should not impact anyone else. Ultimately there is no real issue with regard to what time the picking commences next to SL's property, provided the picking is moving away. This incidentally only affects the field directly below SL's property, i.e. 40 Acres.
- 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

- AW advised of some plastic rubbish in and around the location of the generator and requested that it be removed.

***ACTION: MW***

- It was suggested that Mrs. Susan Sharp who resides at Shieldbrook, is advised of the Company's intention to arrange for a direct supply of electricity to replace the existing generator.

***ACTION: JN to e-mail***

### 4. A.O.B.

- Next meeting  
The Group agreed that it was now sufficient to only schedule one meeting per season which would be a pre-season meeting in February. If another meeting was required for any urgent issues, this could be arranged accordingly. JN to circulate some proposed dates for February 2019.

***ACTION: JN***