



FRESH PRODUCE

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

Wednesday 20th February 2019, 7.00 p.m. @ Old School, Kings Caple

MINUTES OF MEETING

ATTENDEES:

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

1. Minutes of last meeting held on 25th April 2018

The Group approved the minutes of the above meeting and agreed that AH could now post a copy on the Parish website. It was also agreed that in future all members would read draft minutes within 2 weeks of their circulation by JN, in order to expedite their publication on the Parish website and noticeboard.

Additionally, the following matters arose -

- o School traffic
AH advised that this term c35/40 pupils are likely to travel in via Hoarwithy Bridge, which is a similar figure to last year. There is a suggestion that next year there will be more children from the village attending the school.
- o Noise/transportation
The issue of tractor/vans engines running on early starts and also whilst waiting for the gate to be open was discussed. MW advised that usually once the tractor has arrived it will stay in the field and this should therefore not happen very often. Additionally the collection point for the workers should be down at the barn and not by the gate. MW will reinforce this, whilst also ensuring that in future no engines are running if any waiting is necessary, together with being mindful of disturbance and intrusion on residents' privacy particularly in relation to playing radios and shouting near houses. RN commented that no residents have openly complained to him and consequently he is not aware of any issues.

ACTION: MW
- o Electricity supply
The Company are still negotiating the cost with Western Power and unless this comes down considerably, there is a possibility that it may not go ahead. In the meantime the Company advised that they will do their best to keep noise at a minimum with bales as previously. On the subject of bales, the Company were asked if some of the bales put in place to prevent soil from spilling on to the road and in the drain had been removed. MW advised that these bales will be replaced.

- Picking

MW explained about the picking schedule and how 24 hours can be too short with 48 hours too long, in between picks. The Company therefore operate a sequential system, e.g. pick at 5am on Day 1, Day 2 pick at 8am, Day 3 pick at midday and Day 4 no pick. AH commented that picking the Vicarage field first was not ideal. SL advised that he is very happy to be picked first. MW stated that picking had always begun with Vicarage however the other members of the Group did not agree; MW advised that he would check but he was fairly sure that this was the case. MW was asked to consider not starting with Vicarage however it would not appear to be productive to begin picking near to SL first.

ACTION: MW

2. Operational up-date

- Activity to date

- Topping off of the asparagus has already taken place and one dose of fertiliser has been applied. A second dose of fertiliser will be required before picking commences and this is likely to be applied in March.

- Bed forming will be carried out this year however not in front of Caple Avenue as that area is flat beds. This cannot begin until the soil is dry so it is difficult to advise of when exactly this will take place however the Company will advise.

ACTION: MW/JN

- Herbicide will be sprayed on all of the ridge beds and part of the flat beds. SL asked what the herbicide was, MW offered to check and advise.

ACTION: MW

- The Company are hopeful for picking to commence in early April, although as always this will be weather dependent. The official last day of the asparagus season is 21st June. MW commented that in theory it should be a good harvest this year with spears already developed and embedded as a result of last year's good summer.

- Proposed future activity

- Nothing to add.

3. Local community issues

- E-mail distribution list – BCC (blind copy) to be used at all times. JN to e-mail recipients to ascertain if they still wish to receive communications.

ACTION: JN to e-mail

4. A.O.B.

- Next meeting

JN to circulate some proposed dates for February 2020.

ACTION: JN