**PRESTON-UNDER-SCAR PARISH COUNCIL**

**Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 15 April 2025**

**Present:** Councillor Councillors Amsden (Chairman), Fletcher, Higham, Knights and Sayers
Clerk: Linda Stevens

**Also Present:** 22 Residents

**Apologies for absence:** None

**73**. **Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 25 February 2025**

**Resolved:**

**That the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 25 February 2025 be confirmed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.**

**74. To declare Councillors' interests in items on the agenda:** None.

**75. Consideration and determination of the Parish Council's response to Planning Application NY/2025/0024/ENV submitted by Tarmac in respect of Wensley Quarry**

The Chairman reminded those present that the purpose of the meeting was to enable the Parish Council to decide its response to the above planning application for the variation of a number of the conditions attached to the current planning permission for the Wensley Quarry to allow for the working of permitted mineral within Phases 4,5 and 6, and for the continuation of mineral extraction and restoration. This was considered to be the most significant planning application in the Parish for generations and, at residents' and the Parish Council's request, a public meeting had been held on 7 April with representatives from Tarmac to enable them to present their proposals and respond to residents' questions and concerns. This meeting had been very well attended by residents. A number of serious concerns had been raised about the application and the contents of the supporting documents, especially the Environmental Impact Assessment which it was considered contained many inaccuracies and failed to consider the significant negative environmental and social impacts of the proposals on residents.

It was noted that planning permission was already in place for the working of the phases concerned but that the application, if granted would enable the working of those areas to commence earlier than currently programmed and to be extended by 11 years.

Residents attending the (Parish Council) meeting reiterated the serious concerns expressed to Tarmac at the public meeting on 7 April viz:

- The statement in the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) that there had been no complaints about dust from the quarry in the last 9 years and that no amendments

- were considered necessary to the existing Dust Management Plan when there had been a consistent and regular series of complaints from residents during that period which had not been addressed and measures such as wheel washing had not been put in place on the grounds of cost. The Quarry's arrangements for dust monitoring and control were ineffective and the problem would only worsen as quarrying moved closer to the village. In addition, there was no acknowledgement of the direction of the prevailing wind in the village and the document erroneously claimed that the wind rarely blew from the north.

- The current Noise Management Plan had not been effective in protecting residents from noise emanating from quarry operations. Complaints made about noise had not been recorded or properly addressed by the quarry and the application contained no reference to those complaints. The company's claim that the existing Noise Management Plan, together with the intervening vegetation, local topography and distance meant that no unacceptable adverse impacts would be experienced at any noise receptors, was not accepted. The intervening vegetation had failed so far to act as an effective barrier to noise or dust and as the trees were deciduous, they offered little protection when in leaf and no protection for a considerable period of time each year. They were also commercial woodland which was felled upon maturity and were unlikely still to be in place by the time quarrying phase 6 commenced.

- The EIS failed to address the potential impact on residents' health of closer proximity to the quarry workings in phases 4 and 6, which would be within boundary being within 400 metres of residential properties.

- The Non-Technical Summary (NTS) Landscape and Visual Considerations erroneously claimed that the development, together with mitigation and enhancement measures could be integrated into the identified character areas without any significant adverse during its operational period, when in fact the workings would destroy the current beautiful view from Moor Road, which ran alongside the boundary of phase 6, across the dale to Penhill.

- The Hydrological Assessment (HIA)failed to adequately address potential of flooding in the village caused by heavy water runoff during Phase 6 and failed to identify current water runoff into The Stanney which produced a waterfall in winter months.

- The HIA also failed to mention Keldheads Cave or the underground stream which emitted from it. This required investigation as it could impact the assertion in the HIA that surface runoff in the limestone workings would continue to be managed by allowing it to infiltrate the bedrock. Any increased water flow around Moor Road above the village had the potential to flood properties at the east end of the village.

- The EIS did not address the issue of the vibration felt in a number of properties when blasting was taking place and which it considered was likely to increase as blasting moved closer to the village.
- The failure of the EIS to properly consider the significant negative environmental impact on local residents.

- The lack of reference in the EIS to the significant negative social impact the application would have on the lives of the 120+ residents of the village and wider parish of Preston under Scar, despite this being a requirement of the National Planning Policy Framework.

- The conditions attached to the previous (2015) planning consent were not stringent enough for quarrying activity moving so much closer to the eastern side of the village and required strengthening and improved future conditions should be imposed if the application was granted, and these needed to be closely monitored and regularly reported upon.

Having considered the application in full, the comments made at and the responses received from Tarmac during the public meeting on 15 April, and the comments made by residents, during the Parish Council meeting, the Parish Council:

**RESOLVED:**

**(1) That North Yorkshire Council:**

**(a) be advised that the Parish Council strongly objects to this application on the following grounds,**

- **The Supporting documents submitted with the application contain significant assertions that are factually incorrect (to be documented in full in the Council's detailed response to the application)**
- **Tarmac have a documented history of ignoring (and denying) legitimate complaints from residents and have consistently failed to take effective remedial action.**
- **Tarmac have a documented history of failing to abide by their own operational plans, specifically their Dust Management Plan and Noise Management Plan, yet are relying entirely on the efficacy of these existing plans despite their proposed workings moving to within less than 300m of residential properties.**

- **The Environmental Statement fails to properly consider the significant negative environmental impact on local residents.**
- **There is no reference to the significant negative social impact this application will have on the lives of the 120+ residents of the village and**



**wider parish of Preston under Scar, despite this being a requirement of the National Planning Policy Framework.**

- **The conditions attached to the previous (2015) planning consent are not stringent enough for quarrying activity moving so much closer to the eastern side of the village and must be strengthened.**
- **Improved future conditions must be imposed if the application is granted, and these should be closely monitored and regularly reported upon.**

**(b) be urged to ensure that those individuals with responsibility for determining the application undertake a site visit so that they have a full appreciation of the proximity of the site to the village and the geology and topography of the area.**

**(c) be advised about the public meeting which took place on 7 April and of Tarmac's acknowledgement of residents' concerns and their undertaking to consider the issues which had been raised and, if necessary, to re-write and re-submit their Environmental Impact Statement,**

**(d) be requested to reconsult the Parish Council and residents on any amended EIS which is submitted and to allow the Council and residents a reasonable period of time in which to submit any further comments.**

**(2) That copies of the Parish Council's comments be sent to Rishi Sunak MP and to Unitary Councillor Sedgwick.**

**(3) That residents be urged to submit their own comments on the application to North Yorkshire Council and to copy those to Rishi Sunak MP and Unitary Councillor Sedgwick, and that the Clerk provide those residents on the Parish Council's email list with the relevant email addresses.**

**The meeting closed at 20.30hrs**

**CHAIRMAN**