

# -VERDERERS COURT MEETING 18<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER 2019-

## Minerals report from Deputy Gaveler

### 1. Freemining - General

- Ono. new requests for Application to register as a Freeminer since the last Court meeting but there are now a number of 'youngsters' engaged with Freemining both independently and under the 'Foresters Forest' Project that will be working towards their year-and-a-day so I am expecting to receive requests for application forms within the next 12 months.
- Total number of Freeminer registrations since 01/09/1838 = **4369**. Total number of Free Quarrymen registered = **320**

I am sad to report the loss of Freeminer No.4261 Mr David Price of Prosper Lane Coalway who sadly passed away last week.

- The recently licenced mine at Oakenhill has been awarded its 'Rule 10' area. Trees are to be tariffed and exclusion fencing will be scheduled for placement in advance of breaking-ground – **Recent wet weather has put a delay to work commencement and the ground has yet to be broken but statutory notification has been made to HMIM regarding commencement of operations and Statutory appointments.**

### 2. Coal Authority

- ALL operating coal mines in the Hundred are now fully CA compliant – all now have either Operator Licences or Combined Licences/Lease.
- JD Civils (The CA's retained contractors) – No further work undertaken since the last Court. Ecological constraints mean that the two scheduled sites for treatment in Sallow Vallets is likely to be delayed until 2020
- The CA Licencing team will be visiting the Dean on the 13<sup>th</sup> November.

### 3. Quarries (Subject to DFMA 1838)

- No new applications for Grant of Stone-tract by a Freequarryman OR Freeminer.
- **Great Berry Quarry** – Assignment has now been completed and Mr J McGrindle of Blakeney Hill has already taken occupancy.
- **Knobb Quarry** – A New lease has been awarded to My M Price and G Symonds for a further 15 years.
- **Monument Quarry** – Mr H Cole has now worked his first period and appears to be doing well with no reported issues.
- **Birch Hill Quarry, Fetter Hill** – Are due to renew their Lease towards the end of this year and this will be offered in accordance with Part II; S34 Dean Forest (Mines) Act 1871 and in line with the current planning permission expiring 2033.

#### 4. Quarries (Being dealt with Land Agent) including matters from previous Court

- **Stowfield** – As with the previous Court, nothing further to add regarding operations. There is a Rent and Royalty review pending and the quarry is expecting production figures for operational period 19/20-20/12 to be between 700k and 750k Tonnes. **These figures appear to remain unaltered.**
- **Stowe Hill** – FE received an unexpected Royalty payment from stock-piled material but a conversation is to be had with Stephen Barry at Wardell's (who acts for Crown Estates) regarding the renewal of a lease and option for that area of land still being considered under planning. **Once again this site is being held up with outstanding planning issues with no furtherance regarding the above conversation.**

#### 5. Other General Information

- The HSE made their annual visit 11<sup>th</sup>-13 September. In attendance was Cliff Seymour (HM Principal Inspector of Mines) – apologies were given by BOB Leeming (HM Chief Inspector of Mines) whose wife had recently suffered a fall.

In all, a good visit to all of the operating sites with no reports of material breach of Statute or need of intervention.

Mr Seymour did go on to mention that the HSE may be making a change to their charging policy and that regular inspections may soon become chargeable as standard

- The Radon Survey previously mentioned has now been commissioned and it is my intention to get two sets of readings taken to reflect summer and winters levels. Mine owners will be contacted separately regarding scheduling of monitoring days
- Cleaner Air Act.....no further news or information to report.



Deputy Gaveller

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