

## **Minutes from Alyn Works liaison committee meeting**

Held on Monday 12 November 2018

### **In attendance**

Councillor Karen Hodgkinson  
Dr Gerald Drakesmith  
Kevin Jones, Synthite  
Sue Wild, TS Resins  
Tracy North, Outwrite

### **Apologies**

Councillor Brian Lloyd  
Councillor Andrea Mearns  
Councilor Sarah Taylor  
Sian McGregor-Andrew, Natural Resources Wales  
Kevin Bardsley, TS Resins

### **There were no matters arising**

### **Company News**

#### **Synthite & TS Resins**

Kevin Jones explained that Kevin Bardsley was on site, overseeing the commissioning of a new piece of plant and had been unable to get away in time to attend the liaison meeting, so he would give a joint update.

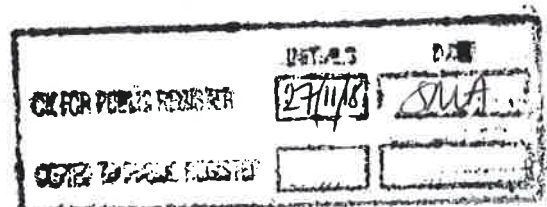
Looking back over 2018 to date, the year had got off to a fairly slow start, in terms of both output and profitability.

However, the second half had been very busy to date, with the order book for Q4 in particular looking very good.

This had been brought about primarily thanks to a significant new deal which would increase and create ten new jobs at Alyn Works, for operators, instrument and electrical technicians and a QC specialist.

The deal is with Hexion, the largest resins producer in the world. From December, Synthite will supply formaldehyde and TS Resins is to manufacture some resins for the company's UK division.

TS Resins will step up production from five-day to seven-day working as a result.



Overall, this new business will take volumes manufactured at Alyn Works back to where they were ten years ago.

Dr Drakesmith asked about the impact of Brexit.

Kevin explained that it was difficult to decide how much preparation to put into it when you don't know what it is you need to prepare for.

A particular issue is that Synthite sells REACH regulated products. At the moment, a bank of information about the products is held in Europe.

If the UK is not in Europe, one option would be for Synthite to set up its own bank of information, at a potential cost of several hundreds of thousands of pounds.

The alternative to get around this, is to create an Owner Representation (OR) set-up, whereby a third-party within Europe acts on behalf of Synthite to handle registration of its REACH regulated products in Europe. In preparation, Synthite has engaged a third-party company based in Dublin, to carry out this technical work.

TS Resins and the company Synthite owns in the Midlands are unaffected, as they do not make REACH regulated products.

With regards to potential delays for raw materials imported into the UK around the time of Brexit, Synthite was in a better position than some firms, as its raw materials come in by sea and are offloaded into storage at the port. They remain there pending delivery to site in small batches, as required.

In addition, Synthite will make sure in Q1 2019, that it has extra raw materials in the UK, as well as more finished product in stock in Europe, to tide it over should there be any disruption at the time of Brexit.

Kevin then gave an update on an item mentioned at the May meeting, concerning the loss of a major contract by the chemicals department, because its customer had lost its contract to supply the end user.

In the last two months, Synthite had won the work back, by contracting to supply the product to the company which has become the new provider to the end user.

This is also very good news, as it signals the reinstatement of the chemicals department's biggest customer.

### **Donations**

Tracy said that the preparations had started to award the Synthite science prizes at Mold Alun and Elfed High School. Both schools are in the process of identifying the winning pupils. The Mold Alun prize is for the best performing sixth former in science, while the Elfed's prize is for the GCSE year pupil who has shown the greatest improvement in science.

A list of latest donations by the Synthite 150 Club – the employees' charity fund, was handed out. The charity fund receives its income via voluntary payroll giving, and Kevin Jones said that there had been a surge in membership recently, which was reflected in an increase in the number of donations that had been made.

Kevin added that Synthite would be submitting a bid the following week for a share of the £30,000 charity pot put up annually by Tennants Consolidated, Synthite's parent company, for donations to suitable good causes around the sites of companies it owns.

Last year, Synthite had been allocated £2,000, which it donated to Nightingale House Hospice.

### **Any other business**

Kevin Jones observed there weren't any updates on the Mold Alex FC issue.

Karen Hodgkinson said that Mold Town Council had swapped around the members it sends to the Alyn Works committee.

Instead of appointing all four members from the West ward, it has retained two from West ward, and appointed two newcomers from the East ward, which has a boundary close to Alyn Works, as residents in that area also had an interest in what happens on site.

Kevin Jones asked Tracy North to organise site tours for the two new councillors, to take place shortly before the next liaison committee meeting, when the evenings will be lighter.

### **Date of next meeting:**

**Monday 13 May 2019, 5pm, TS Resins meeting room**