

2-7-19



1st July 2019

Dear Sian,

Please find enclosed the minutes from the meeting held on Monday 13th of May.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jill".

Jill Lloyd
Administrator

ORDER NO.	DATE
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ORDER TO PAUSE REQUESTED	

Minutes from Alyn Works liaison committee meeting

Held on Monday 13 May 2019

In attendance

Dr Gerald Drakesmith
Councillor Brian Lloyd
Councillor Andrea Mearns
Kevin Jones, Synthite
Kevin Bardsley, TS Resins
Sue Wild, TS Resins
Tracy North, Outwrite

Apologies

None were received

There were no matters arising

Company News

Synthite

Kevin Jones advised that the company had made a strong start to 2019. Q1 was on budget, and well ahead of Q1 last year, thanks to the start of a new supply contract reported to the last meeting.

However, April sales had been disappointingly lower. He attributed this to businesses having bought extra stock in Q1 ahead of the supposed Brexit date at the end of March, so needing less in April.

In Q1 raw materials prices started to reduce, mainly because of falling demand in China.

Brian Lloyd asked if President Trump's trade tariffs might affect Synthite. Kevin said they could impact and disrupt trade flows for our major raw material methanol. China currently imports significant quantities of methanol which is used to produce olefins.

Gerald Drakesmith asked if methanol could be stockpiled. Kevin said that it could. Synthite has a 25,000 tonne off site storage facility at Eastham, Ellesmere Port which receives our shipments from Trinidad. A day tanker brings in sufficient for the following 24 hours, so only small amounts needed to be stored at Alyn Works.

TS Resins

Kevin Bardsley said that the company had returned from 5-day to 7-day working, doubling the amount of product it manufactures, also on the back of the new contract reported to the last meeting.

New products were being made, and there was the potential to produce even more in future, under this new toll manufacturing arrangement.

Gerald Drakesmith asked if the company was having any difficulties recruiting. Kevin Bardsley said that, to date, the situation was not bad in relation to the roles TS Resins needed to fill: recruits had been found OK.

Kevin Jones added that in the recruitment of skilled tradesmen is more difficult.

Andrea Mearns asked how many apprentices were employed at Alyn Works. Kevin Jones said that Synthite had had two in recent years.

Other news

Kevin Jones said that no complaints had been received by either company.

There had been a significant disruption to the site in December 2018, when the water mains to Birkenhead, which crosses the field across the road had burst.

The companies carried out an emergency exercise using sandbags, to try to minimise flooding. It took the Environment Agency 12 hours to give permission for the company to take the water directly from the field into the River Alyn. Fortunately, operations were not disrupted during the flood.

Donations

Tracy North gave a report on donations by the employees' charity fund. The fund, run via voluntary payroll donations to a 150 club, is supported by employees of both Synthite and TS Resins. The total of donations give out since the start of 2018 was £3,750, all to local causes.

The annual Synthite science prizes had been awarded at Mold Alun and Elfed High School. 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.

For the first time, a site tour had been arranged for the winner and two runners-up of the Elfed prize, who had wanted to see how science could be applied in the workplace.

Kevin Jones added that Synthite had bid for and been awarded a sum of £2,000 from a £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.

Synthite had donated its share to Nightingale House Hospice, which serves patients and families from Mold, among other areas. The hospice had used the funds to refurbish four bedrooms.

Any other business

Tracy North is to organise a site tour for the two new councillors. Someone from Outwrite will phone each of them in the next few days to arrange it.

Andrea Mearns asked if the areas on the site perimeter between the low wall and the fence by the river; and behind the Llys John Davies flats could be litter-picked by staff. Volunteers had litter-picked either side but could not access the company's land. Kevin Jones said employees would walk the boundary fence and remove any litter.

Andrea Mearns asked if Synthite would be interested in engaging with a town plastic reduction forum which was holding an inaugural public meeting that evening.

Kevin Jones said that the site used relatively little plastic. The poly drums used to store and deliver some of its product were returned by customers after use to a reconditioning company, under a specialist nationwide recycling scheme.

However, the companies were willing to listen and learn.

Date of next meeting:

Monday 18 November 2019 (selected to avoid NovemberFest the previous weekend), at 5pm in the TS Resins meeting room.

