The following members were present:

**Chair**
Karen Bradley (Member of Parliament)
Jonathan Charles – Assistant to MP
Matthew Tolley

**Environment Agency**
David Lowe – Regional Inspector

**Councillors:**
Cllr John Tunna - Cheddleton Parish Council
Cllr Mike Bowen- SMDC District Council

**Pointons:**
Barney Williams - Technical & Projects Director
Martin Pointon - Joint Owner

**Animal Health**
Tomasz Zaleski - Animal Health Officer
Carmen Marco - Technical Team Leader

**Representing Residents:**
Patricia Duffy
David Hallen

**Apologies**
Stephanie Young - Staffs County Council
Dena Corden Le Petit - Resident
Cllr Joe Smith – Cheddleton Parish Council
Chris Aston
Kevin Benfield

1. **Welcome**

Karen Bradley our Member of Parliament welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. **Update from Environment Agency**

David Lowe provided a summary of complaints received since the last meeting. The total number of complaints received was 24. Eighteen were in the month of June; 8 of those were noise related and are attributed to the steam release valve on the oxidisers.

Barney Williams, Technical Director at John Pointon & Sons explained that the venting of the oxidisers was a safety issue and flow could not be restricted to resolve the noise issue immediately; however, John Pointon & Sons had acquired the services of a Noise Consultant to prepare a report on ways to decrease the noise; it is understood that a silencer can be fitted which will reduce the noise significantly.

David Lowe stated that the Staffordshire Resilience Forum, working together within the Civil Contingencies framework and in partnership with local councils, hospitals, emergency services, and the voluntary sector had met recently to review assessments of hazards and risks both in terms of their potential impact and likelihood. The impact of an
event occurring in the area is mapped out against the impact on the health, social, economic and social aspects of our community.

For resilience purposes joint exercises take place involving a range of partners to test readiness to deal with major incidents eg Foot and Mouth disease. In the event of a major incident it is the aim of key partners including the company to release a joint press statement within 1 hour.

In particular, Barney Williams was able to confirm that a 4 year renewable agreement was in place between John Pointon & Sons and the AHVLA in regard to contingency contracts for notifiable diseases in the event of a similar incident to the Foot and Mouth disease (3rd August 2007) or the Bernard Matthew Avian Influenza outbreak (30th January 2007).

David Lowe reported that following the ADAS Survey for Odour measurement and control the formulated actions pending from the survey and prioritised in October were currently being acted on and would be complete in the coming months.

Barney Williams was able to confirm that in regard to

- Biobed efficiencies – the sludge on the bottom of all the Bio beds was in the process of being removed and new media was being set in. New roofing was also being installed on the Bio Beds
- Replacement roof and wall sheets – following the Top Shed extension roof repairs were underway in accordance with the Environment Agency’s impact assessment
- Door closure speeds – a new Top Shed door is being installed that will shut and open at higher speeds. Doors have also been interlocked so that no two doors can be open at once creating a thorough fare for odour
- New Top Shed extension will also alleviate odour issues with a loading bay and the ability to segregate incoming product.

David Lowe stated that the Company continues to take its responsibilities seriously and displays a constructive working attitude with the regulator. Required actions are being dealt with promptly.

3. Update from John Pointon and Sons

Barney Williams updated the group on current projects at John Pointon and Sons:

- Office Block

  The Company have re-submitted a revised plan but the planning officer recommended the application be deferred until the plans can be reconfigured. A more favourable response is hoped for at the next meeting.

- Community Recreation Facility

  The Community Centre is complete as far as opening to the public is concerned. Delays were caused by the late installation of fitness equipment. Martin Pointon stated that its inclusion in the project meant that it made the community centre superior to anything else in the region; having attractions for both children and
adults. The high standard of the fitness course had also attracted the interest of the Stoke City Football team for a training location which would be an additional coup for the community. A Grand Opening is scheduled for 11th August 2013.

Karen Bradley suggested a local company PM Training (Portland Mills, Queen St, Leek ST13 6LW, 01538 398750) who arrange apprenticeships and study programmes for the disadvantaged and unemployed. They recently completed art work on some railings at the Foxlowe Arts Centre. It was suggested that John Pointon & Sons may wish to engage them for some art work on the Community Centre.

Gas Supply

The commercial gas supply to fuel the factory premises at Cheddleton is almost complete. Solid rock along the route of the pipework has meant significant delays to the original completion date. A further three weeks should see the restoration of normal traffic conditions.

4. Update from Staffordshire County Council - Animal Health Team

Stephanie Young relayed a report through David Lowe on recent correspondence between Staffordshire County Council and John Pointon and Sons with regard to spillages or complaints.

John Pointon & Sons were commended for offering their experience and training to clean up two spillages caused by other companies in the local area. There were no reports of any other spillages or complaints.

Members of the public can contact the council or report spillages by the following websites or telephone 0300 111 8000 :-

http://www.staffordshire.gov.uk/business/tradingstandards/animalhealth/byproducts/


5. Update from Animal Health

- Tomasz Zaleski confirmed that the AHVLA had taken part in a nationwide simulated notifiable disease training exercise recently within the civil contingencies framework and in conjunction with the Staffordshire Resilience Forum.

- He also confirmed that John Pointon & Sons had signed a contract with the AHVLA and in agreement with Staffordshire Trading Standards as the site of choice for any outbreaks due to it being a single site, easy to control the logistics, large capacity and the resources for handling such an event.

- Tomasz Zaleski stated that John Pointon & Sons had been tackling a case of salmonella in. Following a thorough investigation a number of corrective actions were put in place to improve bio security:-
Tomasz Zaleski confirmed the approval of the Pet Food handling facility. All procedures have been approved and an Approval Certificate has been issued.

6. Any other business

Mike Bowen raised a request from the Churnet Valley Living Landscape for permission to remove an obnoxious weed; the Himalayan Balsam from around the John Pointon & Sons area.

Many hands are required to help with “The Big Pull”, to tackle the spread of the invasive Himalayan Balsam plant which is crowding out native species, taking over whole areas of the Churnet Valley and exposing our stream and river banks to erosion. If you spot any new locations with Himalayan Balsam within the CVLLP area please contact:

http://www.churnet-valley.org.uk/

7. Date of next meeting

Next meeting to be held at John Pointon and Sons on Friday 15th November 2013 at 5pm.