Cornish Lithium Community Liaison Group
Visitor's Centre, Trelith Tuesday 16th July 2024

1. Welcome and apologies

2. Update
Over 1800 tonnes of material prepared for demonstration plant
Feasibility study continues with drilling for samples and their analysis, plus continued study of the mineralogy and hydrology of the area
Planning for full-size plant progressing well
New General Manager, Peter Morse (originally from Roche), starts in October
Tolgus site – explorative deep drilling (2,000m) to access brine in naturally permeable rocks
The St Denys Church bells which CL were storing have been returned and rehung
CL will have regular articles in the parish magazine

3. Actions from last minutes
(i) Terms of Reference have been updated
(ii) Chloe Bayliss to send out a choice of dates for the next meeting in September
(iii) Responses to questions
a) Use of local suppliers – from May 2023 to May 2024 £11,328.980 spent with 390 different suppliers of which 48 businesses have postcodes in the Clay Country area. Spend with these companies was £2,136,420
b) Local staff – at present 97 permanent full-time staff (74 male/23 female). 84 live in Cornwall with approximately 20% of these living in the China Clay area.
(iv) CL aware children are making decisions early (choice of GCSEs) and feel they need to leave Cornwall to get on. Education and outreach to schools to show CL has good quality jobs and the study paths to achieve these. CL offering apprenticeships in IT, finance, and business administration plus laboratory internships for university students and work experience for Year 11 students.

4. Date of next meeting to be agreed by email.

5. Tour of demonstration plant
Plant is divided into two halves and takes up the whole of the building. We climbed stairs to stand on a long platform that ran the width of the building. In the first half the rock is physically processed to get to get the lithium bearing mica out of the granite. In the second half of the plant the mica is chemically treated with sulphuric acid to form lithium sulphate plus other sulphates (like potassium sulphate) in solution. This solution is treated to extract the lithium as lithium hydroxide. Plans are in place to make the best use of waste and by-products once the full-size plant is running.

Sharron Kelsey