

Minutes of the 57th AWE Local Liaison Committee Meeting

Thursday 11 June 2009

Present:

Robin McGill	Managing Director, AWE	Chairman LLC
Dr Andrew Jupp	Director Infrastructure, AWE	
Heather Young	Director Assurance, AWE	
Alan Price	Head Corporate Communications, AWE	
Lindsey Appleton	Corporate Affairs Manager, AWE	Secretary LLC
Cllr Philip Bassil	Brimpton Parish Council	
Cllr Bill Cane	Mortimer West End Parish Council	
Cllr Geoff Findlay	West Berks Council	
Cllr Valerie Frost	Tadley Town Council	
Cllr Pat Garrett	Baughurst Parish Council	
Cllr John Heggadon	Shinfield Parish Council	
Cllr Dudley Ives	Stratfield Mortimer Parish Council	
Cllr Kay Lacey	Pangbourne Parish Council	
Cllr David Leeks	Tadley Town Council	
Cllr Ian Lindsay	Wasing Parish Council	
Cllr George McGarvie	Pamber Heath Parish Council	
Jeff Moss	Swallowfield Parish Council	
Cllr David Shirt	Aldermaston Parish Council	
Cllr Clive Vare	Aldermaston Parish Council	
Cllr Tim Whitaker	Mapledurham Parish Council	
Cllr Jenny Williams	Silchester Parish Council	
Cllr Richard Willis	Reading Borough Council	
Cllr David Wood	Theale Parish Council	

Regulators:

David Senior	Nuclear Installations Inspectorate
Graeme Thomas	Nuclear Installations Inspectorate
Stuart Parr	Environment Agency

Introduction

Mr McGill welcomed members to the 57th meeting.

Apologies

Apologies had been received from Cllr Michael Bound, Cllr Mike Broad, Cllr Malcolm Bryant, Cllr Jonathan Chishick, Cllr Pennee Chopping, Julie James, Cllr Royce Longton, Cllr Irene Neill, Cllr Murray Roberts, Cllr John Southall, Cllr Alan Sumner, Cllr Gerry Traynor.

Actions from the last meeting

Action 56/1: A workshop for a sub-group of LLC members re planning was held on 15 May.

Action 56/2: The provision of statistics on how many Company employees and contractors live in Hampshire- 2409 employees, 1106 contractors.

Action 56/3: An update on the Pangbourne Pipeline was given during the meeting.

Minutes of the 56th Meeting

The Minutes were accepted as a true record of the meeting.

Chairman's remarks – Mr Robin McGill, Managing Director, AWE Plc.

Jacobs joins AWE team

Jacobs has now officially become an AWE Plc parent company. Jacobs have been a strategic partner at AWE, supporting our major project work, for several years. The Company looks forward to increasingly drawing on their expertise in future.

New Nuclear Site Licence for Burghfield

The Nuclear Installations Inspectorate has granted a new nuclear site licence to AWE Burghfield. The new licensed site includes the area set aside for the Mensa Facility as well as the existing Assembly/Disassembly facility.

Cllr Heggadon asked whether there is a time limit on the new licence. Dr Jupp told members that the licence would remain in effect for as long as AWE Burghfield has a requirement to produce nuclear weapons. There is a periodic safety review every ten years.

HELEN laser fires last shot

AWE Aldermaston's HELEN laser, which has reached the end of its operational life, successfully fired its last shot on target on Friday 3 April. A total of 7,940 target shots have been fired since the laser was built in 1979. Work is in hand to decommission the laser safe before the process of dismantling it begins. Discussions are underway with the MOD as to whether arrangements can be agreed for components from HELEN to be used on systems in other organisations so HELEN will continue to benefit the high density science community.

Orion gets BREEAM excellence rating

The Orion replacement laser facility has been presented with the Building Research Establishment Environmental Assessment – or BREEAM - 'excellent' rating for environmental performance.

The 'excellent' rating recognises the careful work that has gone in to the facility's design. Features include a rain-water harvesting system, the use of water efficient fittings, condensing boilers and heat exchangers, along with action to minimise lorry movements during construction by recycling materials from decommissioned buildings wherever possible.

Community Ambassadors

For the second year running the Company has recognised the achievements of staff who carry out voluntary work in their local communities outside working hours. Five unsung heroes were recently presented with AWE Community Ambassador Awards after being nominated by their colleagues.

William Bucknell, Mike Leadbetter, Eirwen Ford, Mick Tarrant, and Ian Preston, were this year's award winners.

Apprentice Academy awarded accredited status

The AWE Apprentice Academy's mechanical training scheme has been awarded accredited status by the Institution of Mechanical Engineers. This allows a fast track accreditation of apprentices on completion of their training which meets the institution's EngTech requirements.

Exhibitions

AWE's Travel & Transportation team ran a four day event in May highlighting company action to encourage passenger transport, car sharing, walking, cycling, parking and traffic management. Earlier this month an exhibition on sustainability was held. This event - run to coincide with World Environment Day - covered environmental, social and economic considerations.

Health, Safety & Environmental Report – Heather Young, Director Assurance**Slides attached****Safety Performance**

Indicators relating to personal safety show that the Company's performance continues to improve. However, in the context of our Target Zero programme, the pace of improvement needs to be accelerated.

Safety Leadership Team

Safety related training modules continue to be rolled out to all leaders across the Company with the intention of enhancing their performance in the promotion of safety at AWE.

RoSPA Awards 2009

UNCLASSIFIED

For the second year in a row, the Company has won outright the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents (RoSPA), national Defence Sector award and the International Dilmun Environmental Award. There were also commendations for the Company under the RoSPA Training (Health and Safety) category and the Managing Occupational Road Risk (MORR) category.

There was also success for the Company's Construction Management department which was awarded the RoSPA gold award for Construction Occupational Health and Safety.

Environment Agency Inspection

The Environment Agency (EA) carried out an inspection of systems containing either ozone depleting substances or F gas regulations. The EA was impressed by the Company's approach to maintenance and leak detection systems, supported by competent and knowledgeable engineers.

Heather Young informed members that a monitoring result on site had shown a higher level of uranium than normal. This has been investigated and no real cause has yet been identified. Heather Young said that monitoring will continue. Levels remain safe and the Environment Agency is aware.

Environmental Monitoring

Gemma Wilson gave a presentation on the Environmental Monitoring Programme (EMP) at AWE. The programme is carried out to demonstrate compliance to the requirements set out by the Environment Agency. The Company EMP covers surface water, groundwater, air, sediment, rainwater, milk, soil and vegetation, sewage, berries and fish.

Cllr Shirt asked whether the company still monitor the water in the Aldermaston stream near the Manor House. This was a stand alone study by Southampton University and, as such, was not in AWE's Environmental Monitoring Programme.

Mr McGill stated it is imperative that the Company are compliant with any regulations and stressed that the "permission to operate" granted by the local Community is important.

Infrastructure Report - Dr Andrew Jupp, Director Infrastructure Slides attached

Site Exercise

Dr Jupp reported that a site exercise had been held at Aldermaston on 3 June. The site was placed under cover and all the AWE emergency services took part in the exercise, joined by the Royal Berkshire Fire and Rescue and the South Central Ambulance Trust.

The exercise was observed by the Nuclear Installations Inspectorate (NII) and the MOD Defence Nuclear Safety Regulator. Their assessment was that the exercise was a "satisfactory demonstration of AWE's ability to successfully respond to an accident".

Travel and Transport

A Travel and Transport week had been held on site at Aldermaston with several LLC members and a good number of staff attending.

Cllr Garrett asked whether the widening of the pavements between AWE Aldermaston and Tadley would accommodate cyclists. Dr Jupp confirmed that they would.

Cllr Williams raised the issue of whether AWE continues to monitor the traffic through the local villages where the speed limit is 30 mph. John Steele said the Company continues extensive monitoring around the sites.

Local Development Order (LDO)

Discussions between West Berkshire Council, AWE and the MOD continue in respect of a possible pilot scheme and Local Development Order (LDO) which would allow minor permitted developments to proceed more efficiently.

Pangbourne Pipeline

Dr Jupp said that we are undertaking a fundamental review of the commercial and environmental options for the pipeline and a further stakeholder review would be held in the next three to four months. Dr Jupp said that LLC members would be informed on progress early in the New Year.

Cllr Whitaker stated he was disappointed that a decision on the future of the pipeline had taken this length of time. Dr Jupp said it is a complex issue and AWE remains in discussion with the Environment Agency to find the appropriate environment and business option.

Cllr Wood felt the need for a decision is important to local residents. Mr McGill said he fully understood but it is imperative to find the best viable option.

Burghfield overview and progress

David Jones gave an overview and an update on the progress being made at AWE Burghfield. Major works continue at the northern end of the site and the main gate and Pingewood gate projects are on-going.

Ask the Regulators

There were no questions for the regulators at this meeting.

Any Other Business

Cllr Lacey reported that West Berkshire Council is encouraging all parishes to develop local emergency plans. Cllr Lacey asked whether AWE would be able to assist in the formulation of these plans. **Action 57/1: Dr Jupp.**

Cllr Shirt said he had received correspondence from a neighbour expressing concerns about the peace camp in Bluebell Wood. Dr Jupp said the Company would continue to liaise with MDP and forward any issues to MOD.

Cllr Shirt thanked AWE's emergency services for their prompt assistance after a road traffic accident outside one of the Aldermaston gates.

Cllr Williams asked whether AWE could remind employees of the speed limits around the sites, particularly through the local villages. **Action 57/2: Secretary**

A presentation was made to Cllr Cane, who has decided to retire from the LLC and therefore to step down as the members' liaison officer. Cllr Leeks, on behalf of all LLC members, thanked Cllr Cane for his significant contribution to the Committee over the years.

Date of next meeting

Friday 2nd October 2009

Thursday 10th December 2009

The meeting ended with a visit to the AWE Burghfield Fire Station and a buffet lunch.

Lindsey Appleton
Secretary to the AWE LLC
0118 982 5862