



**Minutes of the 85<sup>th</sup> AWE Local Liaison Committee Meeting  
Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2016  
Holiday Inn, Padworth**

**Present:**

Haydn Clulow	Director Site, Chair
Iain Coucher	Chief Executive, AWE
Cllr Lynn Austin	Ashford Hill with Headley Parish Council
Cllr Graham Bridgman	West Berkshire Council
Cllr John Chapman	Purley on Thames Parish Council
Cllr Jonathan Chishick	Tidmarsh with Sulham Parish Council
Cllr Roger Gardiner	Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council
Cllr Gerald Hale	Woolhampton Parish Council
Cllr Clive Littlewood	Holybrook Parish Council
Cllr Mollie Lock	Stratfield Mortimer Parish Council
Cllr Royce Longton	Burghfield Parish Council
Cllr George McGarvie	Pamber Parish Council
Cllr Ian Montgomery	Shinfield Parish Council
Cllr Susan Mullan	Tadley Town Council
Cllr Barrie Patman	Wokingham Borough Council
Cllr Jonathan Richards	Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council
Cllr John Robertson	Mortimer West End Parish Council
Cllr Jane Stanford-Beale	Reading Borough Council
Cllr Clive Vare	Aldermaston Parish Council
Cllr Tim Whitaker	Mapledurham Parish Council
Mark Hedges	Site Manager
Paul Rees	Head of Environment, Safety and Health
Carolyn Porter	AWE – LLC Secretary
Philippa Kent	AWE
Peter Caddock	AWE
Liz Pearce	AWE
Gemma Wilson	AWE
Julie Lane	AWE
Scott Davis-Hearne	AWE
Chief Inspector Charlie Frank	MDP

**Regulators:**

Bruce Archer                                      Office for Nuclear Regulation

**Apologies**

Apologies had been received from Councillors Mike Broad, Dominic Boeck, Penee Chopping, Patricia Garrett, Keith Gilbert, Barbara Jones, David Leeks, Marian Livingston, Jeff Moss, David Shirt, Richard Smith, Steve Spillane. Andrew Pembroke of the Environment Agency and Carolyn Richardson of West Berks Council also sent their apologies.

## **Actions from the last meeting**

**Action 2/84 John Steele** to discuss the James Lane diversion route with West Berkshire Council.

**Action ongoing**

The Minutes of the 84th Meeting were accepted as a true record of the meeting.

## **Chairman's update**

### **Our People**

The chairman welcomed Iain Coucher who joins AWE as the new Chief Executive of AWE Plc.

He also introduced Julie Lane, who joins AWE as its new Corporate Responsibility Manager. Julie will link up all the work done across AWE which helps it be a responsible business moving forward.

## **Operational update**

### **Protestor Activity**

Members were told that the meeting was being held off-site because of potential for increased protestor activity at our sites throughout the month of June. There has been continuous protestor activity at our Burghfield site but AWE has continued to maintain safe and secure business operations during this time and detailed contingency plans are in place to support this.

### **SSE Cabling Project**

The chairman reported that the cabling work being carried out to support the new power supply to the Aldermaston site is now complete. He thanked all local residents for their patience during the disruptions caused by the related roadworks during the duration of the project.

### **Aldermaston Sitex 16 - level 1 exercise**

As part of AWE's programme of emergency response preparedness a major site exercise took place at our Aldermaston site last month (May 11). This is one of the requirements of AWE's Nuclear Site Licence.

The exercise was observed by the Office for Nuclear Regulation and AWE's response was considered to be at an appropriate level.

### **Birthday Honours**

We were delighted that one of our distinguished scientists, Brian Lambourn, was recognised in the Queen's birthday honours, for his almost 60-year service to the UK's nuclear deterrent programme.

Brian graduated with a degree in physics from Birmingham University in 1953 and joined AWE in April 1957 to work on the effects of shock waves in materials.

### **Considerate Constructors award**

AWE is committed to being a responsible business by being a safe, secure and good neighbour. Since 2011 AWE has received 13 national awards as part of the Considerate

Constructors Scheme. It has received five Gold Awards– only the top two per cent of sites in the UK receive this level of recognition.

### **Community News**

Our community programme continues to flourish. Highlights include our apprentices taking part in an important restoration project at a local church; and teams of scientists and engineers working with students of all ages to inspire our future workforce. You will hear more about these later in our community update.

### **Iain Coucher**

New CEO, Iain Coucher, gave members an insight in to his career history including past roles as Chief Executive at a chemical storage company and at Network Rail, both of which were highly regulated environments. He reassured them of the value he places on being a responsible neighbour with a strong focus on safety and good environmental performance; telling members that he recognises the importance of good community relations and the need to put the local community first.

He said Site Director, Haydn Clulow would continue to chair the LLC and as CEO he gave his assurance that he would do his very best to attend every meeting.

### **Project Servator**

**Chief Inspector Charles Frank,  
MDP**

Chief Inspector Charles Frank talked to members about Project Servator, a national policing project which aims to achieve a high level of protective policing. The tactics employed deter all types of crime within a given area.

He spoke of policing at AWE, the collaborative working with partner agencies and delivery of high profile policing activity around the policing area. In adopting the tactics MDP's ability to protect AWE defence assets is enhanced and protection extends to encompass local communities.

### **Questions arising from Project Servator**

**Cllr Littlewood** – asked whether the MDP work with TVP and Hampshire police.  
**Chief Inspector Frank** confirmed there is a single point of contact with both and that there are protocols and memorandums of understanding.

**Cllr Austin** asked if a list of the 'policing areas' could be sent to clerks of local councils  
**Chief Inspector Frank** agreed to send an electronic version

<b>Action 1/85</b> Corporate Communications to provide list of e-mail addresses to Chief Inspector Frank
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**Action ongoing**

**Cllr McGarvie** asked whether Servator intervened in roadside incidents – traffic offences.

**Chief Inspector Frank** explained that the project focus is not on traffic offences but to stop suspicious activity. People are not stopped randomly but discretion can be used over low level traffic offences.

**Cllr Longton** asked whether there is interaction with neighbourhood schemes.

**Chief Inspector Frank** advised that they do not work directly with community groups but welcomed the promotion of the initiative out in the community

**Cllr Chishick** asked whether the scheme is adopted by other forces in the country.

**Chief Inspector Frank** explained that training officers in the special skills needed takes time and other forces are trying to secure the training for their officers. He said it is likely that other forces will come on board and any promotion and increased awareness for Servator would be welcome.

**Cllr Lock** asked whether engagement with Servator can be expanded.

**Chief Inspector Frank** told members that this is the first meeting that has been addressed. Feedback can be reviewed and an assessment made over the value of expanding - addressing other meetings/forums.

## **Environment, Safety and Health Update**

**Paul Rees, Head of Environment, Safety and Health**

### **Performance during the period**

Paul gave an overview of the perfect day performance covering the period January to March 2016. He reported on the three injuries in the period - one involved an MDP officer sustaining puncture wounds from a dog bite the other two incidents involved colleagues sustaining injuries requiring time off work following tripping over a path and a vacuum cleaner.

The one process or plant related safety related event related to an issue identified with inventory data during a programme to re-package stored materials.

One Community Concern was received in February 2016 from local resident regarding intermittent vibration from the ground which they believed originated from the AWE site. This was investigated found not to be related to the AWE sites.

Paul reported on the injury performance in March 2016, ending the contract year on a positive note. There were no OSHA recordable incidents recorded in March 2016 and no RIDDOR reportable incidents.

### **Question arising from Environment, Safety and Health Update**

**Cllr McGarvie** asked whether the RIDDOR statistics are affected by the way they are now reported.

**Paul Rees** said that it did and explained there were two contributing factors. Under changes in The RIDDOR legislation a lost time accident is now one which results in seven or more days away from work. Previously the rate was calculated on a lost time accident resulting in three days away.

The figure is also calculated as a rate, which means it takes into account the number of hours worked against the number of injuries. So the reduction in hours worked would also contribute to the overall rate.

### **Environmental Monitoring Programme**

**Gemma Wilson, Team Leader Environmental Monitoring**

Gemma gave an overview of the environmental monitoring programme of local honey and eggs. She explained that the aim of the programme was to determine whether a pathway exists which may result in the accumulation of radionuclides in locally produced honey and eggs. She explained how the research was carried out and that the conclusions of the project were that there was no accumulation in either honey or eggs and that there is no reason to add either to the AWE regulatory monitoring programme.

### **Questions arising from Environmental Monitoring Programme**

**Cllr McGarvie** asked what control was used in the programme.

**Gemma Wilson** advised that supermarket honey was the control and that it was not local honey. She added that the samples were all purchased from the 'roadside' and were confirmed as being local honey.

**Cllr Lock** asked whether the food given to chickens would make a difference to the eggs.

**Gemma Wilson** advised that it would but she said this was taken into consideration when collecting the samples.

### **Site Update**

**Mark Hedges, Site Manager**

### **Protester Activity**

Trident Ploughshares organised a "Month of Direct Action" at AWE Burghfield for the whole month of June. To minimise disruption AWE arranged to bus staff to Burghfield during the period

Protestors have used lock-on devices inside or on vehicles in an attempt to cause disruption. AWE, MoD, MDP and TVP have been working together to manage these events with the aim of minimising disruption to our business, our neighbours and local businesses.

### **Questions on Protester Activity**

**Cllr Longton** told members that residents of The Mearings have commented that there is less disruption than there has been in previous years.

**Cllr Littlewood** asked about the financial cost incurred by AWE as a result of the protester activity.

**Mark Hedges** said AWE factored in managing protest activity as part of the Company's running costs.

## **Burghfield Flood Alleviation Scheme**

Mark told members that following AWE's investigation into a long term site wide solution to provide flood protection for AWE Burghfield, work on the approved scheme has started. There is an off-site 'detention basin', the excavated material from which is to be reused for Thatcham's flood relief scheme.

AWE has been working with the Environment Agency to keep the impact to the local community to a minimum.

## **Questions arising from Site Burghfield Flood Alleviation Scheme**

**Cllr Longton** asked for how long James Lane will be closed

**Mark Hedges** advised that he would make enquires and report back **Cllr Longton** and **Cllr Lock** who also has an interest in knowing.

**Action 2/85** Mark Hedges to confirm how long James Lane will remain closed

Post meeting note: AWE can confirm that the contractor has applied for an extension to the closure until end of August.

**Action closed**

## **Questions to the Regulators**

**Bruce Archer, Office for Nuclear Regulation, (ONR)** took members through the issues outlined in the ONR quarterly report for January to March 2016. These included a progress update on the formal ONR investigation into an incident where an employee had received an electric shock in October 2015. He said that the ONR investigation had been concluded and the findings were similar to those from the AWE investigation. AWE had received a formal enforcement letter from ONR in relation to the outcome of that investigation, followed by a visit from ONR inspectors who met with AWE directors to ensure there was a clear understanding of the issues involved.

He said that ONR had not deemed it proportionate to issue an Improvement Notice as the operator (AWE) was taking appropriate action to prevent any possible reoccurrence. ONR inspectors will confirm that these actions are followed up appropriately.

He also addressed a question raised by **Cllr Shirt** at a previous meeting about the review of the Detailed Emergency Planning Zones (DEPZ) for the AWE sites. He confirmed figures for the Aldermaston site had already been submitted and that re-determination of the DEPZ for Aldermaston site was on schedule to be determined in September. He said assessment work at AWE on calculations in relation to the zone for the Burghfield site is still ongoing and ONR will not be in a position to make a re-determination for the Burghfield site in September.

**Cllr Patman** – in referring to housing applications in Grazely can any advice about the change to the DEPZ distance be given?

**Answer** - No, this cannot be determined until AWE's Burghfield calculations are completed and submitted to ONR. The information will be shared as soon as it is known, which may be beyond September.

**Cllr Bridgman** asked what the process is beyond the DEPZ determination.

**Paul Rees** advised that potential scenarios will be assessed and the ONR will talk to local councils about determining the zone – ie defined circle or natural boundaries.

**Scott Davies - Hearn** added that the zone will be the minimum distance from site where people may be advised to take shelter in the unlikely event of a radiation emergency that includes an off-site release of radioactive material. He said AWE would work closely with its regulators and local councils during the boundary determination process.

**Cllr Robertson** asked if the Submarine Dismantling Project (SDP) outcome would impact on the DEPZ if either of the AWE sites was selected for storage.

**Haydn Clulow** advised that it would not have an impact.

**Cllr Mullan** asked when the decision over SDP was due to be announced. She was advised that it was likely to be announced in the next few weeks and a letter would go out once the announcement had been made

## Community Update

**Philippa Kent**  
**Community Engagement Manager**

**Philippa Kent** reported that the Community publications Connect and REPPIR had recently been distributed. She told members that following a review to the data base the Connect community magazine circulation had increased from 22,000 local homes and businesses to 56,000 recipients.

The REPPIR leaflet, is circulated routinely every three years to residents living within the Detailed Emergency Planning Zones around the sites. It is a guidance booklet on how local people should respond in the highly unlikely event of an emergency at AWE (There has been no such emergency at the AWE sites in the nearly 65 years of operations).

Members were updated on some of AWE's recent community engagement activities. These included the restoration of the church bells at St John's church in Mortimer by AWE apprentices; an interactive stand at the Tadley Treacle Fair in June which generated positive feedback and support for the science section in the refurbishment of Woolhampton Primary School library.

Members were also given an over view of AWE's Schools programme for the summer term which has included a series of activities reaching thousands of students, at both primary and secondary level across North Hampshire and West Berkshire.

Highlights have included engineering master classes, attendance at the regional interactive STEM event TeenTech, delivery of a Girls in High Tech Business challenge, a programme of Primary Science visits and support for specialist equipment for special needs students.

AWE's charitable giving has included supporting the charity Living Paintings. The charity

produces touch books for visually impaired readers and AWE is working with them on their Science Alive project – producing science books for young learners. Support was also given to the local Tadley charity the Memory Café as part of dementia week.

### **Questions arising from Community Update**

**Cllr McGarvie** asked if following the re-determination of the DEPZ, should it increase or decrease will the REPPIR be re-issued.

**Haydn Clulow** advised that it will be re-issued, following the re-determination of the emergency planning zones.

### **Any other business**

**Cllr Austin** expressed her thanks to AWE for the recent loan of a Speed Indication Device to Ashford Hill and Headley Parish Council.

**Cllr Lock** asked what sort of support was offered to the Willink School in Burghfield.

**Philippa Kent** advised that there is an ongoing programme of mentoring at the school and that its affiliation to the AWE schools' scheme means it is routinely invited to enter competitions as well as being eligible to borrow loan equipment.

AWE also recently paid for equipment for a specialist unit at the school.

The Willink will also be invited to take part in Engineering Assemblies which will be delivered by AWE's apprentices in the autumn term.

**Cllr Richards** referred to the complaints received about the use of Furze Road Tadley as a means to avoid congestion on the A340 around West Gate. He asked whether we could encourage people not to do this and whether it could be monitored by the police.

**Haydn** advised that we would investigate this.

<b>Action 3/85</b> AWE to look at encouraging AWE staff to be mindful of the use of Furze road during peak times
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**Action ongoing**

### **2016 Meeting Dates**

Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> September

Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> December

**Carolyn Porter**  
**LLC Secretary**