



**Minutes of the 80th AWE Local Liaison Committee Meeting  
Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> March 2015 at Holiday Inn Padworth**

**Present:**

Mr Haydn Clulow	Director Site, Chairman LLC
Cllr Mike Broad	Tadley Town Council
Cllr John Chapman	Purley on Thames Parish Council
Cllr Jonathan Chishick	Tidmarsh with Sulham
Cllr Keith Gilbert	Padworth Parish Council
Cllr Gerald Hale	Woolhampton Parish Council
Cllr Carol Jackson-Doerge	West Berkshire Council
Cllr David Leeks	Tadley Town Council
Cllr Clive Littlewood	Holybrook Parish Council
Cllr Marian Livingston	Reading Borough Council
Cllr Mollie Lock	Stratfield Mortimer Parish Council
Cllr Royce Longton	West Berkshire Council
Cllr George McGarvie	Pamber Parish Council
Cllr Ian Montgomery	Shinfield Parish Council
Mr Jeff Moss	Swallowfield Parish Council
Cllr Irene Neill	West Berkshire Council
Cllr Barrie Patman	Wokingham Borough Council
Carolyn Richardson	West Berkshire Council
Cllr John Robertson	Mortimer West End Parish Council
Cllr David Shirt	Aldermaston Parish Council
Cllr Richard Smith	Sulhamstead Parish Council
Cllr Jane Stanford-Beale	Reading Borough Council
Cllr Clive Vare	Aldermaston Parish Council
Cllr David Wood	Theale Parish Council
Fiona Rogers	Head of Corporate Communications
Paul Rees	Head of Environment, Safety and Health
Carolyn Porter	AWE – LLC Secretary
Philippa Kent	AWE
Scott Davis-Hearne	AWE
John Steele	AWE
Peter Caddock	AWE
Piran Borlase-Hendry	AWE
Lucy Pedrick	AWE

**Regulators:**

Andrew Pembroke	Environment Agency
Gary Booth	ONR
Andrew Morrison	ONR
Matt Worsley	ONR

**Invited**

John Davis	MOD
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## Apologies

Apologies had been received from: Cllr Roger Gardiner, Cllr Pat Garrett, Cllr Heather Leighton-Jones, Cllr Susan Mullan, Cllr Steve Spillane, Cllr Philip Bassil, Cllr Marilyn Tucker and Cllr Penee Chopping

## Actions from the last meeting

**Action 5/72 A specific request from Councillor Gardiner to invite a representative from the local emergency authorities to explain in more detail how they work with AWE.**

This was planned for inclusion in this meeting but due to unforeseen circumstances last minute apologies were received. To be re-arranged for a future meeting.

**Action ongoing**

**Action 1/79** In the minutes from LLC78 reference was made to a question raised by **Cllr Moss** at the meeting in relation to the ALDEX presentation given by Carolyn Richardson. Councillor Moss advised that it was not he that commented.

Secretary reported that Councillor Royce Longton recalled making the comment.

**Action closed**

**Action 2/79** AWE to look at the possibility of including the population of the groups to which the data refers in future ESH data reporting

Figures to be included in future reports.

**Action closed**

**Action 3/79** An update on the approach and activities being considered for AWE's future community engagement

Update given at this meeting

**Action closed**

The Minutes of the 79th Meeting were accepted as a true record of the meeting.

## Membership Changes

Cllr Richard Smith has been elected to represent Sulhamstead Parish Council. Cllr Smith replaces Cllr Chris Souden.

## Chairman's update

### AWE ML appoints new Chair

The Chairman advised members that AWE's parent companies have appointed John Holly as Chairman of the AWEML Board. John has been Lockheed Martin UK's Chief Operating Officer since 2013. Before his move to the UK, he was Vice President of Missile Defence Systems within the LM Space Systems Company and previously Vice President of Lockheed

Martin's Huntsville Operations responsible for missile defence customer engagement.

### **AWE graduate scheme recognised by leading professional institutes**

AWE's Graduate Programme has recently achieved formal accreditation from two leading professional bodies: the Institute of Physics (IoP) and the Institute of Mathematics and its Applications (IMA).

This endorsement recognises employees completing the AWE graduate scheme are attaining a high level of professional competency and are trained to the standards required for continuing professional development - an essential requirement for those hoping to achieve chartered status.

### **AWE launches key centre of excellence at University College London**

AWE has recently launched the Centre for Computational Materials Science (CCMS) at University College London (UCL) to support its technical programme, and help nurture and potentially recruit the next generation of computational chemists at AWE. This is a collaborative enterprise between AWE and UCL, specifically centred on the area of modelling and materials science, and is funded through AWE's outreach programme and supported by Warhead Underpinning Technologies.

The Centre is expected to provide a pipeline of suitably trained engineering doctorates from which AWE can recruit in the future.

### **National Apprenticeship Week**

AWE is marking this national initiative by posting a special page on its website and working with the local press to help raise the profile of the importance of apprenticeships for the future success of both AWE and the UK.

AWE's award winning apprenticeship scheme, has been in operation for over 60 years. Around 11 per cent of AWE's work force are former apprentices; a reflection of the role and importance the scheme has as a critical skills pipeline to support the core programme. There are currently 148 apprentices covering a range of disciplines in the Scheme. Recruitment and selection for the 2015 intake is ongoing, and AWE is on track to select 45 suitable candidates from the 145 applications received this year.

### **Local Liaison Committee Familiarisation Programme**

The Chairman advised members that the first LLC Familiarisation Programme for new members took place last month. It was an informal afternoon's programme providing an overview of AWE, the purpose and focus of the committee and the roles and responsibilities of members. Participants shared thoughts, ideas and raised questions with their AWE hosts. The afternoon finished with a site tour of Aldermaston which gave new members a better sense of the size and layout of the site and number of facilities.

## **Community engagement - Digital Story Book**

The Chairman flagged one of the initiatives that has already been launched following the results of the Local Community survey. To celebrate the rich history of the site and the breadth of work conducted, AWE is developing a web-based, interactive Community Story Book through which it can tell the story of its work, community and educational activities over the decades.

The storybook will capture AWE's scientific and engineering achievements and innovations both past and present, visits by royalty as well as participation in local fund-raising events and school projects. This is very much a joint collaboration between AWE and its local community and it is hoped the LLC will play a key part.

## **Protest Activity**

The Chairman reported on the peaceful protest held at AWE's Burghfield site on the 2 March when around 150 protestors took part. The protestors have announced their intention to protest throughout the month of March so we may see some more spontaneous activity in the coming weeks.

## **Changes to Government Classification**

Members were notified that from April 1 the way AWE classifies its documents will be brought in line with other parts of Government. This means that documents currently marked UNCLASSIFIED will be labelled OFFICIAL. This is not a reflection of any change in the security level of these documents.

## **Questions on the Chair's Opening Remarks**

**Cllr Vare** asked about the source of the article in the Sunday Herald that led to media coverage on the 9th March

**Gary Booth** of the ONR answered that it was triggered by ONR's response to an FOI.

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

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

### **Performance during the period**

Paul Rees gave an overview of the ESH performance covering the period October to December 2014. He reported that AWE's personal injury rate continues to improve and the worker who fell from a ladder in October last year has now returned to work.

The single corporate complaint in the period related to discolouration of the water supply to a local resident. Investigations revealed that the water was not discoloured at the point the water pipe leaves Aldermaston site.

### **LRQA (Lloyds Register Quality Assurance)**

The independent inspection conducted by Lloyd Register Quality Assurance (LRQA) for implementation of ISO14001 Environmental Management System is positive for the period.

### **Environmental Baseline Roles**

Improvement activities have been implemented to ensure suitable and sufficient waste officers and specialists are in place. A new Head of Environment is also now in post.

### **Periodic Safety Review (PRS)**

These reviews of safety are required for specific facilities and are part of AWE's site license. They must be repeated at least every 10 years, AWE is progressing the schedule and assessments with the ONR.

### **Environmental Safety and Health Quarterly Report**

The report is to be refined for all issues in 2015 and a printable pdf version available on the AWE website. With effect from 2016 the report will only be available on the website, in line with other nuclear sites.

### **Questions on ESH**

**Cllr Chishick** asked whether the Perfect Day figures for November reflect a record. **Paul Rees** advised that he would check historic data.

<b>Action 1/80</b> AWE to check the Perfect Day trend data to establish whether November 2014 figures reflect a record	<b>Action ongoing</b>
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### **Ecology and Heritage at AWE**

**Piran Borlase-Hendry, Senior Environmental Specialist (Ecology and Heritage)**

Piran gave a presentation on Ecology and Heritage at AWE covering AWE's diverse programme of activity focused on preservation and conservation across its sites.

He told members that rare and unusual species of wildlife to be found at AWE include great crested newts, pipistrelle bats, badgers, reptiles, black redstarts and the woodlark. The biodiversity action plan is an MOD requirement, one purpose of which is to identify areas suitable for conservation on AWE sites.

Heritage at AWE includes Grim's Bank which is a scheduled monument, and both World War II and Cold War structures.

Recent projects have included a grass snake survey and in-situ relocation, otter and water vole surveys, GIS mapping of badger sets, and facilities pre-development surveys.

### **Questions on Ecology and Heritage at AWE**

**Cllr McGarvie** asked whether AWE sites are home to any listed buildings?

**Piran Borlase-Hendry and John Steele** advised that no buildings have so far qualified for listing. English Heritage had found a set of buildings at AWE B worthy of the protection possibly through scheduling.

**Cllr McGarvie** was interested to learn whether AWE is home to bees.

**Piran Borlase-Hendry** answered that whilst large swarms have been seen there are no plans to introduce beehives!

**Cllr Longton** asked about the purpose and history of Grim's Bank

**Piran Borlase-Hendry** advised that there may be a link to the Roman town of Calleva, although archaeological investigation suggests it is more likely to pre-date this and date back to the late Iron Age. Its function was likely to be part of a large scale territorial landscape demarcation.

### **Site Update**

#### **Fire Detection Systems Improvement Programme**

**Mark Hedges, Head of Site**

Mark Hedges updated members on the Fire Detection Systems Improvement Programme. He reported that contract mobilisation is going well and all systems are fully handed over. The December 2014 milestone to test all key facilities and base line configuration has been met and improvement progress is 60% complete against the Oct 2015 milestone.

#### **Planning and Estate Development Briefing**

**John Steele, Planning & Development Manager**

John Steele updated members on the progress with submitted planning applications and talked about forthcoming applications. He also advised members on the potential of a Local Development Order (LDO)

- **Intake Sub-station (AWE A) Update**

Planning approval was granted in February 2015 with six planning conditions.

- **AWE Burghfield Flood Alleviation Update**

Planning application was submitted on 12 January and validated on 16 January. To date there have been seven no objections, including Burghfield Parish Council and one

supporter, Wokefield Parish Council. The Environment Agency response to the scheme is awaited and the committee date if required will be in April 2015.

- **AWE A Circinus Elevations**

Planning approval was granted on the 6 February 2008. Revisions have been made to the blast walls and lightning protection towers. A Section 73 application is to be submitted towards the end of June 2015.

### **Local Development Order**

John Steele explained the purpose, key considerations and next steps for LDOs.

An LDO is a statutory local planning provision which is promoted, consulted upon and owned by the Local Planning Authority. Its purpose is to establish more detailed planning guidance and control over minor works, such as car parks and surfacing, window re-cladding and replacement, minor demolitions. It will relate only to specific minor work. For anything outside of committed development, planning applications will be needed.

LDOs will give extended planning control for West Berkshire Council (WBC) and will streamline the approval process subject to “conditions”.

The LLC indicated there would be merit in pursuing the LDO as it was recognized that it could provide a more streamlined and effective planning process for WBC.

### **Local Community Survey Actions**

**Philippa Kent, Corporate Communications**

Members were given a recap on the key findings of the Local Community Survey and an update on the approach and activities being considered for AWE’s future community engagement. AWE aims to improve communications and engagement with the community, demonstrate transparency and increase public reassurance.

AWE has made improvements to its website, the circulation of its bi-annual news letter, Connect, their relationship with schools and its support for the Local Liaison Committee. A specific community campaign is being rolled out during 2015 which has three main elements; a digital story book as mentioned earlier by the Chairman, a local showcase day and additional educational support through the website.

### **Comments and Questions on Local Community Survey Actions Update**

**Cllr Lock** mentioned the importance of engaging with the right person in local schools and that this is not always the head teacher. She offered to provide Philippa Kent with relevant data for AWE to further update its schools data base.

Other members suggested that AWE could engage with the local community by having a presence at some of their events. This was also noted.

## **Ask the Regulators**

**Mr Moss** asked the ONR whether when assessing AWE's demonstration of their emergency arrangements, they look at different aspects each time.

**Gary Booth, ONR** advised that inspections follow a rolling five year matrix covering all aspects, with a particular focus each year.

**Cllr Vare**, in relation to the licence instrument (LI) issued 2007, questioned why the ONR would consider enforcement action over something that cannot be achieved.

**Gary Booth** answered that it is the legal status of the deadline given seven years ago. He added that there has been a lengthy fact gathering process which is due to end soon and that it is important to distinguish between the level of risk versus non-compliance. Further explanation of this point is found in the ONR Press release published in February 2014 which stated: "ONR Inspectors inspect AWE's arrangements for the production and storage of all forms of radioactive waste at their facilities, and are content that the current conditions under which the intermediate level waste is stored are acceptable in the short term and do not give rise to significant risk to the public or the workforce."

**Gary Booth** clarified the ONR's original response to the Freedom of Information request lodged with them in connection with Pegasus. He told members that words had lacked clarity and confirmed that ONR's regulatory effort is effectively on hold, not the project. The project is currently under review by MoD and AWE.

**Cllr Shirt** referred to an ONR report in which they recorded that there was reluctance from AWE to speak to ONR staff and that AWE's Safety Reports need to be of better quality

**Cllr McGarvie** also asked what aspects of the Safety Report need to be improved.

**Gary Booth** advised that there is not a lack of communication between AWE and the ONR but a lack of clarity. He added that he would come back to members about improvements to the safety report.

**Cllr Shirt** mentioned that he had read in the paper about a planning approval application for development of the land left vacant by the demolition of Burnham Copse Primary School, and located within the DEPZ.

**Gary Booth** confirmed that the ONR advised against the proposed development of the land and no decision has yet been made. He added that the decision is not for ONR to make.

## **AOB**

During the LLC Familiarisation Programme on the 11 February a number of questions were raised. Responses are provided below for all members' benefit:

**Cllr Lock** asked a) why AWE (B) had not taken advantage of the electrical power source available from the solar farm and b) when would the Heras fencing around James Lane be removed?

**John Steele** advised members that the solar farm located to the south east of AWE B was developed by ANESCO without any commercial agreement in place with AWE / MOD. No acceptable commercial agreement has been forthcoming so Anesco will connect the solar farm to the National Grid. In addition, in this instance it would not be possible for AWE to make use of the solar power given their specific power requirements.

He reported that the Heras fencing will be retained until at least after the March protests. The location of the Heras fencing has been discussed with WBC Highways and WBC Planning.

**Cllr David Leeks** asked if we could give an update on the land left empty when the Falcon pub was demolished?

**John Steele** advised that the residual land left vacant by the Falcon pub has been retained to allow provision of an improved vehicular access through the existing Falcon Gate. The provision of the improved access has been delayed due to affordability.

In answer to requests made by **Cllr Steve Spillane** and **Cllr Mollie Lock** for visits to Orion and the Historical Collection for their parishioners, **Fiona Rogers** advised that programme and operational priorities do not allow for this. However we will continue to include visits, when appropriate, into the quarterly meeting agenda for LLC members.

**Cllr Wood** asked about a Pangbourne Pipeline Advisory Group meeting.

**Fiona Rogers** reported that conversations have been taking place between Defence Infrastructure Organisation (DIO), MOD, Environment Agency (EA) and AWE. The aim is now to hold a general information and update meeting for all affected landowners and stakeholders including Chairs of parishes through which the pipeline runs.

**Cllr McGarvie** referred to the new LLC Terms of Reference and the forthcoming elections for most parishes, pointing out that the LLC Member Liaison Officer will need to be re-elected. He asked members if they had any objections to the AWE LLC Secretary providing him with their e-mail addresses so that he could more efficiently disseminate information. No member present raised an objection.

**Action 2/80 Secretary to provide Cllr McGarvie with members' e-mail addresses.**

Action ongoing

**Cllr Shirt** asked if steps are taken when designing buildings on AWE to minimise effects of seismic disturbance and could he have a page of detail that he can cascade.

**The Chairman** confirmed that buildings have to conform to Seismic requirements. **Paul Rees** took away the action to provide an information page.

**Action 3/80 Information page to generated outlining the steps AWE take to minimise the effects of seismic disturbance.**

**Action ongoing**

**Cllr Neill** announced that this would be her last meeting and was thanked for the major contribution she has made during her tenure. Members joined the Chairman in expressing their thanks to Cllr Neill's commitment and support to the LLC over her tenure,

### **Submarine Dismantling Project (SDP) Consultation update**

At the June LLC meeting John Davis, SDP Programme Manager presented on the background to the project, details of the assessment strategy for all shortlisted sites, and how the public consultation process would work at the work.

Following on from this first presentation John gave an overview of the consultation process and updated members on the initial consultation feedback from the AWE events, the site assessment and next steps. Feedback themes included the programme scope, transport, safety and security all of which will be considered in the feedback process.

He told members the consultations had received some positive feedback and the community felt assured that AWE has the capability to store.

**Cllr Leeks** thanked the SDP team for the presentation given to Tadley Town Council and added there has been very positive feedback.

### **2015 Meeting Dates**

Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> June

Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> September

Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> December

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