



**Minutes of the 86th AWE Local Liaison Committee Meeting
Monday 26 September 2016
AWE, Aldermaston**

Present:

Haydn Clulow	Director Site, Chair
Iain Coucher	Managing Director, AWE
Susie Tucker	Director Communications and Strategy AWE
Cllr Lynn Austin	Ashford Hill with Headley Parish Council
Cllr Philip Bassil	Brimpton Parish Council
Cllr Dominic Boeck	West Berkshire Council
Cllr Graham Bridgman	West Berkshire Council
Cllr John Chapman	Purley on Thames Parish Council
Cllr Penee Chopping	Ufton Nervet Parish Council
Cllr Marian Livingston	Reading Borough Council
Cllr Mollie Lock	Stratfield Mortimer Parish Council
Cllr Royce Longton	Burghfield Parish Council
Cllr John Miller	Padworth Parish Council
Cllr Susan Mullan	Tadley Town Council
Cllr Barrie Patman	Wokingham Borough Council
Cllr John Robertson	Mortimer West End Parish Council
Carolyn Richardson	West Berkshire Council
Cllr David Shirt	Aldermaston Parish Council
Cllr Steve Spillane	Silchester Parish Council
Cllr Clive Vare	Aldermaston Parish Council
Cllr Tim Whitaker	Mapledurham Parish Council
Mark Hedges	AWE
Paul Rees	AWE
Philippa Kent	AWE
Carolyn Porter	AWE – LLC Secretary
Michele Maidment	AWE
John Steele	AWE
Johann Walker	AWE
Bob Barclay	AWE
Kevin Cole	AWE
Victoria Hatwell	AWE
Patrick Fern	AWE
Peter Caddock	AWE
Liz Pearce	AWE

MOD

John Davis	Programme Manager, Submarine Dismantling Project
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Regulators:

Bruce Archer	ONR
Valerie Alderson	ONR
Patrick Ferns	AWE
Julie Lane	AWE
Michele Maidment	AWE

Apologies

Apologies had been received from Councillors Mike Broad, Jonathan Chishick, Roger Gardiner, Gerald Hale, David Leeks, Clive Littlewood, Ian Morrin, Jonathan Richards and Jane Stanford-Beale. Andrew Pembroke of the Environment Agency also sent his apologies.

Actions from the last meeting

Action 1/85 Corporate Communications to provide list of e-mail addresses to Chief Inspector Frank.

Awaiting confirmation of new point of contact.

Action ongoing

The Minutes of the 85th Meeting were accepted as a true record of the meeting

LLC membership changes

We say thank you and farewell to Keith Gilbert from Padworth and Barbara Jones from Theale who have stepped down from the LLC.

We welcome John Miller as the new representative for Padworth.

Chairman's update

Our People

Engagement Survey

Having a happy and engaged workforce is very high on AWE's list of priorities. This month, AWE used an external company to help carry out a survey to canvass its people's views to help make sure that AWE is being managed in the best possible way. The Chairman told members that he was pleased with the 70% response rate from staff which compared favourably with the average of a 49 % average response rate for companies of similar size. AWE will share the top line results with the LLC later in the year.

Team Challenge

Last week 125 staff across the company took part in AWE's Team Challenge event. The competitors had to complete a mixture of mental and physical challenges as part of the annual team building day. One of their challenges is to raise money for our Charities of the year - the teams raised nearly £10,000 – which was split between AWE's two charities Whizz Kidz and Living Paintings.

New Graduate and Apprentice intake September 2016

AWE welcomed 45 new apprentices this month, including six new female recruits (13%). The new intake brings the total number of apprentices under training to 170. With a total of 18 females on the scheme (10.8%)

AWE were also joined by a new intake of 22 Science, Engineering and Technology graduates last week taking its intake of graduates since April this year to 50, including eight

females (16%). Whilst the figures are improving AWE recognises it still needs to encourage more females to join the AWE team.

Next year AWE will be aiming to increase its graduate intake and to double the number of apprentices it recruits which obviously is a positive in terms of creating more jobs locally for young people.

Sharing information and opportunities at AWE with local residents

Improving how AWE share information and opportunities at AWE with local residents is an area that is very important to the Company and something it is keen to improve.

AWE knows that sharing performance statistics on its safety and environmental performance is important but it also wants to make sure that information about opportunities of mutual benefit are also reaching its neighbours.

The independent community opinion survey carried out last year gave AWE a good insight into what areas of AWE's work local people are interested in.

AWE is now looking at how it can look at specific topics of interest in more detail and include other community partners in 'by invitation community forums'. An example might be inviting careers advisors, teachers and educational partners to an education or careers forum.

Members were asked to share their views on potential topics by completing a short questionnaire.

A meeting feedback sheet for the AWE LLC was introduced at the meeting so that members can rate the usefulness of each session.

Operational update

AWE Assurance Director is Expert Witness

AWE's Director Assurance Gary Butler appeared as an expert witness at a televised House of Commons Select Committee hearing earlier this month. Gary, along with colleagues from Defence Science and Technology Laboratory (Dstl) and Public Health England, appeared in front of a panel of MPs to input into an inquiry on science advice in planning for and responding to Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear (CBRN) incidents.

The session was broadcast live from the House of Commons and gave AWE a privileged opportunity to demonstrate publicly how its excellence in science and engineering makes significant contribution to national nuclear security and nuclear threat reduction.

Aldex – emergency response exercise

As part of AWE's programme of emergency response preparedness a multi-agency emergency response exercise will take place in November. AWE will be working closely with colleagues in all the emergency services and West Berkshire Council, operating at a tactical and strategic command level to test out its emergency arrangements, including its media response arrangements. These high level exercises take place every three years and are one of the requirements of AWE's Nuclear Site Licence.

Awards

AWE won a silver award in the Chartered Institute of Public Relations PRide Awards 2016. It was recognised in the category 'Best Event' for: The AWE Showcase event held at Burghfield last year – celebrating more than 60 years in the local community.

Community News

AWE's community programme continues to flourish. It is working closely with its local Charity of the year – Living Paintings - to support curriculum linked science resources for visually impaired young people.

Teams of AWE scientists and engineers are continuing to work with students of all ages to inspire its future workforce. Highlights include a new partnership supporting engineering in the University Technical College in Reading.

Questions on Chairman's Update

Cllr Boeck asked if AWE had information on the geographic statistics of the apprentice intake.

Philippa Kent advised that these could be supplied.

Action 1/86 Philippa Kent to notify members of the geographic statistics of the apprentice intake.

Action Ongoing

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 to July 2016. He reported that in the current financial year up to end July AWE achieved 52 Perfect Days generating a total donation of £5,200 for the Company's chosen charities.

There were three plant or process related abnormal events and five injury events.

Highlights

A total of 22 OSHA Recordable Events have occurred during the 12 months to the end of July 2016. When normalised by 200,000 hours worked this equated to a rate of 0.319. This is the lowest rate achieved since current recording methods were implemented in 2007 (previous lowest was 0.343 achieved in the period to the end of June 2016). Year on year this represents a ~39% improvement in performance compared with that achieved over the same period to July 2015 (0.526; 40 Events).

Question arising from Environment, Safety and Health Update

Cllr Chapman asked whether the Perfect Day figures are relative to the full 31 days.

Paul Rees confirmed that they are.

Cllr Vare asked for a ballpark figure on AWE's workforce

Haydn Clulow advised that this is approx. 5000 staff and an additional 3,000 contractors

Site Update

Mark Hedges, Site Manager

Mark Hedges told members that there had been no community concerns received in the reporting period.

He also told members that research suggests that there are no planned large scale protestor activity planned by 'Action AWE' / Trident Ploughshares for the remainder of the year.

Planning and Estate Development Briefing

John Steele, Planning & Development Manager

John Steele reported on the Aldermaston Manor Development Proposal. He told members that a planning application is currently being validated and that there would be a 16 week consultation period.

As site owner MOD would review the application for any potential impact once it was submitted.

Questions on Planning and Estate Development Briefing

Cllr Shirt asked whether AWE could support the Aldermaston Parish meeting that will be held following validation of the application.

John Steele confirmed that AWE would attend the meeting as observers.

Waste Management and Re-cycling

Johann Walker, Head of Asset Services

Johann gave members an overview of recent improvements and successes in Waste Management and re-cycling at AWE. She reported that the implementation of robust waste processes have been successful and key is the increase in recycling and waste diverted from Landfill. Company targets for landfill diversion and recycling are consistently being exceeded. Recent achievements range from the dispatch of very low level waste and recycled fire extinguishers to on-site destruction of security classified media and disposal of redundant radioactive sources.

Questions arising from Waste Management and Re-cycling

Cllr Mullan asked how much of the RA waste AWE has to store is stored on site.

Haydn Clulow advised that High Activity Level Waste (HAW) is stored on site. It is stored appropriately and monitored; a permanent survey regime is in place.

Submarine Dismantling Project

John Davis, Programme Manager MOD

John Davis gave members an update on the conclusions of the SDP consultation process and the selection outcome. He told members that the SDP Public Consultation on the site for the interim storage of Intermediate Level radioactive Waste, ran from November 2014 to February 2016 around each of the 5 shortlisted sites.

CNS, Capenhurst has been chosen as the recommended site, following a multi-stranded assessment, with a preferred option of an existing facility on the site, and an on-site fall-back of a new build store. The Aldermaston site, operated by AWE, was chosen as the contingency site in the unlikely event that the two Capenhurst options prove unfeasible for any reason.

Full details of the assessment process can be found in: Response to Consultation/SEA Post-Adoption Statement published on the GOV.UK website

Questions arising from Submarine Dismantling Project

Cllr Shirt asked for how long in the future Aldermaston would remain the contingency site and are there designated areas on the Aldermaston site to meet the contingency.

John Davis advised that it would remain so until the new facility was commissioned which was likely to be several years.

Cllr Shirt asked if any work would be done at AWE to prepare in case the site was required.

Haydn Clulow confirmed that an area had been earmarked at AWE Aldermaston and its use would not be re-allocated until such time as it was no longer the contingency site.

No preparatory work would be done at AWE beyond earmarking a possible site as a back-up.

Office for Nuclear Regulation

Val Alderson, Nuclear Safety Inspector – Radiation Protection
Bruce Archer, Nominated Site Inspector

Val Alderson reported on the ONR revision of the Aldermaston off-site Emergency Planning Area. Members were told of the reasons behind the redefinition, the steps and principles taken to derive an off-site emergency plan and the purpose of the Radiation Emergency Preparedness and Public Information Regulations (REPPiR) defined area.

Members were encouraged to visit the ONR website for full details www.onr.org.uk/depz.htm

Questions

Cllr Shirt asked if the term DEPZ no longer exists.

The ONR confirmed that ONR has been using the term Off Site Emergency Planning Area as this term is taken directly from REPPiR, however this did not restrict the local authority or the licensee from using the term DEPZ.

Cllr Shirt asked whether there would be any changes in the way planning applications are dealt with as a result of the change

Carolyn Richardson, Emergency Planning Officer for West Berkshire Council advised that the current process and policy would not change, that each application would be looked at as an individual case

Cllr Bridgman asked if the timescale for re-defining the Burghfield emergency planning zone is known.

Bruce Archer of the ONR advised that AWE has been undertaking additional technical assessment work. ONR and the Defence Nuclear Safety Regulator (DNSR) will need to review and agree with this work before a case for a revised determination can be re-submitted by AWE.

Community Update

Philippa Kent, Community Engagement Manager

Philippa gave members an update on AWE's Community Programme including the ongoing work with local charities and schools.

She outlined work with charity Living Paintings to produce curriculum linked books for visually impaired students. She said AWE scientists and engineers were also working with the charity to produce audio blogs to help inspire young learners to pursue careers in STEM.

AWE also continues to support the maintenance of mobility scooters for the local Shop Mobility scheme.

She reported on a busy summer term for the Company's AWESome Education programme which included events, technical classes, school science demonstrations and mentoring - which between them directly impacted over 1,000 students in 43 schools and colleges across North Hampshire and West Berkshire.

This term AWE has launched a competition for year 9 students to find the Young Scientist of the Year, and LLC members were asked to help promote the competition in their local schools.

Other activities will include a competition for local primary schools to celebrate the achievements of women in science and engineering as part of the international Ada Lovelace Day celebrations and a Schools ' Engineering Challenge for Year 9 students in North Hampshire and West Berkshire. AWE is also supporting an engineering project at the University Technical College (UTC) in Reading and its graduates will be promoting career opportunities at AWE in 27 universities.

Questions arising from Community Update

Cllr Mullan asked for contact details for those interested in entering the Young Scientist of the Year.

Philippa Kent agreed to drop an e-mail to members outlining the details.

Graduate Project - Primary Science Challenge

Victoria Hatwell

Victoria Hatwell talked to members about her journey through education to becoming a graduate Mechanical Engineer at AWE. She told members how she was inspired by taking part in activities which were run as part of AWE's Schools Liaison Scheme and how she was now enjoying helping run those activities to inspire other students.

She told members about her involvement in delivering AWE's Primary Science Challenge – which had included visiting schools to give science demonstrations and running competitions for students to design their own experiments.

Any other Business

Carolyn Richardson of West Berkshire Council talked to members about the Aldex 16 exercise taking place on the 7th November at Aldermaston. She explained that such exercises are required under REPPiR.

This will be a level 3 exercise involving 'national playing'. Some 200 players will take part and it will be a test of the new Emergency Plan as well as a training opportunity.

2016 Meeting Dates

Thursday 8th December

Carolyn Porter
LLC Secretary