



**Minutes of the 79<sup>th</sup> AWE Local Liaison Committee Meeting  
Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> December 2014, AWE Aldermaston**

**Present:**

Mr. Haydn Clulow	Director Site, Acting Chairman LLC
Cllr Jonathan Chishick	Tidmarsh with Sulham
Cllr Clive Littlewood	Holybrook Parish Council
Cllr Mollie Lock	Stratfield Mortimer Parish Council
Cllr Ian Montgomery	Shinfield Parish Council
Mr Jeff Moss	Swallowfield Parish Council
Cllr Barrie Patman	Wokingham Borough Council
Cllr John Chapman	Purley on Thames Parish Council
Cllr Penee Chopping	Ufton Nervet Parish Council
Cllr Jane Stanford-Beale	Reading Borough Council
Cllr Marian Livingston	Reading Borough Council
Cllr Royce Longton	West Berkshire Council
Cllr Irene Neill	West Berkshire Council
Carolyn Richardson	West Berkshire Council
Cllr John Robertson	Mortimer West End Parish Council
Cllr David Shirt	Aldermaston Parish Council
Cllr Clive Vare	Aldermaston Parish Council
Cllr Keith Gilbert	Padworth Parish Council
Cllr Gerald Hale	Woolhampton Parish Council
Cllr Patricia Garrett	Baughurst Parish Council
Cllr Roger Gardiner	Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council
Cllr Marilyn Tucker	Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council
Cllr David Leeks	Tadley Town Council
Cllr Susan Mullan	Tadley Town Council
Cllr George McGarvie	Pamber Parish Council
Cllr Steve Spillane	Silchester Parish Council
Cllr David Wood	Theale Parish Council
Fiona Rogers	Head of Corporate Communications
Paul Rees	Head of Environment, Safety and Health
Carolyn Porter	Corporate Comms – LLC Secretary
Philippa Kent	AWE
Liz Pearce	AWE
Bob Barclay	AWE
Lucy Pedrick	AWE
Peter Caddock	AWE
Kevin Cole	AWE

**Regulators:**

Andrew Pembroke	Environment Agency
Gary Booth	ONR

**Invited**

Craig Strudley

SPA Future Thinking

**Apologies**

Apologies had been received from: Cllr Heather Leighton-Jones, Cllr Mike Broad, Cllr Carol Jackson-Doerge.

**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**

The Minutes of the 78th Meeting were accepted as a true record of the meeting with one exception.

In relation to the ALDEX presentation given by Carolyn Richardson of West Berkshire Council and her feedback on the emergency response exercise, the minutes stated: **Cllr Moss** commented on the length of time it took to close the highway following notification of the off-site leak. Councillor Moss advised that it was not he that commented on this.

**Action 1/79 Secretary to review initial minute notes to establish which member raised the comment**

**Action ongoing**

**Membership Changes**

Cllr Steve Spillane has been elected to represent Silchester Parish Council, he replaces Jenny Williams.

**Chairman's update**

**New Head of Environment**

The Chairman announced the appointment of Peter Caddock as AWE's new Head of Environment who will take up his role in the New Year. Peter has been a sustainability professional for over 20 years across the defence, transport, oil and gas sectors.

**Pangbourne Pipeline**

The Chairman advised that a preliminary meeting is being scheduled for February on the Pangbourne Pipeline Decommissioning Project for affected landowners, local councils and environmental groups, along with representatives from the Environment Agency and the customer. He explained that the purpose of the preliminary session is to bring these

stakeholders up to date on the status of the project and share future considerations for decommissioning options and timeline.

### **LI511 update**

The Chairman told members that AWE continues to work with the ONR in support of their decision to formally investigate LI511.

He added AWE remains committed to the safe storage of its waste and is satisfied that its current arrangements pose no significant safety risk to the public, its workforce or the environment. AWE continue to support the MoD, NDA and Site Licence Companies in exploring appropriate solutions to the UK's long term treatment and storage requirements for its waste.

### **AWE recognised at WISE awards**

The Chairman informed members that AWE's Samantha McRae and Jenny McGrother were both recognised for their contributions at the 2014 Women in Science and Engineering (WISE) awards last month. These awards are part of a national campaign to increase the number of women employed in UK STEM roles by 30% by 2020.

Samantha was shortlisted from 24 nominations for the WISE Apprentice category for the work she has done with local school age children, whilst Jenny, representing Prospect Union, was shortlisted for the WISE Leadership award, as well as being Highly Commended for her work in encouraging more women into STEM within male dominated environments.

### **New AWE website**

Following the launch of the new AWE website at the beginning of November, the Chairman hoped LLC members had visited the site and experienced the improvements in content and navigation. The site includes a wealth of public information including reports and technical papers all of which are designed to be accessible through mobile devices.

In line with the improvements in AWE community engagement, and in response to the results of the recent survey, the community section of the website now includes a dedicated LLC page including contact details and biographies for LLC Committee members.

### **Community engagement**

The Chairman advised that following a request tabled by **Cllr Stanford-Beale** at September's LLC meeting, Fiona Rogers and he attended **Reading Borough Council's Strategic Environment & Transport Committee (SEAT)** meeting on the 25th November. The main topic raised by the SEAT Committee concerned the outcomes from the AWE LLC Review and specifically membership representation. The Committee asked AWE to give further consideration to include the Reading West MP and to look again at including representation from environmental groups and NGO's. Another topic of interest raised during the meeting, concerned the Submarine Dismantling Project (SDP). AWE provided an update on the status of the consultation process and clarified AWE's role in this, directing Committee members to the SDP consultation website for more detailed information.

## **Charity Award**

Finally, the Chairman expressed AWE's delight at receiving a Longstanding Supporter award from **Naomi House and Jackspace** at their 2014 Corporate Charity Awards event held in November. For over 15 years, AWE has been donating to this exceptional local charity which cares for life-limited and life-threatened children, young people and their families. The charity has held a special place in the hearts of many AWE staff for a long time and no doubt will continue to in the future.

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

**Jeff Moss** asked if we could provide full details of the next SDP consultations.

**Fiona Rogers** confirmed the final two workshops for the Aldermaston and Burghfield sites are scheduled on:

- 22<sup>nd</sup> January at the Burghfield Community Sports Association
- 23<sup>rd</sup> January at the Tadley Community Centre.

She encouraged members to visit the SDP consultation website which includes a wealth of supporting information.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/submarine-dismantling-project-interim-storage-of-intermediate-level-radioactive-waste>

**David Leeks** added that the consultations are well worth attending.

**Cllr Chishick** asked whether AWE has a view on the site selection

**The Chairman** reminded members that the decision on which site will store the ILW will be made by the MoD following the conclusion of the consultation process. AWE's role is to provide technical and site specific information as required in support of this process.

**Cllr McGarvie** asked if Haydn Clulow has been formally appointed to chair the LLC.

**The Chairman** advised members that AWE's newly appointed Managing Director, Kevin Bilger, fully supports the importance and value of the AWE LLC but recognises that the role of the Site Director has closer day to day working knowledge of the impact of the operations on the community. Haydn Clulow said he had not been formally appointed as Chairman on a permanent basis but envisaged that he would be continuing in the role and would give the committee confirmation of this at its next meeting.

**Cllr Mullan** asked for information about a breach of the perimeter gates allowing access to Rec Soc and a subsequent theft of assets.

**Kevin Cole** confirmed the Rec Soc building is an offsite facility that sits inside the MoD perimeter fence. Whilst this fence was breached, AWE on-site area remained secure. The perpetrators stole some gardening equipment.

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

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

### **Performance during the period**

Paul Rees gave an overview the ESH performance over the period August to October 2014. He reported that the Perfect Day Performance 'in-month occurrences' is the best in AWE's history and the trend indicates hand injuries are the most common. Although the organisation's overall recordable injury rates are low there was one significant injury sustained during October when a worker fell from a ladder. A detailed investigation into the incident is ongoing, and the worker concerned is at home recovering.

There were no community complaints recorded during the period.

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

An Environment Agency (EA) themed inspection of the AWE Radioactive Waste Management Arrangement was carried out in July and focused on AWE's strategic planning for integrated waste management. The inspection concluded that AWE has developed and implemented an effective waste capability underpinned by competent individuals, waste records and assessments techniques.

A third surveillance visit was concluded in mid-November and this showed no concerns with regard to the effective implementation of the ISO14001 Environmental Management System

### **Environmental Baseline Roles**

Following the LRQA inspection a RASCAR (Radioactive Substances Compliance Assessment Report) was received from the Environment Agency (EA) that identified staff (resourcing) vulnerability. Steps have already been taken to ensure suitable and sufficient waste officers and specialists are in place and AWE will continue to strengthen its environmental baseline roles.

### **ESH Culture**

Improvement to the organisation's recruitment and induction processes, reform of AWE's mandatory training programme, senior management walkthroughs and a series of cultural vision workshops continue to be measured across site.

### **Charles Haddon-Cave QC**

Charles Haddon-Cave visited AWE and gave a presentation on the findings on the Nimrod Review (2006) which he chaired, and the lessons learnt, distilling the key facts and learning to the business leadership team.

## Questions on the ESH report

In response to a query on the community complaint data from **Cllr Shirt**, Bob Barclay confirmed there had been a report of discoloration of water at a local farm but following detailed investigation, there were no problems found with the water quality.

**Cllr Jane Stanford-Beale** referred to the very low level of recordable injuries and queried the total number of staff this data took account of.

**Paul Rees** confirmed the data includes all AWE staff, contractors and MDP (Ministry of Defence Police) officers: in total around 10,000 individuals.

**Cllr Chishick** asked if the 'population' of the groups to which the safety and quality data refers can be included in the report

**The Chairman** said that this is something we can investigate

**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  
**Action ongoing**

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## Site Update

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

### Fire Detection Systems Improvement Programme

Paul Rees reported that the immediate actions have been completed and progress against the improvement programme developed and agreed with ONR is going well. Milestones have been met and no significant issues have been found during our tests to date.

### AWE Burghfield Flood Alleviation

**John Steele, Planning & Development Manager**

John Steele presented an update on AWE's progress towards developing a long term site-wide solution to provide flood protection for AWE B. A preferred design for site-wide protection is now available and will be subject to a planning application during January 2015. The scheme will include onsite widening and enhancement of the existing brook, and off-site upstream storage. It will provide long term flood protection to AWE B consistent with protected employment sites and has been prepared with full consultation with West Berkshire Council, Environment Agency (flood model) and local parishes.

Members were advised that additional benefits of the scheme will be the visual improvement created by the landscaping (screening) accompanying the project. There will be no adverse environmental impacts

In answer to questions raised by **Cllrs Chapman, Tucker and Longton**, John Steele advised members that the low flow channel bed will be well below normal ground level and that the flooding is a surface water problem. The scheme will stop overland flow but will not

prevent up or downstream flooding. There will be more water in the brook but the overall scheme will ensure the flow rates will not be increased.

### **Intake Sub-station (AWEA)**

John Steele advised members the recent planning application submitted by AWE to West Berkshire Council is for permission to build a new electrical intake substation at the AWE Aldermaston site to improve continuity of supply for core activities.

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### **Ask the Regulators**

**Cllr Tucker** asked about the ONR objecting to local planning applications for mobile homes on the grounds that they are not as safe and secure as permanent structures in an emergency situation.

**Gary Booth** of the ONR explained that he is not conversant with planning applications of this nature but would take the question back to the ONR and come back with an answer.

**Carolyn Richardson** (EPO West Berkshire Council) updated members by telling them that the issue in relation to suitability of mobile homes within the DEPZ (Detailed Emergency Planning Zone) was raised by Public Health England who has advised they are not suitable for sheltering in following an incident at AWE sites. Those already in situ are already detailed in the AWE Off-site emergency plan in order to ensure they are considered at an early stage in any response to an incident at either AWE site.

There is a process for any application within the DEPZ which is being used by all local authorities affected by the AWE DEPZ. The key issues relate to the impact on the off-site emergency plan and protecting the health of residents in DEPZ.

### **Local Community Survey**

Craig Strudley of SPA Future Thinking presented an overview on the results of the local community survey conducted in April/May this year. He explained the research objectives and methodology behind the survey and reported on the main findings, summary and opportunities. The aim of the survey was to gauge local perceptions about AWE, the effectiveness of its community programme and more generally its communication and engagement approach with the wider community.

Following his presentation Craig invited questions and comments from members which are summarised below.

- It is generally felt by members that AWE are proactive in trying to keep the local community informed but the information generated, particularly printed material, is not always received or ends up being discarded unread.

- It was suggested that information AWE communicates does not always reach the correct point of contact at local schools. Robust maintenance of AWE's schools database is required.
- Similarly, some members found it difficult at times to effectively disseminate the information received to the community they represent. Whilst reports/newsletters are displayed on council notice boards there are no guarantees that they are read; there will always be sections of the local community that are not interested.
- There is a shared view that use of social media would be a more effective and timely vehicle by which to keep the community informed. Fiona Rogers confirmed this is something that is being looked into as part of the wider improvements to community engagement.
- The geography of the survey was questioned by some members. It was confirmed that this benchmark piece covered the local community within AWE's DEPZ areas

**Fiona Rogers** told members that the survey has provided some valuable insights into the information needs and requirements of the local community and that these are being actively considered for AWE's future community engagement approach. An update will be provided at the next LLC meeting in March.

Fiona and the Chairman extended thanks to SPA Future Thinking and LLC members for their input.

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

## **AOB**

It was agreed that John Steele will have a regular input to the quarterly LLC meetings so that he can keep members updated on planning and development topics.

**Cllr Shirt** made reference to the alarm from the Padworth Petroleum Depot, which many residents believed was an AWE alarm.

**Carolyn Richardson** advised that measures are being looked into so that similar misunderstandings in the future can be avoided.

**Cllr Lock** asked whether the low vibration noise heard locally at night has anything to with AWE and mentioned that West Berkshire Environmental Health are looking into it.

**Bob Barclay** confirmed that AWE has not received a complaint about this and it does not emanate from one of our sites.



**2015 Meeting Dates**

Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> March (NB: *This meeting will be held off-site: venue to be confirmed*)

Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> June

Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> September

Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> December

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

