



**Minutes of the 88th AWE Local Liaison Committee Meeting
Wednesday 8th March 2017
AWE, Aldermaston**

Present:

Susie Tucker	Director Strategy and Communications AWE (Chair)
Cllr Graham Bridgman	West Berkshire Council
Cllr Dominic Boeck	West Berkshire Council
Cllr Avril Burdett	Tadley Town Council
Cllr John Chapman	Purley on Thames Parish Council
Cllr Jonathan Chishick	Tidmarsh with Sulham Council
Cllr Penee Chopping	Ufton Nervet Parish Council
Cllr Roger Gardiner	Basingstoke and Deane
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 Gerald Hale	Woolhampton Parish Council
Cllr John Miller	Padworth Parish Council
Cllr Ian Montgomery	Shinfield Parish Council
Jeff Moss	Swallowfield Parish Council
Cllr Susan Mullan	Tadley Town Council
Cllr Barrie Patman	Wokingham Borough Council
Cllr Jonathan Richards	Basingstoke Council
Cllr David Shirt	Aldermaston Parish Council
Cllr Jane Stanford-Beale	Reading Council
Cllr Clive Vare	Aldermaston Parish Council
Cllr Tim Whitaker	Mapledurham Parish Council
Carolyn Porter	AWE – LLC Secretary
Michele Maidment	AWE
Mark Hedges	AWE
Paul Rees	AWE
John Steele	AWE
Scott Davies-Hearne	AWE
Kevin Cole	AWE
Graham Hughes	AWE
Erik Lewry	AWE
Catherine Lynagh	AWE

Regulators:

Bruce Archer	Office for Nuclear Regulation
Joanna Moakes	Environment Agency
Malcolm Peters	Environment Agency

Apologies

Apologies had been received from Councillors Mike Broad, David Leeks, Darren Lye, Marion Livingston, John Robertson, Richard Smith and Steve Spillane. Carolyn Richardson of West Berkshire Council also sent her apologies.

Actions from the last meeting

Action 1/87 AWE to present on the HAW programme at a future meeting. Action ongoing
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Action 2/87 Feedback form to be amended. Feedback form now asks for member's name. Action closed
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Action 3/87 AWE to provide an update on the site left vacant by the demolition of the Falcon Pub. Update delivered at meeting. Action Closed
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Action 4/87 EA and ONR reports to be sent to members in advance of the meeting. Action closed
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The Minutes of the 87th Meeting were accepted as a true record of the meeting.

LLC membership changes

Darren Lye has been selected to represent Theale Parish Council replacing Barbara Jones, who stepped down at the end of last year. Clive Vare who has represented Aldermaston Parish Council since 1997 is now standing down as he is moving out of the area. Sincere thanks to Clive for his dedication and commitment to the AWE Local Liaison Committee.

Chairman's update

National recognition

Susie informed members that since the last meeting AWE has been named the South East region large employer of the year for apprenticeships and included in the Centrica Top 100 apprenticeship providers nationally.

Apprenticeships are very much in the news at the moment as this week is National Apprenticeship Week. Tomorrow (March 9) 100 apprentices from across the UK will be attending a lunch at the House of Commons to help raise the national profile of apprenticeship training. Two of AWE's apprentices have been asked to represent Berkshire at the event.

During the next six weeks AWE will be aiming to prove that our apprentices are the best in the UK as they take part in the Brathay Challenge. This is a national challenge which aims to test the ingenuity of competitors whilst also raising the profile of apprenticeships as a career route. The AWE team may be seen out in the local area delivering presentations to local businesses over the next few weeks. They are also running a school's engineering event in Tadley early next month as well as taking part in some job swaps with our directors!

Pensions update

AWE is committed to establishing future pension arrangements that are affordable for its staff and attractive to future employees. Through the consultation and negotiation period AWE has made improvements to the new scheme and additional

enhanced benefits (e.g. generous sickness scheme) have been included. This is a very competitive scheme which has been benchmarked against external comparators and puts the revised AWE scheme in the top 25 percentile. The new scheme took effect from 1 February 2017 when all members of the AWE Pension Scheme were enrolled into the AWE Group Personal Pension scheme (AWEGPP).

AWE welcomed the announcement last month (16 February 2017) that employee members of the Prospect union have voted to accept the company's final offer on pensions and end their industrial action. However the Unite union members are still in dispute and industrial action (work to rule) continues. Most recent strikes were 24-hr strikes on the 14 and 21 February.

The safety and security of AWE staff and the general public continues to remain our top priority during periods of industrial action. We have undertaken detailed contingency planning and have resilient measures in place.

Community News

AWE's Community programme continues to flourish with colleagues supporting local community projects and continuing to deliver programmes to inspire young learners in the important STEM subjects.

Susie told members that she was delighted to have had the opportunity to see some of the work AWE gets involved in first hand when she visited AWE's charity partner, Living Paintings, last month. They showed her the amazing work they do creating 'touch to see' books for blind and partially sighted children and adults.

While she was there Susie handed over a cheque for £10,000 which colleagues had raised and which will support the latest series of science books and enable more users to take advantage of these resources.

AWE teams have also been supporting the charity with time as well as money, recording audio science and engineering blogs and experiments to provide inclusive resources for the users of this unique library.

Environment, Safety and Health Update

Paul Rees, Head Environment, Safety and Health

Performance during the period

Paul gave an overview of the perfect day performance covering the period November 2016 – January 2017. He reported that in 2016 AWE achieved 194 Perfect Days generating a total donation of £19,400 for the Company's chosen charities.

Members were advised personal injuries during the period were predominately slips and falls.

There was one plant or process related abnormal event. This was in January 2017 and related to an out of date inspection of tooling. A full Investigation was launched and the ONR were informed.

No regulatory action was taken during the period though Paul advised that moving into March, there is action in relation to two License Conditions. He told members that the ONR Would update on these later in the meeting.

Highlights

Paul informed members that AWE start the year with a 40% reduction in its OSHA total recordable injury rate and its lowest ever First Aid Rate.

Question arising from Environment, Safety and Health Update

Cllr Gardiner asked whether we are able to control injury rates amongst the contractor community.

Paul Rees advised that AWE do exercise control and pay robust attention to injury rates amongst contractors. Following top level conversations with one large contractor a considerable improvement was seen in their injury rate.

Health and Hygiene

Erik Lewry, Health and Hygiene Team Leader

Erik gave members an overview of Health and Hygiene at AWE, talking about occupational health and the role of the occupational hygienist. He spoke of occupational ill health, some of the associated hazards(particularly solder fumes) and the ways AWE manages the risks.

Questions arising.

From the questions asked AWE took away an action to provide statistics on how the Nuclear Industry compares with Agricultural and Manufacturing industries in terms of levels of occupational ill health.

Action 1/88 Paul Rees to provide the statistics at the next meeting.

Action ongoing

Site Update

Mark Hedges, Manager Site

Mark Hedges reported that there is currently no information suggesting any major planned demonstrations. Vigilance is maintained.

No community concerns have been received during the period

There were no questions arising from the Site update.

Planning and Estate Development Briefing

John Steele, Planning & Development Manager

Falcon Public House Footprint

John updated members about the land left vacant by the demolition of the Falcon Public House. He confirmed that the land was acquired by the MOD to develop an enhanced access through AWE's Falcon gate. There are no plans for immediate development but the land will remain in MOD ownership.

Aldermaston Manor

Members were advised that the developer has been asked by West Berkshire to deliver a better marketing exercise. They have been given 6 months in which to do this.

The MOD have submitted a detailed letter of objection to the proposed development plans. Cllr Shirt confirmed that the Woodlands Trust are also raising strong objections.

Waste Bin adjacent to the bus shelter just to the west of the Falcon Garage

John advised that though AWE have agreed to help maintain the bus shelter provided by West Berks they cannot make a commitment to keep the litter/waste bin located adjacent to the shelter emptied. He confirmed that the bin is not owned by AWE and that ownership has not yet been claimed. It has however now been emptied.

Cllr Boeck of West Berks Council has agreed to investigate ownership.

Post meeting note: further to the LLC meeting AWE has undertaken further investigations and WBC does indeed own the bin. WBC is investigating the option of replacing the small lamp post bin with a free standing one of larger capacity. WBC will also review the frequency of emptying.

Conqueror's Oak on AWE Estate

The Ordnance Survey map for the area indicates the existence of a Conqueror's Oak Tree within the AWE Estate. A visit to site for the relevant Aldermaston Parish Council member and chairman is being arranged to establish whether this is accurate.

Aldermaston Wharf

An ongoing speeding issue on the stretch of road between the Butt Inn and the Wharf has been under discussion between West Berks Council and Thames Valley Police. This location is now on the top of their priority list for speeding issues. Additionally, Project Servator will deploy MDP police vehicles in the location and AWE have their own portal notice.

Questions arising from the Planning and Estate Development Briefing

Cllr Montgomery asked whether AWE is familiar with the proposed Grazely Green Village Settlement and its inclusion in the DEPZ.

John Steele confirmed that this proposed development is on AWE's radar and that AWE are fully engaged with West Berks over it.

Ask the Regulators

Bruce Archer Lead Site Inspector, Office for Nuclear Regulation

Bruce gave members an overview of the items covered by the ONR report for the period.

He told members that a team of ONR inspectors judged the 2016 annual level 1 exercise demonstrating emergency arrangements at the Burghfield site to be of an adequate

standard. He added that some strong elements of command and control were observed by the team.

Members were informed that ONR has taken formal enforcement action with an aim of enabling AWE to achieve sustained compliance with Licence Condition 14 and Licence Condition 17:

- LC14 (safety documentation) AWE was again found to be non-compliant with its arrangements for production of safety cases. ONR has issued a Specification for each site against LC13 requiring the AWE Nuclear Safety Committee to provide consideration and advice in support of the delivery of an action plan to bring AWE into compliance with LC14.
- LC17 (management systems) ONR found significant shortfalls in the process for the control of changes to key management system documents that are important to safety. ONR has issued an Improvement Notice against LC17 for each site requiring AWE to establish and implement management systems which give due priority to safety.

Bruce reported that ONR is progressing with its assessment of AWE's 10 yearly periodic review of safety (PRS) submission for a legacy manufacturing facility on the Aldermaston site, and is working towards a regulatory decision date later in March 2017. He also mentioned that AWE submitted part of its 10 yearly PRS submission for the Burghfield site in September 2016. ONR has commenced a review of that documentation and the regulatory decision date is planned to be September 2017.

Bruce also referred to the electric cable strike event in June 2016 and confirmed the ONR have completed their on-site investigation. They will enter deliberations with AWE before finally deciding upon any enforcement action.

Questions arising from the ONR update

Cllr Bridgman asked whether ONR could deliver a presentation at a future meeting on the cable strike and any resulting actions.

Bruce Archer replied that this would be possible once all aspects of the investigation and any enforcement consideration was completed.

Ask the Regulators

Joanna Moakes, Environment Agency

Joanna introduced Malcolm Peters who will be part of the EA team and told members that Stuart Parr would be returning to provide support along with Robert Green who will be taking up the position from 1 April.

Members were given an overview of the top level items covered in the EA report for the period. They were informed that aqueous and gaseous discharges are all within permitted limits.

She informed members that following a number of discussions with AWE and a sting visit to review proposed changes to the trade effluent discharges the EA are satisfied with AWE's approach to this project. They have reviewed some of the documentation in support of removing the trade effluent treatment plant and provided some comments on the supporting evidence.

Joanne went on to tell members that the EA met with AWE, ONR and CoMAH (Control of Major Accident Hazards) inspector, to discuss their inspection plan for 2017-18. One of the key areas of work discussed was how AWE will demonstrate compliance against the regulations specifically in relation to risk of causing a Major Accident to the Environment.

In closing Joanne informed members that the EA had written to AWE to confirm that on 10 January 2017 it breached the suspended solids discharge limit on one of its permits at Burghfield. They are currently investigating the breach in accordance with their enforcement and sanctions guidance. They will provide details of their response at the next LLC meeting.

Questions arising from the EA update

Cllr Bridgman referred to the recent burning ground review and legislation allowing the activity.

Joanne replied that the EA have written to AWE confirming they are satisfied that this activity is exempt from requiring an environmental permit

Community Programme

Carolyn Porter, AWE LLC Secretary

Carolyn updated members on recent community activities which includes an extended partnership with the charity, Living Paintings, continual support of Naomi House, and its engagement with Kendrick School.

AWE staff will continue to support Naomi House & Jacks Place and recently collected six carrier bags full of stamps. The charity said 'We're extremely grateful to AWE for their ongoing support. Stamp donations are a key part of our recycling programme, which overall raises in excess of £100,000 a year for the hospices.' The AWE Community Committee also made a donation of £500.

In February a group of female Scientists and engineers from AWE attended an assembly at Kendrick School in Reading where they formally presented the AWE Young Scientist of the year cup to student Sreenithi Bhuvaneshwaran. During the presentation the team shared their personal journeys in developing their interest in STEM careers with over 300 students in year 7 to 9. This provided an opportunity to raise the profile of Women in STEM and highlight the different career paths into AWE.

There were no questions arising from the Community update.

Any other Business

Paul Rees asked members to let AWE know if there are any other Environment and Health topics they would be interested in learning about

Cllr Lock referred to the recent Primary Day at St Nicholas School and asked whether more local schools could be invited to join in, making particular reference to the Willink School.

Susie Tucker explained that AWE is trying to find ways to extend involvement with schools.

Cllr Lock – Asked if AWE staff could support year 11 youngster at the Willink by facilitating mock interviews

Michele Maidment said that AWE would welcome an approach from the Willink and would provide support whenever possible.

Cllr McGarvie asked what percentage of our apprentice feed come from local schools.

Susie Tucker confirmed that AWE would have the statistics ready for the next meeting

Action 2/88 AWE to provide the statistics at the next meeting.

AWE's Support of the International Atomic Energy Agency
Graham Hughes, Deputy Head of Product Assurance

Graham gave members an overview of the time he spent at the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and an insight into AWE's support to the IAEA. He gave an account of who the IAEA are and the work they do in providing nuclear safety and security standards and providing expert advice on other nuclear applications. In closing Graham told members about life in Vienna during his secondment there.

Emergency Planning Leaflet

At the end of the meeting there was a feedback session where members were asked for their help with the review of the emergency planning leaflet that AWE produce, before it is re-published with the updated changes made by the Office for Nuclear Regulation (ONR) last year they

The leaflet, published under the Radiation and Emergency Preparedness and Public Information Regulations, is sent to all local residents within the AWE Emergency Planning Area (EPA).

2017 Meeting Dates

Wednesday 7th June

Wednesday 6th September

Wednesday 6th December

Carolyn Porter
LLC Secretary