



**Minutes of the 89th AWE Local Liaison Committee Meeting
Wednesday 7th June 2017
AWE, Aldermaston**

Present:

Haydn Clulow	Director Site and Transformation AWE (Chair)
Cllr Philip Bassil	Brimpton Parish Council
Cllr Graham Bridgman	West Berkshire Council
Cllr Roger Gardiner	Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council
Cllr Gerald Hale	Woolhampton Parish Council
Cllr David Leeks	Tadley Town Council
Cllr Mollie Lock	Stratfield Mortimer Parish Council
Cllr Royce Longton	Burghfield Parish Council
Cllr George McGarvie	Pamber Parish Council
Jeff Moss	Swallowfield Parish Council
Cllr Jonathan Richards	Basingstoke Council
Carolyn Richardson	West Berks Council
Cllr John Robertson	Mortimer West End Parish Council
Cllr David Shirt	Aldermaston Parish Council
Cllr Steve Spillane	Silchester Parish Council
Cllr Tim Whitaker	Mapledurham Parish Council
Susie Tucker	AWE
Carolyn Porter	AWE – LLC Secretary
Philippa Kent	AWE
Michele Maidment	AWE
John Steele	AWE
Jenny Turnnidge	AWE
Scott Davies-Hearne	AWE
Julie Lane	AWE
Avril James	AWE
Liz Pearce	AWE

Regulators:

Bruce Archer	Office for Nuclear Regulation
Gary Cook	Office for Nuclear Regulation

Apologies

Apologies had been received Dominic Boeck, Avril Burdette, Mike Broad, John Chapman, Jonathan Chishick, Peneé Chopping, Crissy Clemson, Clive Littlewood, Marian Livingston, Darren Lye, John Miller, Ian Montgomery, Susan Mullan, Barrie Patman, Richard Smith and Jane Stanford-Beale.

Actions from previous meetings

Action 1/87 AWE to present on the HAW programme at a future meeting.

Action ongoing

The Minutes of the 88th Meeting were accepted as a true record of the meeting.

Chairman's update

Industrial Action

There have been a number of days of industrial action since the last LLC meeting and colleagues in the union Unite are currently balloting members about a decision on whether to carry out further strikes.

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.

National Environment week

This week is National Environment Week and we are involved in a range of activities aimed at raising awareness of environmental issues with colleagues inside AWE and in the local community. Today is the second day of our exhibition which covers everything from recycling to sustainable transport. You will have an opportunity to explore the exhibits later this morning and chat with our experts over lunch at our Burghfield site. Local primary school children have been busy designing posters on the theme of 'How I Can Make a Difference to the Environment' and some of the winning posters will be on show on site and later at Tadley Library.

BBC Documentary

The BBC Four science documentary about the making of Britain's first nuclear weapon, entitled 'Britain's Nuclear Bomb: The Inside Story' was screened for the first time on 3 May.

Environment, Safety and Health Update

**Jenny Turnnidge,
Deputy Head Environment, Safety and Health**

Performance during the period

Jenny gave an overview of the perfect day performance covering the period February– April 2017. She reported that Perfect Days have generated a total donation of £7,700 to the Company's chosen charities this quarter.

Members were advised that there were three experiences of personal injuries during the period which included a fall down stairs, a knock to the head and a minor car accident on site.

The one plant or process related event was in February and related to a fire in a deep fat fryer. A localised fire occurred in a single deep fat fryer during a cleaning operation. This

was a non-injury event and the incident was quickly brought under control, the fryer was isolated and the fire was extinguished using a foam fire extinguisher.

The one community concern related to an off-site traffic related issue concerning the use of Red Lane to gain access to AWE (A) site via the Boiler House Gate. Note: see John Steele response under 'Site Update'.

There were two Tier 2-led Investigations, one relating to an electric shock from an extension lead and the other into an anomaly in a log book. Both have been fully investigated and positively addressed.

The ONR INF1 Notifications to the end of April 2017 included:-

- an investigation conducted by AWE Fire and Rescue Service into the smell of burning which was declared a false alarm
- an investigation into a fire in a deep fat fryer, as detailed on page 2.

Jenny referred to the electric cable strike during a decommissioning exercise which members were informed of at the last meeting by Bruce Archer of the ONR. She informed members that there was a full investigation and review and that AWE are working with ONR as lessons learned are being implemented.

Bruce Archer of the ONR added that they had asked for a second investigation and their findings aligned with AWE's. ONR are confident AWE will take steps and put actions in place to prevent re-occurrence.

Highlights

Jenny informed members that over FY17 (Financial Year) AWE saw a 27% improvement in its OSHA (Occupational Safety and Health Administration)

Action from Meeting 88

Following a request for statistics during the last meeting Jenny advised that:

The Health and Safety at Work Summary Statistics for Great Britain 2016 and the Health and Safety Executive Injury Frequency Rates were used to establish the injury incident rate for Agriculture and Manufacturing, and for the formulas used to extrapolate the equivalent AWE position.

AWE has 150 injury incidents/1000000 employees (extrapolated), compared to 438 injury incidents/1000000 employees for Agriculture and 257 injury incidents/1000000 employees for Manufacturing.

Question arising from Environment, Safety and Health Update

Cllr McGarvie asked whether the electric shock was a near miss and had it been reported. **Jenny** said yes and confirmed that it had been reported appropriately, with the correct medical check-ups provided for the individual who received the shock.

Site Update and Planning and Development

John Steele
Planning & Estate Development Manager

John Steele reported that there is currently no information suggesting any major planned demonstrations. Vigilance is maintained.

The one community concern raised during the period, as mentioned in the ESH update, related to an issue concerning the use of Red Lane to gain access to AWE (A) site via the Boiler House Gate. AWE has discussed this issue with West Berkshire Council Highways. AWE agreed with WBC that traffic movements will be monitored to understand in more detail the concerns raised. In the meantime in view of the concerns and driver behaviour issues raised by the Complainant a portal message has been published by Roads Grounds and Fences on 4 May 2017 as follows: *'Please be reminded if you are turning right into Boiler House Gate from Aldermaston village, please use utmost caution, to avoid any oncoming non-AWE traffic'*.

There were no questions arising from the Site update.

Planning and Estate Development Update
John Steele, Planning & Estate Development Manager

James Lane, Burghfield

John advised members that part of James' Lane at Burghfield is currently closed. This is due to work being carried out at the Burghfield Club (BSSC). This may cause some short term disruption to the area.

New planning actions

Members were told that there currently are no new planning actions.

Junction 11 – Grazely planning application

AWE is aware of the planning application which is being put forward for the Grazely settlement proposal. AWE is engaged and due to have discussions with the local authorities concerned.

AWE's new 'site development' plan

John told members that at the December LLC meeting the new AWE master plan describing how the sites will develop over the next 10 years will be available and shared with them.

Aldermaston Wharf

Members were updated on an ongoing speeding issue on the stretch of road between the Butt Inn and the Wharf which has been under discussion between West Berks Council (WBC) and Thames Valley Police. WBC is fully engaged and 'mobile' speed cameras are being placed in the area regularly. They are there for monitoring and not for prosecution purposes. Since the cameras have been in operation it is believed that speeding has dropped. Post meeting note: following discussions with Aldermaston Parish Council and Padworth Parish Council AWE will approach WBC to gain a better understanding of how the speeding issue is being addressed by WBC and TVP.

Aldermaston Manor

Members were advised that the developer has been asked by West Berkshire to deliver an improved marketing strategy. They have been given six months in which to demonstrate that after a positive marketing campaign there are no potential buyers or tenants interested in the Aldermaston Manor property. Following the marketing exercise WBC will then reconsider the planning application.

The MOD has submitted a detailed letter of objection to the proposed development plans.

Cllr Shirt confirmed that the Woodlands Trust are also raising strong objections.

Aldermaston Past, Present and Future event

John told members about an event entitled 'Aldermaston Past, Present and Future' being held in Aldermaston village hall on Saturday 10 June. This is the last part of Her Majesty the Queen's 90th birthday celebration for the village. AWE has a stand at the event manned by John Steele.

Aldex 2016

**Carolyn Richardson, West Berkshire Council
Civil Contingencies Manager**

Carolyn gave an overview of the Level 3 Emergency Response exercise (Aldex 16) which was held in November 2016.

This was a multi-agency exercise which is usually held every three years. Its aim is to test and evaluate elements of the AWE Off Site Emergency Plan for a radiation emergency on site affecting an off-site area, as required under REPPiR. The exercise had many objectives, testing the support to the response from all agencies. As this was a Level 3 exercise it also included the response at national level.

The scenario was an explosion at AWE Aldermaston resulting in a release of radioactive materials off site. The 'off site' plan was invoked (notionally) for exercise play and the scenario included a number of contaminated fatalities and injuries on site. There was also an issue with the BT lines added into the exercise play to test communications. Following the exercise, feedback was collated and a complex multi agency de-brief was held.

Carolyn highlighted some of the feedback received. There was a large response with 638 individual comments to be reviewed. 98% of responders stated that the exercise met its aim and 92-99% of responders stated that the exercise objectives were met. One of the key 'positives' which came out of the exercise was how the multi agencies worked together – 30 agencies were present.

Outcomes and recommendations – Aldex 16

There were positives and areas for improvement gathered from the exercise.

Out of 51 recommendations made - 29 relate directly to LRF plans, response, groups; and 23 relate to the AWE plan directly or individual agencies.

Recommendations are now being taken forward.

Questions arising from Aldex 16 briefing

Cllr McGarvie asked when the next exercise is planned.

Carolyn Richardson responded that officially it should be 2019; however there may be some modular testing done before the next main exercise.

Cllr Gardiner asked if there is an executive summary available of the exercise report. Carolyn Richardson said that the report is on the WBC website but she would investigate whether an executive summary was available.

Cllr Hale asked if they will be using the same operatives on the next exercise as different people will give different results.

Carolyn Richardson explained that they can not guarantee having the same people playing; however they have a three year rolling training programme and other exercises will be held. This will ensure a level is maintained.

Cllr Moss said that it sounds impressive and comprehensive but not comprehensible. Do you have any idea how close you are to 'perfect'?

Carolyn Richardson explained that every exercise is different – always different – and much more complex now. There is also an artificiality that enters into each exercise. The traditional 'nuggets' come up each time but we are getting there.

Sitex 17 – update

Scott Davies-Hearn
Emergency Response Group

Scott gave a brief account of the major site exercise which was held at Aldermaston on 6 June. This was a level 1 demonstration exercise to the ONR. The whole Aldermaston site played and the site went under cover for the duration of the exercise. Some areas for improvement were identified. The ONR identified the exercise to be an adequate demonstration of the AWE site emergency plan and supporting arrangements.

Bruce Archer from the Office for Nuclear Regulation (ONR) added some points on the Sitex from the perspective of the ONR.

Bruce Archer, ONR and Scott explained that the exercise on 6 June was a no-notice exercise and was unannounced. An unannounced exercise has never been done before and was a challenge. However it was more realistic as a result and judge to be an 'adequate' demonstration with some learning identified.

No questions arising from the Sitex 17 Briefing

Ask the Regulators

Bruce Archer Lead Site Inspector
Office for Nuclear Regulation

Bruce introduced Gary Cook who will be representing the ONR at the AWE LLC meetings.

Bruce gave members an overview of the items covered by the ONR report for the period 1 January to 31 March.

He told members that enforcement action was taken against AWE's non-compliance with its LC14 Safety Documentation arrangements. For each of the Aldermaston and Burghfield sites, a licence instrument Specification was issued in February under LC13 Nuclear Safety

Committee (NSC), specifying that AWE shall refer progress with its LC14 recovery programme to its NSC on a quarterly basis, for their consideration and advice, until the recovery programme is agreed as being complete with ONR. AWE has responded positively and ONR inspectors will continue to engage to help ensure that the LC14 recovery programme is progressed to plan until its completion at the end of March 2018.

In March, ONR completed its assessment of AWE's 10 yearly Periodic Review of Safety (PRS) submission for a legacy manufacturing facility on the Aldermaston site. ONR has informed AWE that further information and substantiation is required to enable a decision on the proposed ten year operational lifespan for that facility to be made. ONR concluded that AWE should re-submit a completed PRS to ONR by the end of March 2019, noting that an adequate safety justification is in place for a defined set of operations until that time.

Enforcement action was also taken against AWE's non-compliance with its LC17 Management Systems arrangements. For each of the Aldermaston and Burghfield sites, an Improvement Notice (IN) was issued in February identifying the need for AWE to put in place an assurance programme that ensures it has arrangements for the control of changes to management systems documentation that give due priority to safety. AWE has responded positively and ONR inspectors will continue to engage to help ensure that this programme of work is delivered by the end of February 2018

ONR has continued to engage with AWE regarding the off-site emergency planning area for its Burghfield Site. At Aldermaston there is no change as the off-site emergency planning area was determined in the autumn of last year. At Burghfield the supporting documentation will be assessed by ONR and the determination of the boundaries are to be decided in the summer months this year. The new boundary will follow natural boundaries.

Questions arising from the Ask the Regulators Briefing

Cllr McGarvie asked a question about the off-site emergency planning area. What will determination look like when notifying the public? Some is lost as the zone is now a different shape (part of the village is in the zone and some not).

Bruce Archer confirmed that the use of natural boundaries in determining the zone will include whole villages/developments not part thereof.

Cllr Gardiner said that he had been informed that the ONR has a new document which has been submitted to Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council. He asked Bruce if he knew what it says.

Bruce Archer responded that he couldn't answer as he was unaware of the document. The ONR has an Off-Site emergency arrangements group that deals with nationwide planning.

Action 1/89 John Steele agreed to make investigations about the document Cllr Gardiner referred to.

Action on-going

Community Programme

Philippa Kent
Community Engagement Manager

Philippa updated members on recent community activities. These included the Primary Science Challenge, Engineering Masterclasses and support for both British Science Week and World Environment week. There were a number associated competitions and presentations.

In the community, AWE recently awarded £5,000 to the Basingstoke Volunteering Bureau.

Questions arising from the Community Programme Update

Cllr Lock asked if AWE had been to the Willink School in Burghfield.

Philippa Kent said that AWE had just set up a mentoring scheme at the Willink and they are getting involved in master classes. AWE had approached all schools in Burghfield about the activities but they don't always take up the opportunity.

Cllr Lock asked how far in Berkshire do we cover with the Schools Liaison Scheme. The contacts list for the local schools was also queried.

Philippa Kent explained that it is mainly the Reading and Newbury area within the Reading/Newbury/Basingstoke triangle. A lot of work was carried out to update the schools contacts database and this is a continuous process.

Action 2/89 Philippa Kent to revisit database of schools contacts.

Action on-going

Any other Business

Cllr Bridgman asked if the previous LLC minutes are to go out now with the invitations as well as in the pack on the day, or just with the invitations.

Carolyn Porter confirmed that they would go out with the invitation letters.

Cllr Shirt raised two points. The first was in relation to the noise caused by the members on the picket line at the West Gate during periods of industrial action – caused by the use of air horns from 07:30 through to approx 14:00.

The second point was highlight an increase in anti-social behaviour from members of the Travellers Camp on Paices Hill. Some village residents have been subject to the behaviours and the local police have been informed.

Cllr Shirt also wanted to pass on his thanks to Piran Borlase-Hendry from the AWE Environmental team who helped him with the identification of some extremely old oak trees that were believed to have been on the AWE Aldermaston site.

Cllr Lock suggested we may be able to get a Tree Preservation Order (TPO) on some of the old trees on the site in order to protect them.

John Steele explained AWE that all trees on the AWE sites are treated as if they have a TPO and protected accordingly.

At the end of the meeting members were taken to AWE Burghfield to look around the Environment Exhibition which was being held to mark World Environment Day.

Meeting ended at 10:50

2017 Meeting Dates

Wednesday 6th September

Wednesday 6th December

Carolyn Porter
LLC Secretary