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Minutes of the 67th AWE Local Liaison Committee Meeting

Thursday 8th December 2011 at AWE Burghfield

Present:

Dr Andrew Jupp	MD, AWE Chairman LLC
Heather Young	Director Environment, Safety, Health & Quality, AWE
Steve Fussey	Director Site, AWE
Shan Martin	Director Human Resources
Alan Price	Manager External Comms & Marketing, AWE
Linda Llewellyn	External Comms & Marketing – LLC Secretary
Michele Maidment	External Comms & Marketing, AWE
Cllr Philip Bassil	Brimpton Parish Council
Cllr Michael Bound	Basingstoke & Deane Council
Cllr Marjory Bisset	Shinefield Parish Council
Cllr Mike Broad	Tadley Town Council
Cllr John Chapman	Purley on Thames Parish Council
Cllr Jonathan Chishick	Tidmarsh with Sulham Parish Council
Cllr Patricia Garrett	Baughurst Parish Council
Cllr Carol Jackson-Doerge	West Berkshire Council
Cllr Heather Leighton-Jones	Pangbourne Parish Council
Cllr Ian Lindsay	Wasing Parish Council
Cllr Mollie Lock	Stratfield Mortimer Parish Council
Cllr Royce Longton	West Berkshire Council
Cllr George McGarvie	Pamber Parish Council
Cllr Jeff Moss	Swallowfield Parish Council
Carolyn Richardson	West Berkshire Council
Cllr Graham Round	Basingstoke & Deane Council
Cllr Dave Shirt	Aldermaston Parish Council
Cllr Chris Souden	Sulhamstead Parish Council
Cllr Marilyn Tucker	Basingstoke & Deane Council
Clive Vare	Aldermaston Parish Council
Cllr Tim Whitaker	Mapledurham Parish Council
Cllr Jenny Williams	Silchester Parish Council
Gemma Wilson	AWE
Geoff Druce	AWE
Paul Cooper	AWE
Gareth Beard	AWE
Gemma Taylor	AWE
Mark Hedges	AWE
Craig Stainthorp	AWE

Regulators:

John Lindsay	Office for Nuclear Regulation (ONR)
Stuart Parr	Environment Agency
Andrew Pembroke	Environment Agency

Introduction

Dr Jupp welcomed members to the 67th meeting.

Apologies

Apologies had been received from Cllr Susan Mullan, Cllr Richard Willis, Cllr Keith Gilbert, Cllr Marian Livingston, Cllr Mick Hall, Cllr Julie James, Cllr David Leeks, Cllr Barrie Patman, Cllr John Robertson & Cllr David Wood

Actions from the last meeting

66/4 - Steve Fussey undertook to present the findings of the habitat survey in 2012 at a future LLC meeting – **Action remains open**

Minutes of the 66th Meeting

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

Chairman's remarks – Dr Andrew Jupp, MD, AWE.

LLC Membership - Dr Jupp extended a warm welcome to the two new LLC Members:

- Councillor Heather Leighton-Jones of Pangbourne Parish Council (replacing Councillor Kay Lacey)
- Councillor Susan Mullan of Tadley Town Council (replacing Councillor Val Frost)

The chairman thanked Councillor Frost and Councillor Lacey for their support to the Committee.

Technology Development Centre – AWE recently submitted a planning application to West Berkshire Council for the construction of a Technology Development Centre (TDC) to support hydrodynamics work at the AWE Aldermaston site.

Project Mensa – The replacement assembly and disassembly facility has achieved 365 days with no lost time accidents. Though this was a tremendous feat, AWE realise there is no room for complacency as 67 fatalities were recorded in the UK construction industry over the same period. The chairman also took the opportunity to thank the local community for their support during the construction phase of this project.

The Big Conversation – The chairman had accompanied AWE final year apprentice Louis McGee to an event called 'The Big Conversation' held in London as part of the Work Inspiration Campaign. The aim of the event was for employees to share their experiences with young people still in full time education.

Project Circinus – The replacement high explosives fabrication facility under construction at AWE has celebrated 'topping out' of the building following a recent major concrete pour. The chairman, accompanied by AWE Major Projects Director Ian Taylor, joined the project team to mark this project landmark.

British Safety Council Sword of Honour – AWE's Construction Team was presented with the British Safety Council's Sword of Honour at an awards event held in November 2011. This prestigious award is only open to companies who have achieved a British Safety Council five star audit rating and the AWE Construction team achieved this last year - the first time that AWE entered this rating system – with a score of 98%.

Institute of Physics Award – AWE has been presented with the Institute of Physics Award for 'Best Practice in Initial Professional Development'. This award recognises companies that deliver outstanding training and professional development opportunities for physicists working in the UK.

School trip to the Science Museum – In November AWE hosted a visit for 23 pupils from the Mary Hare School in Newbury to the Science Museum in London. This was their prize for winning the AWE Water Rocket Challenge held in the summer. The challenge was run under the auspices of the AWESome Education programme through which the Company has built links with around 75 schools across Hampshire and Berkshire. **For information a list of the schools that belong to our scheme will accompany these minutes.**

Environment, Health & Safety Report – Heather Young, Director Environment, Health, and Safety & Quality

Heather Young presented AWE's Response to the Fukushima report.

Gemma Wilson gave a presentation on AWE's Environmental Monitoring Programme (EMP). It was explained that the programme is reviewed quarterly and adjusted as necessary.

In response to a question on light pollution, it was explained that this was kept under review. Lighting installed in new car park areas was of a low light pollution design. As part of its Energy Management Intervention Programme the Company will be installing time-switches on a number of our streetlights. The Company will in future be exploring the feasibility of having a much reduced light footprint and monitoring will form part of this.

Infrastructure Report – Stephen Fussey, Director Site

Steve Fussey gave a general update on site issues. Further presentations were given as follows:

Paul Cooper, Manager Emergency Response:

Paul Cooper explained to members that a new warning siren system is being installed at the **Aldermaston Petroleum Storage Depot** at Padworth. Discussions had taken place to ensure that the siren was distinct from any AWE alarm sound.

Paul Cooper informed the LLC that representatives of the Office for Nuclear Regulation had attended a **meeting of Aldermaston Parish Council** to explain ONR input on future planning matters in the light of the recent planning inquiry decision relating to Boundary Hall at Tadley. Councillor Dave Shirt asked for further information on how the AWE Detailed Emergency Planning Zone (DEPZ) is established and how the current three kilometre radius is reviewed.

Action 67/1 - Paul Cooper to liaise with the ONR to produce a 'lay-person's guide' to REPPiR risk assessments and associated processes ahead of the next LLC Meeting.

Action 67/2 – Paul Cooper was asked to provide further information relating to the AWE Off-Site Emergency Plan and supply link to the off-site contingency arrangements

Post Meeting Note from Paul Cooper: “ I can confirm that the version of the AWE Off-Site Emergency Plan issued in 2000 contained a map showing the Detailed Emergency Planning Zone as being centred on Grid Reference SU 595 635. I attach the relevant excerpt from that plan.

“The latest version of the plan, to be publicly issued next week, uses the same Grid Reference. I also attach the corresponding excerpt from the latest version of the plan. I can confirm that the centre point has not changed in the intervening issues of the plan.

“Carolyn Richardson has confirmed that the revised AWE plan is now available on the West Berks Council website and can be downloaded by following the link below. The current version of the REPPiR public information leaflet can also be accessed via this link: www.westberks.gov.uk/index.aspx?articleid=23078

“It can be seen that in the earlier map, the level of detail and resolution is significantly lower than in the most recent map and the scale on the map is not graduated, so it is acknowledged that this earlier map was less than ideal for making accurate assessments of where exactly the DEPZ boundary sits in relation to local topography and geography. The latest data on the DEPZs for both the Aldermaston and Burghfield sites are stored and utilised by West Berkshire Council on their internal Graphical Information System (GIS) and it is this data that is used when assessing planning applications for their relevance to the DEPZs.”

Geoff Druce – Head of Environmental Operations

Mr Druce gave an update on the **Pangbourne Pipeline Decommissioning Project** explaining that a trial is currently being undertaken on the AWE Aldermaston site to provide information to inform the decision on whether or not the pipeline will be removed along its entire route. Responding to a LLC member's question, he said a decision on decommissioning was likely to be made in mid-2012.

MOD Submarine Dismantling Project: Mr Druce reported that the MoD is currently undertaking a joint assessment of options for storage sites with the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority.

AWE Intermediate Level Waste (ILW): The Company is holding discussions with the Office for Nuclear Regulation regarding the management of AWE's ILW inventory. AWE is working with the MOD and the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority to deliver credible, coherent and cost-effective options for treatment and long-term storage of ILW materials.

Shan Martin – Director Human Resources

Shan Martin, Director Human Resources gave a presentation on AWE's workforce. She highlighted that 2012 would be the 60th anniversary of the apprentice training scheme at AWE.

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Councillor Tucker asked what academic qualifications were required to apply for an apprenticeship. Along with GCSE's and A Levels AWE looks at determination, behaviours, application and attitude.

Councillor Lock asked if AWE sponsored young people through university. AWE does sponsor some staff through university and maintains strategic partnerships with certain universities. The Company also has development programmes for its front line workers and technician schemes.

Action 67/3 – Shan Martin to provide a full list of universities with which AWE have sponsorship arrangements.

Councillor Broad offered his support to the Apprentice scheme and said that the local community appreciates AWE's support to its young people.

Following a question on the number of female apprentices, the LLC were informed that five of the last intake of 43 recruits were female.

Action 67/4 – Shan Martin to provide the number of female applicants who will go through the next selection process for the AWE Apprentice Scheme.

Ask the Regulators

Councillor Garrett asked why the Environment Agency had issued AWE with a warning letter. She was informed that this was due to deadline for supplying environmental data being missed by one day.

Councillor McGarvie asked what progress the Health & Safety Executive was making with their investigation into the fire at AWE in August 2010. John Lindsay of the ONR said that he expected a decision to be made in the next month or so.

Heather Young confirmed that all 11 recommendations from the AWE Fire Investigation Report have been actioned or closed out ahead of schedule.

Any Other Business

A committee member asked who would ultimately make a decision on the action to be taken with regard to decommissioning the Pangbourne Pipeline. Dr Jupp said that the Company would make a recommendation which would be discussed with the MoD before being sanctioned.

LLC members asked for further clarification of the requirement for a 3 kilometre DEPZ around AWE Aldermaston compared with the 1.5 km zone around AWE Burghfield.

Action 67/5: Paul Cooper will work with John Lindsay to prepare a presentation to answer these questions.

Ian Lindsay informed the LLC that this may be his last meeting and he may be moving out of the area.

At the end of the meeting LLC members were taken on a tour of the AWE Aldermaston site.

Dates of 2012 meetings

Wednesday 7th March 2012

Wednesday 20th June 2012

Wednesday 19th September 2012

Wednesday 5th December 2012

Linda Llewellyn