

Minutes of the 64th AWE Local Liaison Committee Meeting

Tuesday 15th March 2011

Present:

Dr Andrew Jupp	MD, AWE	Chairman LLC
Heather Young	Director Environment, Safety & Health, AWE	
Stephen Fussey	Director Site, AWE	
Alan Price	Manager External Comms & Marketing, AWE	
Lindsey Appleton	Public Affairs Manager, AWE	Secretary LLC
Cllr Philip Bassil	Brimpton Parish Council	
Cllr Michael Bound	Basingstoke & Deane Council	
Cllr Jonathan Chishick	Tidmarsh with Sulham Parish Council	
Cllr Geoff Findlay	West Berkshire Council	
Cllr Patricia Garrett	Baughurst Parish Council	
Cllr Kay Lacey	Pangbourne Parish Council	
Cllr David Leeks	Tadley Town Council	
Ian Lindsay	Wasing Parish Council	
Cllr Royce Longton	West Berkshire Council	
Cllr George McGarvie	Pamber Parish Council	
Jeff Moss	Swallowfield Parish Council	
Cllr Irene Neill	West Berkshire Council	
Carolyn Richardson	West Berkshire Council	
Cllr Graham Round	Basingstoke & Deane Council	
Cllr Chris Souden	Sulhamstead Parish Council	
Cllr Marilyn Tucker	Basingstoke & Deane	
Cllr Tim Whitaker	Mapledurham Parish Council	
Cllr Jenny Williams	Silchester Parish Council	
Cllr David Wood	Theale Parish Council	

Regulators:

Stuart Parr	Environment Agency
John Lindsay	Nuclear Installations Inspectorate
Steve Bithall	Nuclear Installations Inspectorate

Introduction

Dr Jupp welcomed members to the 64th meeting.

Apologies

Apologies had been received from Cllr Mike Broad, Cllr Valerie Frost, Cllr John Heggadon, Tom Payne, Cllr John Robertson, Cllr David Shirt and Cllr Clive Vare.

Actions from the last meeting

There were no actions arising from the meeting.

Minutes of the 63rd Meeting

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

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

Fire update

The thorough investigation into the fire in an explosives facility at AWE Aldermaston last August is nearing completion and the plans for publication are being finalised. Members of the LLC will be briefed as soon as possible after the report's completion.

Senior Management changes

Dr Jupp had informed committee members in January that Robin McGill had decided to stand down as Chief Executive Officer of AWE. Mr McGill played an important role in leading AWE through a

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period of considerable change. Dr Jupp is leading the business as Managing Director backed by a very strong Executive team.

Head of HR

Dr Jupp reported that Shan Martin has joined AWE as Head of Human Resources. On secondment from Serco, Shan has been an HR Director in Defence, Science and Nuclear, a Serco business with over 7000 employees. She has over 20 years experience in Human Resources.

Orion

Orion, set to become one of the world's most advanced laser facilities, has been handed over to its commissioning team. Dr Jupp said investment in such a facility is central to maintaining the UK deterrent.

Charities of the Year

Dr Jupp reported that in 2010 almost £20,000 was raised for the AWE Charities of the Year – the national charity Help for Heroes and the local cancer charity The Pelican Trust. Fundraising is organised by a team of graduates on behalf of AWE's Community Committee. This year the chosen charities are Thames Valley Air Ambulance and Great Ormond Street Hospital.

Environment, Health & Safety Report – Heather Young, Director Environment, Health & Safety Slides attached

Mrs Young's report is attached to the Minutes.

Infrastructure Report – Stephen Fussey, Director Site

Slides attached

Pangbourne Pipeline (PPL)

Mr Hedley gave an update on the PPL and explained that there are two options for the final decommissioning. One is to leave the PPL in situ and the other would see it being removed.

Mr Hedley said a trial was planned to remove a small part of the pipeline on site at AWE Aldermaston. Mr Hedley said AWE will fully engage with members of the Local Liaison Committee and with local landowners on the next steps.

Emergency Arrangements

Mr Cooper, Manager Site Response Group, gave an update on emergency arrangements. Mr Cooper informed the committee that the key findings from the Aldex 2010 site exercise were likely to be published in April.

A local petroleum storage depot has informed AWE that they intend to install a siren sometime in July. AWE will work with the Depot to ensure there is no confusion with the sirens.

Mr Cooper reported that the Boundary Hall public inquiry had gone on longer than expected but a decision is now expected on or before 22 June 2011.

Mr I Lindsay asked if it would be possible for AWE to e-mail LLC members when important documents are due to be published. **Action 64/1:** Mr Price undertook an action to ensure this happens.

Cllr McGarvie raised the issue of whether mobile homes and caravans are suitable for short-term shelter in the event of an incident at AWE with radiological consequences. Mr Cooper said no specific research was available but emergency planning advice is that they are suitable for sheltering in the immediate aftermath of an incident. Mr Cooper said that in any subsequent evacuation, these residents would be prioritised along with those living in temporary and non substantial accommodation.

Cllr Neill asked whether the venting systems in mobile homes/caravans presented an increased risk. Mr Cooper said the venting systems are similar to the air bricks in modern homes.

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Presentations were also given on criticality and estates development.

Ask the Regulators

Cllr McGarvie asked whether there was any progress with the Nuclear Installations Inspectorate's investigation into the fire at AWE Aldermaston in August 2010. Mr J Lindsay said the investigation was complete and a report was in the process of being written.

Any Other Business

Cllr Leeks asked whether AWE's seismometers had picked up the earthquake in Japan. Dr Jupp said this would have happened instantaneously but added that AWE had not deployed any personnel to Japan to date.

Cllr Neill wished to thank AWE for the contribution made to Paices Wood Country Park which is due to open on 21 May 2011.

Cllr Wood asked whether MOD spending cuts would affect AWE. Dr Jupp said AWE is participating fully in plans to minimize costs and ensure that it delivers full value for money to the MOD.

Dates of 2011 meetings

Thursday 9 June 2011

Thursday 15 September 2011

Thursday 8 December 2011

Lindsey Appleton
Secretary to the AWE LLC