

## Minutes of the 66th AWE Local Liaison Committee Meeting

Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> September 2011 at AWE Burghfield

### Present:

Dr Andrew Jupp	MD, AWE Chairman LLC
Heather Young	Director Environment, Safety, Health & Quality, AWE
Stephen Fussey	Director Site, AWE
Alan Price	Manager External Comms & Marketing, AWE
Michele Maidment	External Comms & Marketing, AWE
Cllr Philip Bassil	Brimpton Parish Council
Cllr Michael Bound	Basingstoke & Deane
Cllr Marjory Bissett	Shinfield 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 Penee Chopping	Ufton Nervet Parish Council
Cllr Patricia Garrett	Baughurst Parish Council
Cllr Keith Gilbert	Padworth Parish Council
Carol Jackson-Doerge	West Berkshire
Cllr David Leeks	Tadley Town Council
Cllr Ian Lindsay	Wasing Parish Council
Cllr Marian Livingston	Reading Borough Council
Cllr Irene Neill	West Berkshire Council
Cllr Barrie Patman	Woking Borough Council
Cllr John Robertson	Mortimer West Parish End Council
Graham Round	Basingstoke & Deane
Cllr Dave Shirt	Aldermaston Parish Council
Cllr Chris Souden	Sulhamstead Parish Council
Clive Vare	Aldermaston Parish Council
Cllr Tim Whitaker	Mapledurham Parish Council
Cllr Jenny Williams	Silchester Parish Council
Cllr David Wood	Theale Parish Council

### Regulators:

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

### Introduction

Dr Jupp welcomed members to the 66th meeting.

### Apologies

Apologies had been received from Cllr Valerie Frost, Cllr Heather Leighton-Jones, Cllr Royce Longton, Cllr Jeff Moss, Cllr Carolyn Richardson, and Cllr Kay Lacey

### Actions from the last meeting

**65/1** John Lindsay of the Office of Nuclear Regulation stated that the HSE's own fire investigation report into the fire at AWE Aldermaston in Aug 2010 was on going. Heather Young undertook to keep the LLC members updated on progress with delivering actions from the AWE fire report. Update presented at 66<sup>th</sup> Meeting.

#### Action closed

**65/2** Steve Fussey undertook to provide an update on the Pangbourne Pipeline at the next LLC meeting. Information included in presentation at 66<sup>th</sup> Meeting. **Action closed**

### Minutes of the 65th 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 six new LLC Members

- Councillor Marjory Bissett of Shinfield Parish Council;
- Councillor Keith Gilbert of Padworth Parish Council;
- Councillor Carol Jackson-Doerge of West Berkshire Council;
- Councillor Heather Leighton-Jones of Pangbourne Parish Council;
- Councillor Marian Livingston of Reading Borough Council;

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- Councillor Barrie Patman of Wokingham Borough Council

**Congratulations** and best wishes were expressed to Ian Lindsey who is getting married shortly.

### Senior Management changes

Dr Jupp informed committee members that

- Steve Fussey has been confirmed as Director Site
- Shan Martin has been appointed Director Human Resources
- Ian Taylor has been appointed as Director Major Projects.
- Peter Morton from Merseyrail will be joining AWE in October as the new Director Finance.

**False alarm:** On 9 September, at around 5.15am, an alarm sounded in one of the facilities at AWE Aldermaston. Following standard procedure the site was put on alert while the incident was checked out. It was quickly found to be a false alarm and the site returned to normal operation by 6am. The incident was picked up by BBC Radio Berkshire who ran a story last Friday and on Monday this week when Steve Fussey gave an interview to explain the routine procedure in place.

Cllr Leeks and Cllr Broad stated that they had received phone enquiries from the local press regarding the alarm on 9<sup>th</sup> September. They requested early briefing on any future incident to enable them to comment. Dr Jupp apologised and said that AWE would improve the communication process. Alan Price, External Communications asked all LLC members to ensure that they had provided a valid email address to assist with this process.

**66/1 Action** Alan Price to update email distribution list and test the distribution by the end of September.

**Laser Fusion Energy:** A memorandum of understanding has been signed which will see AWE working alongside two of the world's leading laboratories in the quest to harness nuclear fusion as a future energy source. The agreement brings together AWE's technical capabilities with those of the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory (LLNL) in the United States and the UK's Rutherford Appleton Laboratory (RAL), operated by the Science and Technology Facilities Council. By working together, scientists will have access to the complementary capabilities of three world-leading laser research facilities.

**Apprentices:** AWE has recently welcomed 43 new apprentices who will undertake a 3 or 4 year programme. AWE's award-winning apprentice scheme is entering its 60th year of continuous training and development. Dr Jupp added that over 500 former apprentices continue to work in our business, some of them in very senior roles.

**Apprentice Prize Day:** In July Dr Jupp welcomed Chief of Defence Materiel (Fleet), Vice Admiral Andy Mathews, as guest of honour at our Apprentice Academy Prize Day. Describing AWE as one of the UK's largest high technology, research, design and production centres, he said: "As the sole repository of the UK's nuclear warhead capability, AWE has been, and remains, core to sustaining the deterrent programme – a role it has been playing for over 50 years and will continue to play in the future."

**Ethics:** At the last meeting the LLC were told about the appointment of AWE's first Corporate Ethics Manager. Good progress has been made and the Company now has an ethics help and advice telephone line and a dedicated email box operational. Additionally ethics policies are available on our Company intranet and the external website. Ethics performance is being closely monitored by the audit committee of the AWEML parent company board.

**Defence Codex:** One of the MOD sponsored magazines ran an excellent 8-page feature in their latest issue on the Orion laser project and the research work AWE undertake to verify the UK's nuclear warheads. A copy was circulated at the meeting. Members wishing to receive a copy should contact Linda Llewellyn.

**UK PONI Conference:** At the end of June, AWE sponsored the inaugural UK Project on Nuclear Issues (UK PONI) Conference. The event, which focused on 'The Last and Next 60 Years of the UK's Nuclear Deterrent,' was held at the Royal United Services Institute (RUSI) in London. It brought together leading defence policy experts from UK government, industry and academia. Four AWE staff presented and were involved in the debate.

### Exercises

The meeting was informed that AWE will be holding the annual site exercise at Burghfield on Tuesday 11 October to test emergency response procedures. Such exercises are held routinely at both the AWE Aldermaston and Burghfield sites. As both are nuclear licensed sites, we are required to demonstrate to the satisfaction of the Office for Nuclear Regulation that we have the ability to respond effectively to any emergency.

**UK Intelligent Sport Challenge:** Dr Jupp was delighted to report that AWE's elite team won this year's UK Intelligent Sport Challenge which brought together over 80 teams from some of the biggest names in British business. The Challenge is a test of brain and brawn and was held this year over three days in gruelling conditions on Exmoor.

**AWE Schools Challenges:** Dr Jupp stated that AWE is always keen to support the local community, including schools. AWE have recently run three challenge events for local schools under the banner of the AWE Schools Liaison Scheme. A water rocket challenge was held for local schools at the Mary Hare School in Newbury in July. Later that month, 10 secondary schools took part in our Engineering Challenge event, while five primary schools did battle in the AWE Chain Reaction Challenge.

Jenny Williams enquired as to whether Silchester Primary was aware of the scheme. It was confirmed that Silchester primary were active members and had participated in events in previous years.

**Environment, Health & Safety Report – Heather Young, Director Environment, Health, and Safety & Quality - Slides attached**

**66/2 Action** on Heather Young to provide detailed information on the air sampling process, with both historical and current data to be included.

#### **Infrastructure Report – Stephen Fussey, Director Site**

Mr Fussey gave a general update on site issues. The presentation also included slides on

- Emergency Response – Paul Cooper
- Periodic Review of Safety – Mary Edwards
- Estates Development – John Steele
- Travel and Transport Plan – Graham Day

**66/3 Action** Mr Cooper, Manager Site Response Group undertook an action to invite the OPA – the Oil and Pipelines Agency to talk to LLC about the public alerting siren being installed at the Petroleum Storage Depot between Padworth and Aldermaston and how we've ensured our alarms are different and clearly understood by the public around the sites and the staff on them. If OPA are not able to attend, Paul will provide a briefing in their absence

#### **Ask the Regulators**

A committee member asked as to when the HSE's report on the fire at AWE Aldermaston in 2010 would be finalised. John Lindsay said he hoped that it would be available within the next few weeks.

John Lindsay reported that Dr Mike Weightman, HM Chief Inspector of Nuclear Installations, is due to publish his final report on the Japanese earthquake, tsunami and implications for the UK nuclear industry. The Office of Nuclear Regulation is considering the possibility of running a small number of regional stakeholder briefings so that local liaison committees, local community liaison councils and similar interest groups had the opportunity to ask questions once they have read the published report. Any LLC member interested in a presentation should relay their request through Linda Llewellyn.

#### **Any Other Business**

Ian Lindsay stated that he had been interviewed in relation to a Habitat Survey being conducted by the EA. Steve Fussey explained that the ONR/EA undertake a joint survey

**66/4 Action** Steve Fussey undertook to present the findings of the survey in 2012 at a future LLC meeting.

Cllr Irene Neill said that it would be useful for the councillors to have information regarding the demographics of the AWE workforce. Dr Jupp said that he would invite Shan Martin, HR Director, to present at the next meeting.

**66/5 Action** Shan Martin into provide a general overview of the AWE workforce

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

#### **Dates of 2011 meetings**

Thursday 8 December 2011

Michele Maidment