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Minutes of the 63rd AWE Local Liaison Committee Meeting

Thursday 16th December 2010

Present:

Dr Andrew Jupp	Acting MD, AWE	Chairman LLC
Heather Young	Director Environment, Safety & Health, AWE	
Stephen Fussey	Acting Director Site, AWE	
Christian Morgan-Jones	Head of Information & Communications, AWE	
Alan Price	Manager External Comms & Marketing, AWE	
Lindsey Appleton	Public Affairs Manager, AWE	Secretary LLC
Cllr Michael Bound	Basingstoke & Deane Council	
Cllr Mike Broad	Tadley Town Council	
Cllr Jonathan Chishick	Tidmarsh with Sulham Parish Council	
Cllr Pat Garrett	Baughurst Parish Council	
Cllr John Heggadon	Shinfield Parish Council	
Cllr David Leeks	Tadley Town Council	
Ian Lindsay	Wasing Parish Council	
Cllr Mollie Lock	Stratfield Mortimer Parish Council	
Cllr Royce Longton	West Berkshire Council	
Cllr George McGarvie	Pamber Parish Council	
Jeff Moss	Swallowfield Parish Council	
Cllr John Robertson	Mortimer West End Council	
Cllr David Shirt	Aldermaston Parish 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	

Introduction

Dr Jupp welcomed members to the 63rd meeting.

Apologies

Apologies had been received from Cllr Philip Bassil, Cllr Valerie Frost, Cllr Kay Lacey, Cllr Irene Neill, Cllr Clive Vare, and Cllr Richard Willis.

Actions from the last meeting

Action 62/1: An action on Mr John Lindsay to respond to comments in respect of whether mobile homes and caravans are suitable for short term shelter in the event of an incident with radiological consequences - this was covered later in the meeting.

Minutes of the 62nd Meeting

The Minutes were accepted as a true record of the meeting with the following omission- Cllr Heggadon asked whether the Nuclear Installations Inspectorate (NII) and the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) were involved in the review of quangos. Mr J. Lindsay said he believed the NII would not be affected but the HSE could be reduced slightly.

Chairman's remarks – Dr Andrew Jupp, Acting 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.

Trades Union activity

Over the last few months AWE has been working with Prospect and Amicus trade unions to agree a pay deal for 2010. The Company made an improved pay offer to the unions which was accepted by union members.

Collaboration with France

A new programme of defence co-operation between the UK and France was announced by the Prime Minister and the French President on 2 November 2010. The Treaty provided for the joint construction and operation of a new hydrodynamics facility at Valduc in France and a Technology Development Centre here at AWE Aldermaston.

Aldermaston Periodic Safety Review (PRS)

The Aldermaston Site Periodic Review of Safety is produced to demonstrate the site operates safely and is good to continue for the next 10 years. The latest PRS has been shared with the Nuclear Installations Inspectorate who are considering their decision, and we now expect the outcome in spring 2011.

Strategic Defence and Security Review (SDSR)

In October the Government announced the outcome of its Strategic Defence and Security Review. The Government has confirmed its commitment to a credible, continuous and effective minimum UK nuclear deterrent.

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, Acting Director Site**Slides attached****Pangbourne Pipeline (PPL)**

Mr Fussey gave an update on the PPL explaining that two options for final decommissioning are currently being worked through. One would leave the redundant pipeline in situ while the other would see it being removed. It is hoped to give an update at the next LLC meeting.

Corporate Complaints

Mr Fussey reported that the number of corporate complaints received by AWE has steadily decreased and there is now a clear process for complaints into the organisation.

Burghfield Sitex

Mr Cooper, Manager Site Response Group, reported that the Burghfield level 1 exercise was held on 19 October 2010 and was deemed an adequate demonstration under licence conditions.

Aldermaston Site Exercise

The Aldermaston level 2 site exercise (Aldex) was held on 10 November 2010 and the report is to be published by West Berkshire. Dr Jupp wished to publicly thank all the local authorities for their contributions and hard work.

Presentations were given on the site development plan at Aldermaston, emergency arrangements and an overview of site development at the Burghfield site.

Ask the Regulators

Cllr Shirt 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 as an application to the Council had been received from a mobile home resident. Mr J. Lindsay said the Nuclear Installations Inspectorate (NII) had responded to the Council regarding the application and said NII were confident that such accommodation offered adequate protection.

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Cllr Lock asked about the situation regarding static caravans. Mr J. Lindsay said the NII would work with AWE and the Health Physics Authority to get a better understanding of this issue.

Cllr Leeks asked when the planning inquiry into the use of the Boundary Hall site in Tadley would conclude. Mr J. Lindsay stated that the closing statements were due in January and the Inspector would then arrive at any conclusions. This process could take three or four months.

Any Other Business

Cllr Broad asked whether the MOD had reached any conclusions in their project to find suitable sites for the dismantling of decommissioned nuclear submarines and subsequent storage of radioactive waste. Dr Jupp said the project was on-going.

Dates of 2011 meetings

Tuesday 15th March 2011- Please note change of date from 17th.

Thursday 9 June 2011

Thursday 15 September 2011

Thursday 8 December 2011

Lindsey Appleton

Secretary to the AWE LLC