

TRAWSFYNYDD SITE
MINUTES OF THE SIXTEENTH MEETING OF THE SITE STAKEHOLDER GROUP
HELD AT THE CONFERENCE AND INDUCTION CENTRE
ON MONDAY 5 DECEMBER 2011

PRESENT

Cllr J Isgoed Williams Chairman

Trawsfynydd Site

Mr Dave Wilson	Site Director
Mr Richard Cowell	Magnox
Mr W Walker Jones	Magnox
Ms Linda Clegg	Magnox
Mr Bryan Halsey	Magnox
Mr Raymond Parry	Magnox
Mr Kevin Titley	Magnox
Mr H Madog Jones	Magnox
Mr A M ^c Ateer	Magnox
Mr John Idris Jones	Magnox
Mr Steve Payne	Magnox

Nuclear Decommissioning Authority

Ms Amanda French

Gwynedd Council

Ms Shirley Huws
Cllr Thomas Ellis

Town and Community Councils

Cllr Beryl Williams	Ffestiniog Town Council
Cllr Dafydd Watts	Llanfrothen Community Council
Cllr D Morris Jones	Penrhyndeudraeth Town Council
Cllr John Richards	Talsarnau Community Council
Cllr D Meredydd Williams	Maentwrog Community Council

Community Groups and Organisations

Mr Idwal Williams	Traws-Newid
Mr Iolo ap Gwynn	Snowdonia National Park Authority
Mr Aled Sturkey	Snowdonia National Park Authority
Mr Keith O'Brien	Snowdonia National Park Authority

Observers

Mr Alan Hall	Welsh Water
Mrs Catrin Roberts	Welsh Government

Mr Chris Kemp HSE (ONR)
Mrs G Pettifor Visitor

Mr Gwynfor Owen Translation – Cymen
Miss Elen Williams Minutes

1. Apologies for absence

Mr Elfyn Llwyd	Member of Parliament
Lord Dafydd Elis-Thomas	Assembly Member
Mr Paul Kennedy	Food Standard Agency
Mr David Finchett	Magnox
Mr Simon Smith	The North Wales Fire & Rescue Service
Inspector M Ellis	North Wales Police Authority
Mr Dafydd Jarrett	NFU Cymru

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting, including two new faces that we would be hearing more from later on – Mr Richard Cowell and Mr Steve Payne.

2. Approve the Minutes of the meeting held on 6 June 2011

A couple of issues were discussed in relation to item 5.12 on the previous minutes, with a couple of things not entirely clear, and possible inconsistencies in relation to the questions and answers. It was felt that it wasn't always clear who was asking the question and who was answering, and it was decided that it would be a good idea for individuals to announce their names clearly before asking a question in order for it to be noted.

However, the Chairman stated that this issue did not undermine the minutes or make them incorrect, and the minutes were proposed as a true record by Mr Idwal Williams and seconded by Cllr John Richards.

3. Matters arising from the minutes of the meeting held on 6 June 2011

Cllr Beryl Williams enquired about question 5.12 d, and whether the figure 2026 is correct or should it be 2016. It was explained that the Care and Maintenance Stage should be complete by 2016, with all the work being completed by 2026. It was said that this would be discussed further by the Site Director later on.

4. Chairman's Address

- 4.1 On 15th September 2011, a very successful Oversight Meeting had been held, and on the 28th there had been a beneficial site meeting with CORWM. The Chairman had been talking to one of the members, who was very happy with the visit to Traws, and felt that the site was leading the way.
- 4.2 On 23rd/24th November a successful meeting had been held in Manchester, with a lot of the discussions relating to releasing land around the sites and waste management. The Chairman and officials of the NDA felt generally that there weren't enough meetings being held to discuss the national burial of nuclear waste, and were very keen for meetings to be held in order for the public to understand the implications.

- 4.3 The Chairman announced that Richard Foxhall had left Traws and would be starting work with Horizon in Anglesey this morning. The Chairman took this opportunity to read out a letter by Richard Foxhall, who was eager to thank the group for their friendship since October 2006. He said that it had been a pleasure to be of service, and hoped he had been able to help the local communities. He was looking forward to his new job, but was sad to be leaving Traws after working at the site for four years, and felt that he would have enjoyed being in Traws when it was at its peak. He emphasised the importance of working together in the run up to December 2016, and stated how important it is to attract new businesses to the area, as well as the need to help one another to develop a legacy for the young people.
- 4.4 Edwina Hart and Lord Dafydd Elis-Thomas had visited the site, and the Chairman read out a supplementary question Lord Dafydd Elis-Thomas had asked the Minister for Business, Enterprise, Technology and Science in the Senedd in Cardiff:
Minister, you will know that I appreciated your visit earlier this year to the Trawsfynydd Oversight Board, which I chair. As you consider a programme of enterprise zones for the future, will you bear in mind and ensure your officials are aware, when any prioritisation takes place, that a serious economic crisis is facing this site because of the number of highly skilled engineers who have worked there for so long. There is a need to act urgently in order to create new employment at that site.
Edwina Hart replied: In the same way as I have asked my officials to prepare a submission on detailed proposals for Newport Unlimited and Newport City, I have also asked them to do the same in relation to that site.
- 4.5 Time after time, it has been asked what will happen to Traws over the next years, and what is happening in terms of apprenticeships and so forth. At present, three young men from the Nantlle Valley who are Welsh speakers are on their third year of the scheme and their second year on the site; two other Welsh young men started in the site in September this year, one from Llanystumdwy and the other from Maentwrog; the latest cohort was publicized in August this year, and following the Stakeholders' requirements in the June meeting, the scheme was promoted extensively, including in the Cambrian News, the Daily Post, and the Caernarfon & Denbigh Herald. Even though Coleg Menai, who runs the scheme, has been asked if any local young people have been taken on as part of the scheme this year, no reply has been received yet; it was not possible to promote the scheme amongst local schools and colleges as they were closed for the summer holidays; the scheme is being more widely promoted through Careers Wales.
- 4.6 In reference to financial support to local communities, the system will be changing substantially in April 2012. Local input is vital for the process. There will still be £10,000 of EnergySolutions funds available to the site, to share in relatively small sums.
- 4.7 In relation to work for the workforce after 2016, we need to press for answers. Promises were made by the previous Site Director, including the mention of buses to transport local workers to Anglesey and back, but by now it appears there will be almost no jobs for the Traws workforce in relation to the decommissioning of Wylfa.
- 4.8 In relation to reducing height, it is very important for Stakeholders to press for this work to be started after work to recover waste comes to an end. It is also important for everyone to realise that the work to recover waste will come to an end around a year

- before December 2016 (and before that perhaps), and this is when the majority of jobs will be lost. We will need political support to press on the NDA to change their strategy.
- 4.9 Looking at the loss of jobs, with so little time left, we need to regularly ask to see the plan which shows in detail when the employment level will decrease, by year/quarter/month and by how much.
- 4.10 Support for schools – now that the site Communication team has dispersed, what support will be given to schools and the education sector through the medium of Welsh? In that context, we do understand that the Welsh language is going to be recognised.
- 4.11 Mr Idwal Williams gave a report on a meeting he had recently attended in London on behalf of the Chairman. The meeting had been called by Neil Baldwin, and Jonathan Jenkin had been present as well. Everyone had an opportunity to talk about their own sites. There were discussions about Dungeness and Wylfa, and about the national burial of nuclear waste as well, with the Government intending to accelerate the process, and 2029 being the latest date for that. Mr Idwal Williams was more than willing to discuss the issues further if anyone wanted more information.
- 4.12 It was asked what this date actually meant, which led to a discussion about Allerdale and Copeland – both located in a National Park – the only areas that have come forward in relation to the burial of nuclear waste. The Chairman commented that the Government needs to let stakeholders and everyone else know what this means, and what the advantages and disadvantages are – it means work for around 1500 people for many years. If a group in Trawsfynydd was to call a meeting to discuss the matter, the NDA would take responsibility for costs, and at the end of the day, it would be possible to withdraw the decision – that is in the mandate the NDA has received by the Government.

5. Election of Chair and Vice-chair

Mr J Isgoed Williams thanked everyone and joined the rest of the group as Mr Dave Wilson, Site Director, asked if there was a proposal for Chairman. Mr Idwal Williams proposed that Mr J Isgoed Williams be re-elected, and the proposal was seconded by Cllr John Richards. Mr J Isgoed Williams returned to his seat and thanked the group for the honour. He felt that worrying times were ahead, with decommissioning coming to an end and so forth, but he was hoping for the best, and looking forward with interest to the Minister's statement.

The group went on to elect a Vice-chairman. The Chairman expressed that Mr Idwal Williams had been a very faithful deputy who was always willing to help and support him, and he thanked him for his work. It was proposed by Cllr Thomas Ellis that Mr Idwal Williams be re-elected as Vice-chairman, and this proposal was seconded by Cllr John Richards.

6. Site Director's Report

- 6.1 Mr Dave R Wilson, the Site Director, gave a presentation regarding the safe and compliant delivery of the Trawsfynydd Site into Care and Maintenance state by December 2016.
- 6.2 With regards to safety, there had been no incidents at all in the past year. One person had cut his thumb, and had required stitches, which explained why the Total Recordable Incidents Figure for the last 12 months was 0.18.
- 6.3 The timescale for the Programme was outlined:

Scheduled Entry to Care and Maintenance – December 2016

Height Reduction Phase – 2020-26

Final Site Clearance Phase – 2076-2085.

- 6.4 In reference to funding, the figures were:
Value of Work in Baseline – Circa £84 million
Value of Works Delivered Year to Date (Performance against Baseline) – £45.798 million
Actual Cost Year to Date – £45.397 million
- 6.5 Slides were shown of how the site is likely to look in 2026. By then, the site would be unmanned more or less, and controlling work undertaken from another hub.
- 6.6 With regards to the Intermediate Level Waste Store, there are 1743 drums in temporary storage, before they are transferred to the ILW Store, and we are looking at approximately 2000 drums in total during the Care and Maintenance stage.
- 6.7 The work of capping roofs had been undertaken successfully ahead of schedule, and had involved 850m³ of concrete, 500 tonnes of steel and 325,912 total man hours.
- 6.8 With regards to safestore preparations, even though things look the same from the outside, things are looking quite different inside. Work had been undertaken on the roof, there had been an asbestos clean-up, and lifts and stairwells had been refurbished. The work had been quite extensive in order to make sure that the site is up to standard.
- 6.9 In relation to Fuel Element Debris – Retrieval and Encapsulation; Engineering Gate 4 due to be completed in December 2011; North FED Deplant was completed in July 2011, and Civil Work will start towards the end of 2011.
- 6.10 With regards to the Magnox Debris Handling and Storage Facility, the first shipment of fuel element debris is anticipated at the beginning of 2013, with shipments ongoing through 2013. Four drums had been sent to be recycled, but processing 100 drums in this way wasn't going to work from an economic point of view, and was not sustainable. Therefore, Dungeness is going to process the 100 drums – this will provide extra work for that site for a couple of years which is good for them, and it means that Trawsfynydd don't have to deal with those 100 drums.
- 6.11 With regards to Ponds, Pass 2 on the first lane was completed successfully in September 2011, and options were being reviewed for the final end state, by involving regulators, the Environment Agency etc, with the aim of nailing that.
- 6.12 A lot of work had been done with regards to ILW, and D Wilson explained how important and useful the robots are for this work.
- 6.13 Decommissioning is ahead of target.
- 6.14 With regards to Employment:
- | | |
|------------------------|-----|
| Total Employment | 798 |
| Staff | 195 |
| Agency/CSW | 135 |
| Contractors | 468 |
| Total with LL postcode | 425 |
- (Not all contractors work full-time at the site and contractor numbers fluctuate as projects start and come to an end)
- Mr D Wilson explained that the site is getting busier, and they were looking at local employment, and encouraging contractors to employ local workers wherever possible.
- 6.15 With regards to socio-economic matters, Mr D Wilson referred to Shaping the Future, which has received funds from the NDA and Europe. The programme, which looks at the

future beyond Magnox, will be launched to staff in January 2012, with events taking place in January and February. A temporary member of staff would be working in both Traws and Wylfa to assist in the administration of the process and to help signpost and man an information point. They would also be undertaking a staff survey as part of the benchmarking process.

- 6.16 The NDA had been looking at different ways of distributing funding and prioritising, and Magnox would have more control over allocating.
- 6.17 In terms of site visits, Lord Dafydd Elis-Thomas AM, Edwina Hart and CORWM had visited the site. These visits have been very positive, it has been good to see people from the Welsh Government coming to see Traws, and Edwina Hart herself had said that it had made a difference to see Traws in action.
- 6.18 To summarise, the safety and environmental performance had been good, major projects were progressing well and there was ongoing engagement with a wide range of stakeholders.
- 6.19 Questions
- a. Cllr D Meredydd Williams – In reference to the new Intermediate Waste Store, is that going to be full to capacity?
Mr D Wilson – there would be some spare capacity, but it's difficult to say how much as you have to take things out and mix them up for packaging etc., you could be looking at a figure of 10% possibly.
- b. Cllr Beryl Williams – In reference to the reinforcing bars in the walls, what was the situation in the original build?
Mr D Wilson – Having looked at cracks that were identified in the walls, it came apparent that some bars had broken, and that this had happened some time ago. The bottom line is, things aren't how they should be, so reinforcements have been put in place, with the aim of making sure that everything is safe until 2020.
- c. Cllr Beryl Williams – In 2016, there is no sign of the sub-station, have there any proposals been made to get rid of it?
Mr D Wilson – There are no plans to do anything with it, and it's safe to assume that it will still be there.
- d. Cllr John Richards – You mentioned in the presentation experiments regarding the type 1803 drums, can you tell us more?
Mr D Wilson – In reference to the drums, the site has been making new ones and checking older ones to make sure that the ones that are filled are safe to lift. 20 tonne loads have been put into them to check they are OK, so there are no issues concerned with dealing with those that are full.
- e. Cllr John Richards – Following question 5.12 last June regarding scabbling, and what has been said today about FED, can we have a relevant answer to that question?
Mr D Wilson – In terms of scabbling, we have a baseline and none of this is going to change the date.
- f. Mr Iolo ap Gwyn, Snowdonia National Park Authority – Looking at employment, and the employees with an LL post code in particular, LL covers a vast area, some distance from Trawsfynydd. Is it possible to get data concerning where people come from to come and work here?

Mr D Wilson – The details are probably already there, it's just a case of seeing what can be gathered and put together. It would mean more work than just pushing a button, but there's no reason why it wouldn't be possible.

- g. Mr Iolo ap Gwyn – Work is very important in order to safeguard the area for the future. In this terrible economic climate, is it likely that NDA funding will be effected?

Ms Amanda French – The NDA is funded by the Department for Energy and Climate Change. Funding had been received for four years, with this year being the first, but even though the funding had been allocated it is always going to be difficult.

- h. Cllr D Meredydd Williams – Looking ahead to 2016, are you going to clear the offices or will they be mothballed?

Mr D Wilson – The new office block would be left standing, but the offices could be mothballed for a while and reconditioned.

- i. Mr J Isgoed Williams – This question is asked frequently by members of the public, in reference to the height reduction timescale. I personally have been involved for 52 years and I can't understand the amount of cost going to maintain the site at this stage. Wouldn't it be of benefit to the NDA to make sacrifices now in order to save money by 2026? They would save millions. What does the NDA gain regarding maintaining up to 2026?

Mr D Wilson – The structural repairs are being made to keep it in good state up to 2016, and the amount of extra work being done is minimal.

Ms Amanda French – as part of the overall plan for Magnox, some sites, eg Sizewell and Hinkley, have been slowed down so that other sites such as Traws are able to carry on running. At the moment the other sites will concentrate on other things as Traws has a higher profile. It was added that 30 years had been taken off the Magnox programme by doing this.

- j. Cllr T Ellis – As it is only 2011, I am concerned about the state of the site by 2020. The situation will be worse and more expensive by then. You mentioned the roof and asbestos, what exactly is the problem with asbestos?

Mr D Wilson – It was clarified that the structures have nothing to do with radiation shielding, and that work was going ahead to repair actual buildings. There had been a bulk clean a while ago and there was no airborne asbestos, but when you disturb surfaces, you can get asbestos, which is more or less buried in the structure. It is a result of working in a building of that age. It was further asked what happens to the asbestos, and it was noted that it is taken to a licenced site.

7. Site Health Physicist report

Covered by Mr Kevin Titley, the report was made available at the back of the room.

8. Report of the Emergency Planning Consultative Committee

Covered by Mr Kevin Titley, the report was made available at the back of the room.

9. Report by the Nuclear Installation Inspectorate

9.1 Mr Chris Kemp was welcomed to give his report on the last quarters.

9.2 There had been an emergency planning event in July which included a large programme of exercises as well as a demonstration. It was disappointing that the ambulance and fire

and rescue services had not been able to take part, but he informed the group that the next exercise would be held after hours in order for these services to be included.

- 9.3 An extensive inspection had been held in July, and he was pleased with the arrangements in relation to waste management.
- 9.4 The repairing work had been inspected and discussions held. Mr Chris Kemp agreed that the walls did not pose a threat in relation to radiation, but if a panel from one of the walls broke free it could affect a building where radiation issues would apply. He mentioned that this is an extensive piece of work.
- 9.5 In October, they had been looking at investigating processes, and it was informed that the site has a good system in place for doing that.

10. Report by the Environment Agency

There was no representation and no report.

11. Report by the Food Standards Agency

There was no representation, but a report had been provided. Information had been received that there won't be representation from now on as the Government has decided that the Agency will cease to exist.

12. Any other business

- 12.1 Ms Amanda French from the NDA talked about a couple of points. She mentioned the resignation of Tony Fountain, the CEO, and notified the group that a replacement had not yet been found. A traffic light system has been put in place on the website which shows how Traws is doing, with the system being updated on a quarterly basis. The Draft Business Plan has been published and is available for consultation. In reference to site progress, Traws has seen a lot of activity, and is continuing to progress.
- 12.2 Mr Richard Cowell, a panel member of the Oversight Board in Traws was welcomed to give a presentation on Skilled Up for the Future. He extended his thanks to the Site Director for mentioning the programme earlier on. He explained that the purpose of the programme is to develop skills for the future, and that the most important elements to consider are the people who work in these sites, who are very highly skilled. The programme has been set up in partnership between the NDA, Anglesey and Gwynedd County Councils and the Welsh Government through Môn a Menai. They have received £4.2 million for the next three to four years. Things are going to happen over the next month – introductory sessions and so forth. The original funding was only made available until March 2014, but it will now be available until March 2015, which is definitely good news.

Questions

- a. Cllr Beryl Williams asked how the project could help young people, considering the high costs of education these days.
It was emphasised that this project was tailored specifically for workers in Traws and Wylfa.
- b. It was asked if there was a way of knowing how this project is developing.
Mr R Cowell replied that he would be more than happy to come and give a presentation on a regular basis to update the group.

- 12.3 Everyone was reminded that there was literature available on the table.
- 12.4 The Chairman said that Michelle Humphreys had intended to give an explanation about the new application system for socio-economic support, but as she was absent from the meeting, Mr Steve Payne, Communications Officer for Magnox was going to say a few words. As he explained, Mr D Wilson had given an explanation earlier which had covered most of the points, but he emphasised that the application process would become electronic next year, and that all the information and guidance was available.

Questions

- a. Mr J Isgoed Williams asked, in reference to applications for support, how it would be possible to ensure the applications have proper representation. For example, if there was an application from the Trawsfynydd area, would the panel have the knowledge of the area and people? Otherwise, groups may lose out.
Mr Steve Payne replied that he personally could not answer that question but he could find the answers. Mr D Wilson also noted that it would be possible to make sure that everyone gets the right support.
- b. Mr J Isgoed Williams emphasised once again the need to have proper representation in order to find out which groups are the most deserving.
Mr John Idris Jones reassured the Chairman that every plan that is presented is assessed thoroughly and that the committees look closely at all applications. He emphasised that in order to ensure we get the most benefits, we must work together and attract funds from other sources as well, but the applications themselves would be looked at in a consistent manner in order to ensure fairness to all sites.
- c. Cllr Beryl Williams wished to echo the Chairman's views, saying how difficult it is for small groups and organisations, especially with so much bureaucracy these days. The Chairman noted that he strongly believed that a system should be in place to ensure appropriate representation.
Mr John Idris Jones noted that all applications go to a central source and that Michelle Humphreys is responsible for North West Wales and that he was sure she would represent them in the best possible way.
- d. Cllr John Richards asked John Idris Jones who he was referring to when talking about 'working together'.
John Idris Jones replied people like Ian Edwards. He also emphasised how important it is to make sure that applications truly are deserving.
- 12.5 Mr Keith O'Brien gave an update on the archive, the digital stories and the proposed Conference, with the National Park (through the Bwrlwm Eryri project), and Plas Tan y Bwlch eager to collaborate. The digital stories undertaken with Bangor University had been a success, with Naomi Jones from the National Park working with staff to create digital records. The Meirionnydd Record Office was eager to go ahead with this. The Chairman said he was certain that it would be very interesting.
- 12.6 Cllr Dafydd Watts explained that representatives from local community councils had met up with Jonathan Jenkin to discuss plans with regards to the Water Power Programme in Maentwrog. Since that beneficial meeting, they had received questions about funding, the lease and pollution in the lake, and Jonathan had offered to come back to report on those issues. Following what he had understood in the meeting in Manchester, the

Chairman announced that it looks likely that the NDA will be keeping hold of what they have for a long time. The lake isn't likely to be sold off, and it will therefore remain in the care of the NDA.

13. Date and time of next meeting

The next meeting will be held on Monday 11th June 2012.

The Chairman thanked everyone for their contributions.