



Chapelcross Site Stakeholder Group

**Minutes of the Meeting held on Friday 10th June 2016 at 10.00 am
at Council Chambers, Annan Town Hall, High Street, Annan**

Present:

Cllr Ronnie Ogilvie (representing Annandale South) (Chairman)
Harry Brown (2km Resident Representative)
Jill Callander (SSG Secretary)
John Grierson (Scottish Sites Lead and Chapelcross Closure Director)
Mair Jones (Magnox Socio Economic Regional Lead, Scotland and Wales)
Cllr Sean Marshall (representing Annandale South)
Oliver Mundell MSP
Willie McNairn (2km Resident Representative)
Ian Park (Chapelcross Union Representative)
Cllr Craig Peacock (representing Annandale East and Eskdale) (Vice Chairman)
Steven Szostak ((D&G Council, CX Project Gretna, Lockerbie and Annan Project Officer)
David Stone (Scottish Environment Protection Agency, SEPA)
Ewan Young (Scottish Government)

Apologies:

Dr John Astbury (Public Health England)
Martin Brown (Representative of Federation of Community Councils)
Jonathan Burgess, Cumbria Emergency Planning
Cllr Peter Diggie (representing Annandale North)
Peter Donnelly (Office for Nuclear Regulation, ONR)
Cllr Archie Dryburgh (representing Annandale East and Eskdale)
Jamie Ferguson (Dumfries & Galloway Council, Community and Customer Services)
Bill Hamilton (Nuclear Decommissioning Agency, NDA)
Gordon McMiken (Scottish Government Rural Payments and Inspections Division)
Jason Syers (Dumfries and Galloway Council, Strategic Projects Manager)
Cllr Stephen Thompson (representing Annandale North)

In Attendance:

Sheila Adams (Minutes)
Tony Donnelly (River Annan District Salmon Fisheries Board)
Rod Edgar (Press representative, DNG Media)

1. Chairman's Opening Remarks

The Chairman welcomed everyone and, in particular, welcomed Mrs Mair Jones, Magnox Socio Economic Regional Lead for Scotland and Wales, and Mr Oliver Mundell, MSP, to their first meeting. Cllr Ogilvie congratulated Mr Mundell on his appointment.

2. Announcements and Apologies (including Declarations of Interest)

The Secretary read the Apologies as listed above.

Councillor Marshall confirmed that he is employed by Magnox Limited and was attending the meeting as a Councillor, representing Annandale South.

3. Minutes of Previous Meeting and Matters Arising

The Minutes of the meeting of 11 March 2016 were approved as a true record and proposed as such by Mr Ian Park and seconded by Cllr Craig Peacock.

Mr Steve Szostak referred to Mr Syers' comments in the Minutes of the last meeting regarding the difficulties in recruiting new Officers to the Beyond Chapelcross project and introduced himself as the successor to Mr Don Taylor.

4. Chapelcross Closure Director's Report

(including update on Magnox Socio-Economic Scheme)

Mr Grierson started his presentation by emphasising that the new Life Time Plan referred to throughout his presentation is still to be approved by the NDA. Mr Grierson presented his report using the attached slides.

Under Overall Safety Performance, Mr Grierson reported an injury-free period over six weeks which was interrupted by an employee getting their finger caught on a catch when getting out of an excavator. Magnox had hosted a Leadership Conference for 180 delegates on the theme of Target Zero, a 'Home Safe Every Day' safety initiative.

A Demonstration Emergency Exercise had been carried out with the ONR which had an adequate result, with areas of strength. While 'adequate' is the ONR's standard industry terminology, Mr Grierson described this as one of the best exercises he has seen.

Mr Grierson referred to the 'Warning Letter', described in SEPA's report, and explained 'root cause investigations' whereby a whole process is thoroughly examined and not just one person or the outcome but the process from beginning to end.

In terms of Business, the site is slightly behind schedule in the second period of the year but funds are being used efficiently. The site is now in the final stages of 'Shaping the Organisation', having progressed through transformation. Management of Change 8 has been in force since 9 May. Daily meetings to identify and resolve any issues have been reduced to weekly and will be further reduced as time goes on. In terms of workforce, 11 people who were on the displaced list wish to remain in employment on site while 9 wish to leave. All employees who undertook the training in core academic subjects to meet Sellafield requirements and sat the first round of exams have passed. One person has taken up a post with the Parent Body Organisation in Cumbria which is good news and may encourage others to apply.

Mr Grierson reiterated a summary of the Life Time Plan 2015 with the same slide used at the previous meeting:

- Requirement of the NDA following the PBO change (Consolidation Period);
- Incorporates new technologies introduced by the new PBO;
- There is an opportunity for the site to enter Care and Maintenance earlier than forecast, if funding can support;
- Phase 1 and 2 of the contract deliverable may negate the need to enter Interim Care and Maintenance configuration;
- Resource curves predict a continuous reduction in resource requirements based on completion of hazard reduction;
- Assessing the benefits of delayed demolition of Chapelcross Processing Plant following retrieval and storage of Intermediate Level Waste.

Mr Grierson described the Management Summary Schedule under the Waste Programme Overall Approach and summarised the key dates and various milestones from 2018 – 2026, as seen in the attached slides.

Deplanting of Heat Exchanger 1 and 2 is almost finished except for the removal of crossover pipes which has had to be stood down for the time being due to the protection of oystercatcher nests on site. Steelwork is being removed in sequences of four to increase efficiency with exchangers 11, 12, 13 and 14 being done. Heat exchangers 3, 4, 5 and 6 will be done next with 8 lifts done in January / February 2017 with a 1200 ton crane, which will create its own challenges in terms of weather. Under ponds remediation, flask areas are being stripped out which is currently very difficult work due to heat stresses, but appropriate measures are being put in place. Disposal packages being developed by waste projects are being assessed for the requirements of Chapelcross site. Under site restoration and land remediation, 210 tons of metal has left site. Mr Grierson explained the NDA's system of Asset Transfer to facilitate recycling and reusing machinery and equipment whereby sites enter their redundant assets online and these can be acquired by other sites, thereby saving money and resources. Mr Grierson gave the example of Sellafield receiving 96 International Standards Organisation Containers (ISO's) from Chapelcross site and Chapelcross bringing pontoons from Hunterston back into service.

With regard to Socio Economics, the year has got off to a slower start than previous years, with five applications pending, three successful and £1,100 awarded to date, all sanctioned locally on site.

Mr Grierson demonstrated Stakeholder Activity with photographs from Annan Riding of the Marches Swim Gala, Annandale and Eskdale Coach of the Year Award, Schools' Football and Cross Country Championships and Youth Women's Rugby.

Mr Grierson concluded his presentation, as always, with a safety message as nothing is more important.

Questions and Observations

Mr Park asked what is being done after the Beyond Chapelcross project to support the remaining staff. Mr Grierson confirmed that the Beyond Chapelcross project is nearing the end of its five year period and the team have been in discussion with the NDA regarding a legacy project, focussing on inward investment. Magnox will continue to support its people and give opportunities for new skills. Mr Park added that as the work scales down so does the number of employees. Mr Grierson reminded members of the nine years notice of change and emphasised that whilst Magnox as an employer has a responsibility to its employees, the employees also have a personal responsibility to help themselves. It was disappointing to note that some people chose not to complete the training courses on offer after starting them.

Cllr Peacock asked Mr Grierson how the site gets its new values across to employees and, in respect of shaping the organisation, if there are any outside opportunities for displaced employees. Mr Grierson responded that most opportunities for displaced employees are on site but both can be available. There are opportunities at Hunterston site, which is more reliant on agency and contract workers giving greater opportunities, and these are currently being offered on a month's trial period, although Mr Grierson is hoping to extend the trial period. Going forward, the whole of Scotland should be looked at and there will be opportunities for virtual work and transfers.

Cllr Marshall was pleased to hear that the ISO containers are being recycled and reused within the estate as members of the public are keen to acquire these and it is helpful to know the position. Mr Grierson confirmed that the containers are NDA assets and cannot be given away but there are mechanisms for assisting people to purchase them, through the Socio Economic Scheme, for example.

Cllr Marshall recalled when Chapelcross decommissioning was announced and CoReS was set up to assist with this and get Masterplans in place. He welcomed the proposal not to enter into Interim Care and Maintenance in 2017 and suggested that the time needs to be used now to develop other opportunities to replace the quality jobs which are being lost before the site enters into Care and Maintenance. Mr Grierson confirmed that the Life Time Plan is being constructed to allow continuity. Loss of knowledge is a concern for the Parent Body Organisation and the business needs a greater range of skills.

Cllr Marshall was pleased to note that the support provided by the Beyond Chapelcross project had been subsumed into Dumfries and Galloway Council as it is important that people know where to go for this support. He referred to the six box model in the new Life Time Plan, when the previous assumption was for a five box model. Mr Grierson confirmed that the business case is being looked at and has to be justified to the customer.

Cllr Peacock echoed Cllr Marshall's comments on moving to Care and Maintenance, omitting Interim Care and Maintenance, and was pleased that this route is being considered.

Cllr Peacock was pleased to see the sharing of best practice between sites, in this case with regard to learning on heat stress for workers, as this is talked about at National Stakeholder Groups and it is good to hear of examples of it in practice.

Cllr Peacock requested that a letter of thanks be sent from the Site Stakeholder Group to the training providers as the core academic courses provided is a valuable asset for the employees and should be acknowledged. Mr Grierson would appreciate such a letter being sent to the training providers and also recognised the support of the Beyond Chapelcross project for the funding to offer this training.

- [Action – SSG Secretariat to write to the training providers to acknowledge and thank them for the training provided to employees.](#)

Cllr Ogilvie was pleased to note an 'adequate' result from the ONR inspection, which does not sound great but is standard ONR terminology and demonstrates a good result. Mr Grierson advised of a revision to ONR terminology, grading of which was previously on a scale of 1 – 6 but will now be classified as green, amber or red, and this is likely to be seen in future reports.

5. **NDA Reports**

There was no NDA representative present at the meeting due to Purdah and the report provided in advance of the meeting was taken as read.

Questions and Observations

Cllr Ogilvie noted the Diary Dates and in particular the Scottish Supply Chain Event in Dunblane on 22 June 2016. He also thought that the NDA Archive Open Day in Wick in July would be an interesting experience if anyone is able to attend.

6. **Other reports from SSG Bodies – ONR, SEPA, Scottish Government**

ONR

The ONR report for January – March 2016, circulated with the meeting papers, was taken as read. Mr Donnelly was not present at the meeting and there were no questions or observations on the report.

SEPA

Mr Stone expanded on the Variation under the Radioactive Substances Act 1993 referred to in his report, which was circulated with the meeting papers and taken as read. The variation gives an increase in the site's annual sub-limits for gaseous tritium discharges from a number of specified outlets but will not add to the site's overall limit for the discharge of gaseous tritium. There will be no additional environmental burden or increase to the level of radiological exposure to any member of the public. The site is required to provide a monthly report on discharge levels.

In respect of the Warning letter issued to the site, SEPA was notified by the site on 26 February 2016 that a quantity of small bore pipework was disposed from the site as Out of Scope waste, when it should have been Low Level Radioactive Waste (LLW). SEPA has stressed that there are no radiological impacts on the public or environment associated with the disposal of this waste. SEPA requires assurance that the site is handling waste appropriately as decommissioning continues and has to be satisfied that there are adequate procedures in place.

Questions and Observations

Cllr Ogilvie noted that the inappropriate disposal of the waste was a process issue and asked Mr Stone if he was happy with the investigation. Mr Stone confirmed that he was and explained that pipework is a very complex process. Mr Grierson added that this related to the early assessment of the work which had introduced the error. The subsequent processes had been followed correctly. However due to the very low levels of radioactivity failed to detect the items.

Mr Park commented that there is a significant amount of knowledge on site and this is essential. Mr Stone agreed with Mr Grierson that the site has procedures in place but in this instance something slipped through the net. The radioactivity levels are so low that they can be difficult to detect. He also agreed with Mr Park's comment that experienced personnel is an essential requirement.

Cllr Peacock noted that the Site Stakeholder Group is responsible to the public and considered it reassuring that the site reported this minor issue to SEPA for transparency, which gives confidence in the whole process and is reassuring to the public and community.

Cllr Marshall noted that the waste in question was Very Low Level and in a different industry, such as a Hospital or University, this would have been disposed of as normal 'dustbin' waste. Cllr Marshall agreed with the need to have suitable and adequate records and reporting systems.

Scottish Government

Mr Young's report commenced with an update on the Scottish Cabinet, announced by the First Minister, following the Scottish Parliamentary election on 5 May 2016. Due to the resignation of the previous Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs, Food and the Environment, it became necessary for a new Cabinet Secretary to be appointed. In addition, the Minister for Climate Change and Land Reform was not re-elected. The result of this is that the First Minister has taken the opportunity to realign some of the portfolios and introduce new Cabinet Secretary posts to reflect the central focus of the Scottish Government on the education system and the economy.

The Radioactive Waste and Nuclear Decommissioning Policy unit now comes under the remit of the Cabinet Secretary for the Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform, Roseanna Cunningham. The post of Minister for Climate Change and Land Reform has not been retained.

In terms of the Higher Activity Waste (HAW) Implementation Strategy, due to the resignation of the previous Cabinet Secretary and the appointment of Roseanna Cunningham as new Cabinet Secretary, it has not been possible at this time to obtain approval to publish the Higher Activity Waste Implementation Strategy. The original plan was for the previous Cabinet Secretary to present the Implementation Strategy to the Scottish Cabinet at a Cabinet meeting and for the Scottish Government to publish it as soon as possible thereafter. Due to the changes in personnel, it will now be necessary to meet with the new Cabinet Secretary to brief her on the work done to reach this point and seek her views on the original plan in respect of the publication of the Implementation Strategy and a meeting will be scheduled. There are now limitations on Scottish Government activities during the 28 day period before the EU Referendum on Thursday 23 June. While this delay is unfortunate, it is expected that the Strategy can be formally approved soon after the EU Referendum, assuming that the HAW policy remains the same. As advised previously, the Implementation Strategy is expected to include new content on milestones, public engagement and Research and Development. The timeframe of the work involved in delivering the Strategy will take many decades. The Scottish Government aims to continue to work closely with the Site Stakeholder Groups, as the work streams emerging from the Strategy over the coming months and years ahead become clearer.

With regard to the timing of the Scottish Nuclear Sites Group meeting, due to the forthcoming Referendum on the UK's membership of the EU on Thursday 23 June 2016, the pre-election period for this commenced on Friday 27 May 2016 and will continue until the day of the Referendum. Taking this into account together with the start of the 'summer holiday' period in which the availability of the members will be fragmented, it has been decided that the next meeting of the Scottish Nuclear Sites Group will now take place on Thursday 29 September

2016. The meeting venue will be Conference Room 2, Scottish Government, Victoria Quay, Leith, Edinburgh with a start time of 10.00 am.

This date has been chosen due to a number of factors, including September Site Stakeholder Group meetings, external meetings already in the calendar, as well as the availability of a suitably sized conference room in Victoria Quay. An agenda, together with associated papers as well as a separate request for the respective update reports from the relevant individuals, will be issued closer to the date of the meeting. Mr Young advised that there are already two excellent presentations lined up on two different but relevant topics for the meeting which he is sure will be of great interest to all those who normally attend the meeting. In addition, there will be a number of new people attending as representatives of a number of organisations following changes. These include SCCORS, CoRWM and the ONR.

Questions and Observations

Cllr Marshall recalled that when the Scottish Nuclear Sites Group meetings were first set up, the Cabinet Minister was invited to attend but former Cabinet Minister, Mr Richard Lochhead, never did. He requested that Ms Cunningham is invited to attend one of the meetings. Mr Young undertook to take this back to the Scottish Government.

Cllr Marshall noted the reasons for the delay with the implementation of the Higher Activity Waste Strategy but found it frustrating that there was still not a clear definition of 'near surface, near site'. Mr Young confirmed that a definition will be built into the new Strategy.

7. External Meetings and Invitations – NDA Workshop, Manchester – 17 May 2016

Cllr Ogilvie provided verbal feedback on the NDA Workshop event in Manchester on 17 May 2016. The workshop looked at Life Time Plans and created interesting debates on remediation and site optimisation. Ten Site Stakeholder Groups were represented, with the usual statutory agencies, local authorities etc. Other Site Stakeholder Groups would like to have more involvement with their respective local authorities, an area where Chapelcross SSG appears to lead the way, with good relationships with Dumfries and Galloway Council.

Questions and Observations

Cllr Marshall asked for clarification on the site end stages discussed. Cllr Ogilvie responded that what could be left on site safely to mitigate the environmental concerns of removal was discussed but this is in the early stages. Mr Stone added that SEPA have carried out a consultation on changes to requirements for applicants to demonstrate financial provision for waste management services which includes optimisation of sites and appropriate disposal of waste. Safety cases could be made to leave infrastructure in place.

8. CoReS / Beyond Chapelcross

Mr Szostak confirmed that he has been appointed to see phase 1 of the Beyond Chapelcross project through to completion and work on the development of a second phase of the project. His particular skills-set applies to marketing and inward investment.

He advised that the CoReS meeting will now take place on 1 July so there is nothing to report at this stage.

Mr Szostak advised that the Chapelcross Development Framework has now been adopted and consists of twelve clear actions to pull together a Memorandum of Agreement between Scottish Enterprise, Dumfries and Galloway Council, Business Gateway, Magnox and the NDA. The relevant parties are expected to sign up to a Memorandum of Agreement in the next 2-3 months and will then bring forward a bidding document looking for funding support. In respect of potential enquiries for land, all agencies are dealing with different clients and timescales and Mr Szotak will have responsibility for this area within the local authority and will network with others regarding opportunities. Phase 2 of the Development Framework will deal with the site and infrastructure improvements. There are Enterprise Zones in Newcastle, Lancashire and Carlisle, which gives a number of competitive advantages which would normally be very worrying.

It will be important to market Chapelcross site and develop a specific package which could complement, not compete with, other sites in order to attract investors. There is also the potential for close development with Cumbria to share financial opportunities. There are currently three enquirers who have expressed an interest in developing.

Questions and Observations

Cllr Ogilvie considered it important to raise the profile of the project to get the buy-in of the local authority, Scottish Government and UK Government.

Cllr Marshall noted that Phase 2 of Beyond Chapelcross will become the focus but has stressed the importance to Mr Syers of the delivery of Phase 1 of the project. Cllr Marshall added that the NDA is very conscious that the Site Stakeholder Group and the local community has a say in what is developed. He considered the most important thing to be to get to 2025 unhindered. Cllr Marshall welcomes the fact that the NDA is in agreement to the development of the site but stressed the need to ensure that the community can live with whatever is decided with the site and there will be a greater emphasis on governance required during Phase 2 of the project. Mr Szostak responded that Gretna is on target for completion at the end of October 2016 and the consultation process on Annan High Street is still ongoing. Mr Szostak's focus will be on taking Phase 2 forward. Cllr Marshall noted that the two projects mentioned in Annan and Gretna are not the only ones and there is a list of projects in the Masterplans still to be delivered.

Cllr Peacock shared Cllr Marshall's concerns regarding the delivery of projects identified in the Masterplans. These were long-term documents containing many projects, only one of which has been delivered to date. He is particularly concerned about Gretna, which was the first Masterplan to be completed but the last to be delivered. Gretna Masterplan Steering Group is currently discussing the priority of delivery of the projects.

Mr Mundell appreciated the confidentiality around the three live enquiries but asked for more information on the scale and profile of the businesses. Mr Szostak responded that the three enquirers to date are manufacturers which would add value to the economy. The next stage for him is identification, targeting and prioritisation of sectors for the future.

Mr Park asked if Chapelcross could be awarded a special designation to attract funding. Cllr Peacock replied that Annandale and Eskdale has special European status (Regional Selective Assistance) for applying for funding. Mr Szostak advised that there will be 47 or 48 Enterprise Zones in England by the end of 2017. This gives advantages such as business rates subsidy and Corporation Tax benefits. Simplified Planning Zones is another opportunity for businesses in Scotland. Mr Szostak suggested that Chapelcross would not be bidding to become an Enterprise Zone but rather to bring in elements of all three designations (Enterprise Zones, Regional Selective Assistance and Simplified Planning Zones) to give a Unique Selling Point. A business case will be made to include achieving a status to ease the cost of firms locating on to the site. Mr Park noted that this was not in Mr Young's remit but asked that he and Mr Mundell take note of this. Mr Mundell advised that he is aware of four Enterprise Zones in Scotland and he would be happy to assist in pushing this forward. Mr Mundell added that transport and links to the site is another important consideration and access should form part of the conversations.

Cllr Ogilvie commented that the Scottish Government is looking at streamlining the Planning process again.

9. Any Other Business

Mrs Callander reminded members that the resignation of Mr Jim Nesbitt from the Group had left a vacancy for a representative of the Federation of Community Councils. She has discussed this again with the Chair of the Federation who has advised that there were no volunteers for the position so Mr Martin Brown will be the sole representative for the Federation. It is aware that there is an additional position available should anyone wish to attend.

10. Public Forum

Cllr Ogilvie invited comments from the Public Gallery.

Mr Tony Donnelly of River Annan District Salmon Fisheries Board introduced himself. He had attended the meeting to glean a greater understanding on the environmental aspects of the site. He advised members that he will contact individuals within the local authority, Magnox and the NDA to bring to their attention the downgrading of the River Annan by SEPA to poor ecological status under the Water Framework Directive, on the basis of fish ecology due to impassability of Milnby Weir fish pass to eels and lamprey, which are both protected species under The Habitats Directive.

Mr Grierson advised Mr Donnelly to contact the NDA directly as Milnby Weir is not within Magnox's workscope. Mr Donnelly understood that the previous structure was passable but the fish pass is a short term fix. There are questions regarding ownership which was originally believed to be BNFL. Cllr Marshall considered that the question of removal of the weir would require widespread community consultation and engagement and suggested contacting Scottish Water in the first instance as the bulk of the weir is in the river. Mr Donnelly noted that when the structure received planning permission the water authority was part of the local authority, which then became West of Scotland Water and now Scottish Water. His understanding is that the local authority was to facilitate and administer the structure but the costs were paid by BNFL. If BNFL paid for the construction and maintenance surely responsibility for the structure must now belong to Magnox. Mr Grierson could understand this concept from the history but advised that the situation has changed as all assets and liabilities were transferred to the NDA in 2004 and Magnox does not have any assets, other than staff. Mr Donnelly agreed that there has been a complex history but the structure must be on an inventory somewhere.

Cllr Ogilvie advised Mr Donnelly to write directly to both the NDA and Scottish Water. Magnox representatives will attend a meeting, if requested by the NDA.

11. Next Meeting – Friday 10th June 2016

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending, wished them a safe return journey and confirmed the date of the next as Friday, 9th September 2016.

The meeting closed at 11.55 pm.