

## Bradwell Site

### Draft Minutes of the 71st Local Community Liaison Council (LCLC) Meeting

Held virtually via Zoom at 10am  
Wednesday 8 September 2021

**Present:**

LCLC Executive:

**Brian Main**  
**Cllr John White**  
Mrs Nikki Harman

**LCLC Chairman**  
**Deputy Chairman**  
Minute Taker

LCLC Members:

**Cllr Peter Banks**  
Jonathan Jenkin  
Peter Reynolds  
Sohail Ashraf  
Kirsty Ramsden  
Bill Hamilton  
**Cllr Paul Burgess**  
**Cllr Carlie Mayes**  
**Cllr John Noble**  
Dr Andrew Blowers  
Donna Walton  
Varrie Blowers  
**Cllr John Akker**

**West Mersea Town Council**  
Nuclear Decommissioning Authority  
Environment Agency  
Bradwell Site Director  
Magnox Communications  
Magnox Communications  
**Althorne Parish Council**  
**Maldon District Council**  
**Bradwell Parish Council**  
Blackwater Against New Nuclear Group  
Braintree District Council  
Blackwater Against New Nuclear Group  
**West Mersea Town Council**

**Bold type - denotes voting members**

Members of the public in attendance:

Bea Chandler  
Pam Grimes

**1. INTRODUCTION**

3129 The Chairman Brian Main opened the meeting at 10:00am. Brian welcomed those present, including those new to the meeting.

**2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

3130 Brian Main confirmed apologies had been received from:

Ian Clarke	Member of the Public
Judy Lea	Maldon Society
Cllr Julie Gooding	Rochford Borough Council
Cllr Kevin Lagan	Maldon District Council

**3. APPROVAL OF THE PREVIOUS MINUTES**

3131 The LCLC minutes resulting from the 70<sup>th</sup> Meeting held on 3 March 2021 were approved.

**4. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE PREVIOUS MINUTES**

3132 Brian Main raised a concern that the Terms of Reference for Bradwell LCLC needs to be reviewed. It was agreed the Magnox SSG Secretariat will circulate the current Terms of Reference before next meeting and for the document to be considered for review on the next Agenda.

**5. SITE REPORT: Update**

3133 Sohail Ashraf, Bradwell Site Director, provided outstanding answers to questions raised in the LCLC 70<sup>th</sup> meeting on 3 March 2021.

3134 Minute 3101:

There are generators on site for Outage and emergency use. Everyday electrical supply is from National Grid.

3135 Minute 3102:

- There are strict control measures in line with EA compliance arrangements, which are well documented.
- There have been 130 packages (110 from Dungeness) delivered to Bradwell.
- There are up to 30 people on site during outage and approximately 8 people in normal operations.
- Staff are on site 24/7 to provide waste support and security.

3136 Sohail Ashraf gave a PowerPoint presentation to update attendees about site activities since the previous LCLC meeting. The following key points were noted:

**3137 Safety and Environment**

- Continue to adhere to Government guidance on Covid
- Recent site safety campaigns have included working at height and degrading assets, forthcoming campaigns include transport and vehicle safety
- There has been one first aid incident since last report

- Strengthened arrangements and worked with Environment Agency to ensure wider aspects of learning captured and considered following Draft Radioactive Substances Compliance Assessment Report (RASCAR)
- RASCAR (reported March 2021 LCLC) – liquid believed to be groundwater, discovered in September 2019 in a container of low-level waste consigned from Bradwell to off-site waste treatment facility

3138 **Security Strategy**

- Reviewing current security strategy to support future improvements / innovation
- Will work with regulators and other stakeholders, including Bradwell LCLC, over the next few months

3139 **Bradwell – 1,000 days**

- 1,000 days since the site formally entered care and maintenance
- Opportunity to celebrate the innovation, dedication and the teamwork of all those involved thank you for your continued support

3140 **Care & Maintenance: Annual inspection**

- Third Bradwell C&M mobilisation continues to December
- Includes:
  - inspecting integrity of buildings, instrumentation and maintenance systems
  - in-service plant and equipment items maintenance
- Around 700 maintenance routines delivered at Bradwell throughout a typical year. This mobilisation covers around 200 tasks

3141 **Magnox socio-economics – 2021/22**

- £1,020,035 funding across 12 Magnox sites this year
- No new applications for Bradwell to date although discussions on-going. Updates from last year's recipients:
  - Saltmarsh Deli Community Interest Company (£27k) – created post of consolidator operator and offers local produce hampers
  - Keep It Local (£18k) – £12k remaining to be allocated
  - Sense of Place Coordinator (£40k/annum over three years) – preparing for release of second tranche of funding

For information, and to check eligibility, visit:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/magnox-working-with-our-communities>

3142 Sohail Ashraf opened the meeting for questions.

3143 Cllr Carlie Mayes asked what feedback do Magnox require once grant funding has been given through the Social - Economic Fund?

Kirstie from Magnox Communications answered this question and confirmed a feedback report and photos are a requirement.



## Local Community Liaison Council

3144 Brian Main asked when there will be an opportunity to visit the site.

**Action:** Sohail Ashraf will propose dates to the LCLC.

3145 Cllr John Noble asked about the strategy for reducing Waste Operative personnel.

Sohail Ashraf is unable to answer this now, still looking into numbers.

3146 Cllr Paul Burgess referred to the trench breach in the Environment Agency' Report; would like to be comforted that adequate controls have been commissioned and there has been no further breaches.

Sohail Ashraf was able to confirm that repairs have been effective and will be tested at outage.

3147 Cllr Peter Blanks referred to outage phase and would like clarification on terminology. Sohail Ashraf explained "outage" means mobilising a team for maintenance inspection.

3148 Andrew Blowers referred to ILW store and would like to be provided with a statement of where and how many packages have been delivered and what the future capacity and shipments will be.

Sohail Ashraf had already confirmed the mosaic packages statistics in the previous LCLC meeting.

Paul Burgess confirmed:

130 Bradwell

110 Dungeness

25 Empty

260 Overall Total.

**Action:** Sohail Ashraf thanked Paul Burgess for confirming and confirmed that Bradwell is virtually at capacity and will confirm up-to-date figures at next LCLC meeting.

3149 Cllr John Akker referred to the slides about Security and Safety and asked a. any update on the GDF in Cumbria and b. the ongoing issues of flooding on Bradwell site.

Jonathan Jenkin (NDA) answered point a. in that no further developments can be provided.

**Action:** Sohail answered point b. in saying he would have to refer to his team and report back.

3150 Cllr Carlie Mayes asked whether flooding/climate change, subsidence/heave issues has been researched before the storage facility was built on site.

Sohail confirmed that the safety case was investigated prior to permission to build the ISF Building and continues to be monitored.

3151 Brian Main thanked Sohail Ashraf for the opening presentation.

## 6. NUCLEAR DECOMMISSIONING AUTHORITY (NDA) UPDATE

3152 Jonathan Jenkin provided a presentation and main points noted:

### 3153 COVID 19 Response

- NDA Group continues to respond to the impacts of the Covid pandemic
- Good progress in restarting site operations across the NDA Group since the first lockdown
- Reduction in staff presence at some sites (e.g., Sellafield)
- NDA Corporate Centre staff continuing to work from home except essential office access
- Health, safety and wellbeing of staff remains our top priority NDA are reorganising into a more cohesive structure, "One NDA", this is to ensure the subsidiaries are working collaboratively to a business plan.

### Business Plan 2020-2024

- Sets out NDA Group spending plans and priorities for financial years 2021 – 2024
- Incorporates 2020 Spending Review settlement

### Annual Reports and Accounts

The NDA's Annual Report and Accounts has been recognised by the National Audit Office (NAO) as an example of best practice amongst public sector organisations.

### Strategy 4

- Our Strategy must be reviewed at least every 5 years.
- Current Strategy was published in 2016.
- Final approved Strategy published 31 March 2021.

### NDA Sustainability Report

We published our first Sustainability Report on 8 March 2021. We have a unique role, charged with the mission to clean up the UK's earliest nuclear sites safely, securely and cost-effectively - but we also have a unique opportunity to invest in our people, our communities and by protecting the environment for long term future use. We are committed to making the journey towards delivering our mission a sustainable one.

3154 Jonathan Jenkin opened the floor to questions on the NDA for the report.

3155 Cllr Carlie Mayes referred to the Consultation Strategy and Business Plan and wanted to know the percentage return on feedback from stakeholders.

Jonathan Jenkin was unable to give the figure and will report back findings next meeting.

3156 Cllr John Akker what does the NDA mean and refer to in "public interest" and community involvement?

Jonathan Jenkin advised public interest and community engagement is very important to the NDA. Therefore LCLC/SSG are chaired independently, and members of the public are free to attend. The NDA are accountable to Government.

3157 Cllr Peter Blanks wanted clarification on how the existing EDF owned Nuclear Sites come to

Decommissioning where the funding is coming from – will it be from the taxpayer as of the Magnox sites?

Jonathan Jenkin advised that EDF have a liability fund and had to financially secure and provide the decommissioning of their sites. The Government may have to top up funds to ensure it covers estimated costs and this will be transferred to NDA.

- 3158 Andrew Blowers commented on the NDA Strategy and believed it should give prioritisation to Bradwell for site clearance.

Jonathan Jenkin assured Andrew Blowers that the timescale for final site clearance has not been set in stone. Bradwell is on a flexible strategy and reviewed on a site-by-site basis across the fleet. Impacts of climate change will be one of the factors to prioritise over site over another.

- 3159 Cllr Paul Burgess asked whether funds are secure.

Jonathan Jenkin assured that NDA funding is guaranteed for decommissioning of Magnox fleet.

- 3160 Brian Main thanked Jonathan Jenkin for his report.

## 7. ENVIRONMENT AGENCY SITE INSPECTOR'S REPORT

## 8. LCLC CHAIRMAN'S FEEDBACK

- 3161 Peter Reynolds shared a report and highlighted the following:

**Coronavirus:** Nuclear Site Regulation operational update The Environment Agency's priority remains to protect people and the environment. We have set out how we are doing this across the many areas we regulate, advise on or interact with the public, for example, flood defence, flood warning, environmental sampling, permitting, angling and fisheries, waterways management and billing (see GOV.UK).

In brief: We are fully operational, with most Environment Agency staff working from home.

Our frontline staff have returned to near normal regulatory work including physical inspections.

**Communications with Magnox:** Bradwell site is managed by Magnox staff based at Sizewell A. In response to the Covid19 pandemic we held weekly teleconferences with Sizewell A environmental staff.

**Inspections:** We undertook an inspection (at Sizewell A, on 18 August 2021) of the Bradwell management system regarding records management and knowledge retention. We found the arrangements generally satisfactory and did not find non-compliance.

### **Enforcement:**

**NON-CONFORMING WASTE DISPOSAL** As noted in our report to the LCLC in March 2021, free liquid was discovered in September 2019 in a container of low-level waste (LLW) consigned in May 2019 from Bradwell to an off-site waste treatment facility. Rainwater had entered the waste package while it was stored outdoors at Bradwell in a container that was not fully weatherproof.

The presence of free liquid contravened the waste acceptance criteria of the receiving site. We recorded CCS Category 3 (minor environmental impact) breaches of two permit conditions relating to the need for management systems to be sufficient to achieve compliance with the permit, and to the requirement to use best available techniques to minimise the volume of radioactive waste generated on Bradwell site, and a CCS Category 4 (negligible environmental impact) breach of the permit requirement to meet the conditions for acceptance of the site receiving the waste. By the time the free liquid was discovered all accessible low level radioactive waste (LLW) had been disposed of from Bradwell site and all intermediate level

waste (ILW) was securely stored. However, the event provides opportunity for institutional learning to avoid similar problems at other decommissioning sites in future.

There are many aspects involved in safely managing radioactive waste as a site enters its end-state. We expect ongoing work will be required to safely manage waste under these conditions.

We will continue to engage with Magnox on this topic with aim of optimising radioactive waste management arrangements.

**WATER LEAK INTO VAULTS COMPLEX A** water leak into the vaults complex at Bradwell site was detected in September 2020. Magnox identified the source of the leak - groundwater entering the vaults via an inadequately sealed trench - early on and developed an engineering solution to stop water ingress.

Repair work was completed by the end of March 2021. Magnox have pumped some of the effluent from the vaults into storage containers, ahead of disposal, and intend to complete the work within the next two months. Magnox took samples of the water for analysis, which showed that low levels of radioactivity were present. The ingress of groundwater into the vaults generated additional radioactive liquid effluent, although the levels of radioactivity in the effluent are low. This breached the condition of the Bradwell site permit that requires Magnox to use best available techniques (BAT) to minimise the volume and activity of radioactive waste produced on site that requires disposal on or from the site. We recorded a CCS Category 4 (insignificant impact) breach of this condition because we assessed the environmental impact of the incident as low. We consider the root cause of the event to be inadequate engineering to prevent avoidable radioactive waste generation. We noted that the engineering systems designed to detect ingress worked as intended and provided early warning of the presence of liquid in the vaults. We accepted that the fault would have been repaired sooner if it were not for the restrictions in place due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

We recorded a CCS Category 3 (minor environmental impact) of the site's permit condition requiring Magnox to maintain in good repair the systems and equipment used to prevent avoidable generation of radioactive waste that requires disposal. We are monitoring the work to complete recovery of the effluent from the vaults and keep the asset inspection and maintenance work at the site (primarily carried out during an annual campaign in September/October each year) under review.

Peter Reynolds opened the floor to questions

- 3162 John White referred to the water leaks into the vaults – How do you seal completely?  
Sohail Ashraf agreed to find out how the vault was sealed and come back to the LCLC group.
- 3163 Brian Main thanked Peter Reynolds for his presentation.
- 3164 Brian Main advised that the SSG Chairs met via zoom virtual meeting, but he did not attend.  
John White  
attended and his feedback notes were the following:
- Government enquiry to Magnox decommissioning contract by Professor Holliday:
    - Procurement team not to standard.
    - No self interest
    - The variations of sites were complicated to understand.

## 9. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

3165 Cllr Pam Grimes made a general comment that the terminology and acronyms used throughout this meeting is very hard for someone new to the meeting.

**10. DATE AND TIME FOR NEXT MEETING**

3166 Brian Main proposed Wednesday 2 March 2022

**11. Close**

3167 Chairman closed the meeting at 11.55 am.