



HARWELL CHILTON CAMPUS LOCAL STAKEHOLDERS MEETING

Minutes of the 98th meeting held virtually on Thursday 16th September 2021.

PRESENT

Chairman	Mr Chris Broad, Chilton Parish Council
Vice Chairman	Dr John Sharp, East Hendred Parish Council
Secretary	Ms Emma Burwood, Magnox Comms
Minutes	Mr Matthew Grozier, Magnox

Cllr D Boughton-Waite	Harwell Parish Council
Reg Waite	Member of the public
John Wilkins	Member of the public
Paul Bryant	West Berkshire Council
Matthew Grozier	Minute Taker
Gill Brown	Magnox
Jonathan Jenkin	NDA
Gary Reid	Magnox
Matthew Castle	EA
Amy Richardson	Magnox
Emma Burwood	Magnox
Andrew Munro	Magnox
Stuart Clark	Magnox
Duncan Rogers	Harwell Campus
Joe Kelleher	Science and Technology Facilities Council
Derek Whitmell	Upton Parish Council
Christine Williamson	Medical Research Council

1. Chairman's Remarks

- Chris Broad welcomed all attendees to the 98th Harwell SSG meeting and opened by recognising the slow return to normality following Covid-19, discussions would take place with the NDA to understand how future meetings would operate i.e.in person rather than virtual.
- Work at Harwell has continued at an impressive rate despite covid restrictions which shall be covered in later in the meeting by Andy Munro, Harwell Site Director. This includes a video on the demolition of Building 551.
- The SSG Chairs had a meeting in April where NDA findings and changes implemented following the Holliday report were discussed.
- Regular catch-up sessions with the site, have been very useful and have ensured continuous engagement.
- In June there was a virtual NDA SSG meeting, the concern raised was a perceived threat to secretarial support that the SSGs get. The secretarial support is key to the SSGs and this perceived threat has subsequently been removed. There was also discussion over an ONR review but unfortunately the ONR are not with us today so we will not have an update on that.
- A local item of interest is a new food and drink outlet opening up in September on the campus, this can be used by the local community.
- Of wider campus interest Angus Horner is stepping down from the Campus Joint Venture. Angus has done an amazing job in changing the campus and transforming it to a site of international importance.

2. Apologies for Absence

Susan Adams	Magnox
Jon Blackmore	Magnox
Neil Doggett	ONR

3. Minutes of 97th SSG meeting

These were taken as a true and accurate record of the meeting.

4. Magnox Harwell Licensed Site Matters

Site Director Report – Andy Munro

Covid-19

- A reminder that the site originally shut down in March 2020 when the first pandemic lockdown was announced. That shutdown continued for 16 weeks, with only a few members of staff on site for security and maintenance. Many staff continued to work from home during this time.
- The site was back to full operations by mid-September 2020 with the majority of staff working from home and those on site adhering to the covid company standard (S-192). Although the company has relaxed restrictions a little the majority of Magnox covid restrictions are still in place to ensure workplace transmission is eliminated as far as reasonably practicable.

Site Operations

- Each Magnox site has been assigned an operational level from level 1 (full operations) to level 5 (full site shutdown) with Harwell currently Level 1. This will enable the company to adjust site operations based on local covid outbreaks more effectively.
- The site has had the full requested budget this year and indications are that the site will get its requested funding for next year enabling all planned programmes to progress.
- Across Harwell and Winfrith 70 new members of staff have been recruited which is a huge number of new staff to site with more onboarding and vacancies published.

Health, Safety, Security, Environment, and Quality

- Total recordable incident rate (TRIR) – we now have a TRIR of 0.27 (0.35 at the last SSG meeting). This measures the numbers of injuries against hours worked and our target is to return to a TRIR of 0. There have been no injuries since February 2021.
- Regulatory Issues:
 - There are some outstanding issues regarding Site Emergency Arrangements as covid restrictions have limited what can be done. There are a series of ONR witnessed exercises planned to address this.
 - The management systems improvement project has seen good progress.
- Environment:
 - There has been difficulty in recruiting a new head of environment, the previous incumbent has been seconded back into the role until a permanent replacement is found.
 - Errors were noticed in our historic pollution inventory submitted to the EA and this resulted in the inventory being submitted late which is a breach of the permit, no environmental breaches but the EA had to take appropriate action.

Current Programmes

- Nuclear materials transfer (NMT) – Transportation of legacy waste to Sellafield is our biggest hazard reduction project on site:
 - 4857 drums shipped to date (4707 in March this year).
 - 73.1% of total drums (70.8% in March).
 - 27% of activity removed (23.4% in March).
 - Target to be 75-77% complete by March 2022.
 - Project completion in 2024-2025.
- Retrieval of remote handled intermediate levelled waste (RHILW):
 - Intermediate level waste retrievals – 192 tubes remaining.
 - Waste Encapsulation Plant (WEP) active commissioning resumed – 38% complete.
- Legacy waste shipments (low level and very low level waste):
 - Getting waste ready to ship off site with gamma assay characterisation ongoing.
 - 25 shipments scheduled by the end of March.
- Liquid Effluent Treatment Plant (LETP) land remediation:
 - We are on track for contractor site demobilisation by the end of the calendar year.
 - Since May 2021 6,000 metric tons of waste material has been removed.
- Off-site discharge pipe disposal:
 - Disposal of off-site discharge pipeline commenced in June 2021.
 - Undergoing off-site decontamination using ultra high pressure water jetting at contractor site.
 - Material will be recycled into metal market.
 - 192 pipes shipped off-site to-date (12 pipes per shipment).
 - Completed by December 2022.
- Decommissioning programmes currently underway:
 - B220, our biggest decommissioning project. The decommissioning planning is well underway and we are down to a number of options that will be assessed and the final option selected in October. The writing of the radiological characterisation plan is underway.
 - B459, another legacy radiological facility is progressing with the decommissioning planning as well.
 - B418, the old linear accelerator by the fermi gate is currently undergoing asbestos surveys and will commence physical characterisation and post operational clean out activities this financial year.
 - B351, we have some ancillary buildings that we are looking to demolish with physical work on B351.15/.28 starting February 2022.
 - B404, work due to commence on planning the decommissioning and demolition in January 2022.
 - B551, this facility has now been demolished and accounts of 70% of the footprint reduction across Magnox. Completed on budget and 4-weeks ahead of schedule but most importantly with an exemplary safety record this project is an example for future projects across sites.

Emma Burwood delivered the update on the Magnox socio economic scheme

- This year we have only received two local applications to date, Chilton girl guides and the River room project in Sutton Courtenay. There is still money available from the scheme, so please encourage any local community groups to apply if they fit the criteria. <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/magnox-working-with-our-communities>.
- This year the scheme will probably close towards the middle of February 2022.

Closing Comments

- It has been a fantastic 6 months for the site since the last SSG and hopefully work on decommissioning the site will continue to progress as it has.

A time-lapse video showing the decommissioning of B551 was shown to the SSG.

Questions:

Q1: How much time has been lost to the site long term plan as a direct result of covid.

A1: It's difficult to quantify but currently we think 12-18 months.

Q2: When can the lifetime plan you refer to be shown to the Harwell Campus and our development colleagues to aid the planning of future developments?

A2: It needs to be confirmed and have final approvals and sign-off but hopefully the first half of next year.

5. Reports

a) Nuclear Decommissioning Authority (NDA)– Jonathan Jenkin

- With the easing of the Covid lockdown restrictions there has been a steady return to the office and going forward the NDA expects a progressive return to more face-to-face engagement with stakeholders and sites but augmented with the use of virtual technology as has been used during lockdown.
- With respect to Site Stakeholder Groups there is going to be a consultation with the different stakeholder groups to understand what the stakeholder groups want going forward.
- The NDA have published their annual report and accounts from 2020 – 2021 on 21st July. Significant progress was able to be made but total expenditure was understandably lower than budgeted.
- The NDA Strategy 4 was officially published on 18th March following ministerial approval. This was following an extensive 12-week consultation process.
- The NDA Business Plan (2021 – 2024) was published on the 22nd March. This was following an extensive 12-week consultation process.

- The first NDA Sustainability Report was published on the 8th March. This covers how the group is investing in people, communities, and protecting the environment for the long term.
- The NDA has published its most recent Gender Pay Gap Report 2019/20 on the 24th March. Across the group the pay gap has reduced but the report covers five main focus areas to address the gender pay gap.
- As part of the NDA group development the NDA has announced a new top team for the group – the NDA Group Leadership Team (GLT). The aims of this group are to work more collaboratively across the group and break down some of the barriers that have existed between the operating barriers. This comprises the NDA corporate centre CEO and executives and CEOs / MDs of each of the subsidiary companies.
- Low Level Waste Repository became an NDA subsidiary operating company on 12th July. This is a step towards creating a single waste division early next year.
- Dounreay also transferred to NDA ownership on the 1st April.
- Dounreay Hazard Reduction is making good progress with 1,810 tonnes of radioactive coolant retrieved from the Prototype Fast Reactor. This project is on the critical path for the decommissioning of the site.
- Nuclear Transport Solutions;
 - A new NDA group transport company launched on 30th April 2021.
 - Brings together Direct Rail Services, International Nuclear Services, and Pacific Nuclear Transport Solutions.
- As was recently announced the NDA is due to decommission the seven Advanced Gas Cooled Reactors. EDF energy shall defuel the reactors when they cease operations and then the reactors shall be handed over to Magnox to decommission and demolish the reactors.
- Government and NDA have published their response to the Magnox Inquiry and Departmental Review. Key changes since 2017 in response to the report include:
 - New operating model
 - Strengthened legal, commercial, and assurance functions
 - New group leadership team
- The Government published the departmental review. This is a periodic check that Government departments carry out which reviews their arm's length bodies to ensure they are fit for purpose. This made 27 detailed recommendations and in the NDA will be reporting how they are intending to respond to those recommendations, it did however broadly endorse the NDAs continuing function as an arm's length body.

- The “Sort and Seg” competition which was launched in July 2020 had been increased from having £3.9m to award to £5.5m. This was due to the high level of interest in the competition. Successful companies include:
- NDA supply chain event has been moved to the 3rd February 2022, this has been delayed twice due to Covid-19.

No Questions

b) Environment Agency (EA) – Matthew Castle

- Matthew started by highlighting key areas from the EA report.
- Covid-19 is still with us so for the time being the EA advice continues to be to work from home where possible. But there are currently no restrictions on site inspections as long as a risk assessment is in place.
- There are four planned inspections this year:
 - Quarter 1 Inspection covers gaseous discharge systems (Completed 29th June).
 - Quarter 2 inspection covers the environmental monitoring programme (Rearranged to the 20th September).
 - Quarter 3 inspection covers environmental leadership and capability (Date TBD).
 - Quarter 4 inspection covers radioactive waste management which is planned to be undertaken jointly with ONR (Date TBD).
- The EA were satisfied with the outcomes of the Quarter 1 inspection and there were no non-compliances with the permit or unexpected findings. Some advice was provided. There was some good practice noticed with respect to the condition of the plant and sampling equipment.
- At the last SSG a potential non-compliance was reported with respect to the submission of the pollution inventory. Magnox reported a number of errors and in correcting the data it meant they couldn't meet the deadline for submission. The data was submitted to the new date specified when the error was reported. Magnox carried out an investigation into the event and identified some improvements around the procedures and training which should mitigate against a reoccurrence. This was confirmed as a non-compliance as it is a permit requirement but taking account of the proactive approach from Magnox (reporting the errors, putting corrective measures in place), and the fact no damage was had to the environment the event was classed a category 4 (minor breach).
- Another event was reported with respect to an aqueous discharge. This is not Harwell specific but affects all sites and the investigation is ongoing. The report will be shared at the next SSG.

Questions:

Q1: In the last SSG there was a discussion of a the discharge of oil into the Lydebank brook. Was the source of this discharge discovered?

A1: Magnox conducted a full investigation and couldn't find the original source of the oil discharge. The important point is they took the right actions to stop the discharge and stop the oil spreading down the brook.

6. Campus Matters

a) Harwell Campus Joint Venture Partnership – Duncan Rogers

- The Zeus building that was completed this year has received an award for best commercial development (OxProp) which we are all proud of. The first letting has been secured in that building to a vaccine manufacturing company, another major letting is nearing completion.
- Other developments ongoing:
 - Quad Two building well under way and project for completion February 2022.
 - Starburst Garden is a landscaped area that is completed.
 - The BEPO building is on programme and projected to complete next month.
- Building 150 which is of interest to the NDA as they are taking up occupation, is progressing and is due to complete in Q4 this year.
- Project starting next month to build a number of buildings near the lagoon area.
- The DiSH food and beverage outlet located just of Curie avenue will be opening up next week and that is an exciting addition to the campus.
- There are a number of projects in early planning stages.
- The European Space Agency has received planning approval for their conference centre.
- STFC have also received approval for the national quantum computing centre in April.

Questions:

Q1: Can anything be said about how Harwell based companies have contributed to the manufacturing and production of covid vaccines?

A1: Unfortunately, I cannot add a huge amount to what is already out there. A lot of companies on the site were involved in the initial response in making or innovating instrumentation such as ventilators when the NHS was under extreme stress. The company leasing out part of the Zeus building was involved in the manufacture of the AstraZeneca vaccine and will be going forward.

b) Science and Technology Facilities Council – Joe Kelleher

- No presentation today but questions can be answered.

No Questions

8. Any Other Business

No other business.

9. Next Meeting

Date for the next meeting (TBC)

Chris Broad – Chairman

Emma Burwood – Communications and Socio-Economic Lead

Matthew Grozier – Minutes

17th September 2021