



HARWELL CHILTON CAMPUS LOCAL STAKEHOLDERS MEETING

Minutes of the 97th meeting held virtually on Thursday 11th March 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

ATTENDEES

Mr Chris Broad	Chair
Dr John Sharp	Deputy Chair
Cllr Daphne Boughton-Waite	Harwell Parish Council
Cllr Reg Waite	Member of the Public
Mrs Julie Pearce	Oxfordshire Federation of Women's Institutes
Mr Jon Blackmore	Magnox
Cllr Derek Whitmell	Upton Parish Council
Dr John Wilkins	Member of the Public
Mr Paul Bryant	West Berkshire Council
Mr Matthew Grozier	Magnox
Mrs Caroline Leadbeater-Hart	Magnox
Ms Gill Brown	Magnox
Mr Jonathan Jenkin	NDA
Mr Matthew Castle	EA
Ms Emma Burwood	Magnox
Mr Neil Doggett	ONR
Dr Andrew Munro	Magnox
Mr Stuart Clark	Magnox
Mrs Saranne Postans	UKAEA
Mr Joe Kelleher	Science and Technology Facilities Council
Mr Robin Hewatt-Jaboor	Magnox
Mr Paul Mann	Oxfordshire County Council
Mrs Saranne Postans	UKAEA
Mr David Pryor	Didcot First
Ms Lindsay Sedwards	Nuvia

1. Chairman's Remarks

- Chris Broad welcomed all attendees to the first virtual Harwell SSG meeting. Recognising that the pandemic has affected and disrupted everyone, including the pattern of the SSG meetings. This is the first SSG since the start of the pandemic (96th SSG meeting occurred on 27th February 2020).
- NDA made funds available to local communities for Coronavirus support, these funds were managed by the district councils and the Vale of White Horse District Council, applied for and was given funding for food packages to be delivered throughout the year in the local area.
- Since the commencement of the first lockdown there have been update meetings with Andy Munro and Emma Burwood, these have taken place every two months.
- Virtual SSG chair and vice chair meetings have taken place with the last occurring on the 25th February where the Terms of Reference for this group was discussed. There will be a further meeting shortly to finalise.
- The final Holliday report on the investigation into the Magnox contract has been published – although the NDA has clearly acted on the interim report, the final report is very important. Chris expects the SSG chairs and vice chairs to be briefed on the report.
- Finally, Chris commented on this year being the 75th anniversary of the Harwell Site, a site from where all things nuclear in the UK originated, and potentially the most important nuclear site in Europe.

2. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Paul Stevenson, Duncan Rogers, Christine Williamson, and Susan Adams.

3. Minutes of 96th SSG meeting

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

4. Magnox Harwell Licensed Site Matters **Site Director's Site Report – Andy Munro**

75th Anniversary

- We are celebrating the 75th Anniversary of Harwell site, there were quite a few events planned on site for the end of January, however, due to the pandemic these were delayed. They shall go ahead when the pandemic allows.

- The site shut down over a 3 day period 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
- The restart commenced at the start of June with quality plans being put in place to resume operations and get people back onto site. A wide range of health control measures were put into place to ensure safety of staff on site and these were incorporated into a companywide safety standard (S-192). There has been no evidence of any workplace transmission onsite which shows the success of these measures.

Site Operations

- Harwell site shall receive all the funding it has requested within Magnox in the next financial year which means all Harwell programmes shall progress as planned.
- The lifetime plan has been reviewed and this review is now with the Magnox executive team.

Health, Safety, Security, Environment, and Quality

- Total recordable incident rate (TRIR) – we now have a TRIR of 0.35, one employee sustained injuries to their foot in a slip in extremely icy conditions, lessons have been taken from the incident. This was following a 12-month period without an injury.
- In September 2019 the Harwell Site received a warning letter (EA) and an enforcement letter (ONR) in relation to the consignment of some legacy waste. An improvement plan has been completed and implemented and the ONR has closed the regulatory issue. We have now lifted a self-imposed waste embargo.
- There are currently two improvement programmes underway on site; the Harwell-Winfrith Management System integration into the Magnox Management System, and an improvement plan related to recommendations from the last ONR site emergency exercise.
- Environmental events:
 - Pollution inventory wasn't submitted to the EA on-time.
 - Sheen of diesel noticed in the Lydebank Brook (Dec 20), investigated by Magnox, the source of the diesel wasn't from Magnox site but Magnox managed the diesel spill and are trying to ascertain the route.
 - Accumulation of waste at the LETP meant some Environmental Permit limits were breached.
- Significant site events:
 - Sub-station failure and loss of site power (July 2020); power was lost on site for 15 hours, significant event and staff worked over the weekend to restore power and IT.

Current Programmes

- Nuclear materials transfer (NMT) – Transportation of legacy waste to Sellafield is our biggest hazard reduction project on site. We are currently at 69.8% of NMT off site (due to hit the key 70% milestone next week with a shipment).
- Some issues with plant for the remote handled intermediate level waste retrievals.
- Legacy waste shipments have achieved all of the waste targets set this year – Harwell and Winfrith account for almost 60% off all Magnox transports.
- LETP land remediation – Well done to Jon and the team on resuming LETP remediation activities swiftly post lockdown. They are in full production and have exceeded 67000 bags dug.
- Decommissioning programmes currently underway;
 - B220, we are just at the first sanctioning point to commence the decommissioning programme for B220.
 - B551, demolition activities have now started on B551.
 - B418, we are also at the first sanction point for the demolition of B418 which is key to the Harwell land release programme.
 - B459; The decommissioning plans are currently being updated for B459.
- Great work by the team and we are actively shrinking our footprint of the site.

Magnox Socio-Economic

We have made some donations to local causes via our socio-economic scheme, the new budget will commence 1st April 2021 please follow the link for further information.

For further information and to check eligibility, go to:

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

Questions:

Q1: In general terms how much time has been lost from the lifetime plan as a result from Covid-19.

A1: In actual terms we lost 6 months, however the impact is bigger due to the reduced efficiency when we re-opened (social distancing, reduced staff, etc.), in real terms 9 – 18 months.

Q2: Environmental problem with the Lydebank brook, where did the diesel originate from?

A2: We can confirm it is not from the Magnox site, our investigations as to where it has originated from on the Harwell campus were inconclusive. The drains that lead to that brook come from a wide area of the campus. No one from the campus has admitted to the error. The contamination was cleaned up very quickly by Magnox.

Break for NSAN video.

5. Reports

a) Office for Nuclear Regulation (ONR) – Neil Doggart

- Neil introduced himself to the SSG as the new ONR inspector to the Harwell site (November 2020) – replacing Paul Jennesson.
- The coronavirus pandemic has impacted the ONRs inspection programme with some inspections delayed and some cancelled. Some interventions have been performed remotely. Regular contact with the site director has been maintained which has helped keep up to date with site operations.
- The first inspection carried out was when employees returned to work following the first lockdown, this checked Coronavirus protections in place and the Magnox safety standard (S-192) – this was green.
- A commissioning inspection was conducted in December on the Harwell Intermediate Level Waste Box Store (HIBS). The HIBS store cannot be used until the Nuclear Materials Transfer programme has achieved its target of 70%. We were content with the arrangements for the HIBS project with some work remaining for the commissioning. Final handover is planned for 2022. Rated Green.
- A Safety Case Licence condition 14, 15, and 35 periodic review inspection occurred onsite recently, and this was also rated green.
- No significant issues have come out from the last period.

Questions

- **The Chair commented that some questions had been received from an individual and the ONR will respond directly to the individual.**

b) Nuclear Decommissioning Authority (NDA)– Jonathan Jenkin

- Jonathan provided an update on how the NDA is continuing to respond to the coronavirus pandemic. Since the commencement of the first lockdown there is significantly reduced staffing levels onsite (particularly at Sellafield).
- Continued working from home except for where essential office use is necessary. Health safety and welling of all staff is the priority.
- New appointments and announcements:
 - New NDA Chair – Ros Rivaz started with the NDA on the 1st September 2020.
 - New NDA Non-Executive Director – Francis Livens.
 - New Dounreay Chair – Lawrie Haynes from 31st March as Dounreay move from the current parent body arrangement to a subsidiary of the NDA, Lawrie will continue to be the chair of Magnox Ltd.

- New Dounreay Managing Director – Mark Rouse from the 1st April, Mark took up the role in March 2020 and will continue as Dounreay move to the subsidiary model.
 - New Chair of the Sellafield LTD board – Tony Meggs CB from 3rd May 2021.
 - LLWR CEO Designate – Martin Walkingshaw from 12 July 2021 when LLWR becomes an NDA subsidiary.
- The NDA group leadership team which is closely aligned with the new NDA subsidiary model has been announced. They are tasked with driving improved leadership, assurance, collaboration, and learning / skills transfer across the NDA group.
 - The Holliday report was published on the 4 March by the NDA. The Purpose of the report was to take learning from the Magnox contract. The NDA is now a much stronger organisation having already acted on the interim recommendations made by Holliday in 2017. The NDA welcomes all of the recommendations and will be publishing a formal response later this year.
 - The NDA announced the latest phase of the Innovation competition. The £3.9m “Sort and Seg” competition was launched in July 2020.
 - The draft NDA business plan which sets out the NDA Group spending plans for the next three financial years (2021 – 2024) is currently awaiting ministerial approval.
 - Nuclear transport solutions which was recently announced will be launched in full in April this year. The NDA has also announced the intention to create a single waste division from LLWR and RWM.
 - RWM has welcomed the formation of the first two working groups in Copeland and Allerdale. This is an important step in the GDF programme.
 - Draft strategy 4: The NDA received 70 sets of comments from a range of stakeholders during the consultation phase of the new draft strategy, which is due to be published on the 18th March.

Questions:

Q1: Can the NDA comment on the recent news, regarding a bullying / harassment culture at Sellafield?

A1: As many members of the groups are aware there have been recent reports in the media of allegations of bullying and harassment at the Sellafield site over a number of years. The NDA does take all the allegations extremely seriously, as does Sellafield. Sellafield is committed to improving its workplace culture. The message for anyone across the NDA Group is that if anyone has or is experiencing bullying or harassment, or witnesses others experiencing bullying or harassment, then please come forward and formally report your complaints.

Q2: Is there a working group or proposals for a GDF facility near us in Harwell?

A2: I am not aware of any, currently there are only the two working groups that have been established in the UK. Any community can come forward and propose a location and a working group will be formed with the support of RWM.

c) Environment Agency (EA) – Matthew Castle

- Matthew introduced himself to the SSG as the new EA Harwell site inspector.
- There are some relaxations in the permitting regulations in the regulatory permissions statements during the coronavirus pandemic.
- The EAs inspection programme has also been impacted by the coronavirus pandemic. The number of inspections has been reduced from 4 to 3, and the topic of one inspection was modified.
- Inspections were made in a coronavirus secure way and we appreciate the sites cooperation in making them possible and supporting the logistics of inspections in the current environment.
- Next year's inspection plan in draft for next year. Any inspections that were missed this year have been incorporated into next year's inspection schedule.
- One non-compliance event to report which is the discharge of diesel to the Lydebank brook, breaching the non-radiological permit (no presence of oil allowed in water discharges). We were pleased with the actions the site took to prevent further pollution and with the reporting of the event. Unfortunately, this as non-compliance because Magnox is the permit holder. We have asked Magnox to investigate the source of the diesel which they have been conducting, but with the large area of site serviced by the drains it is difficult to pinpoint the source (except that it certainly isn't from the Magnox site).
- New RIFE report is now available.

No Questions

6. Presentations

a) B551 Analytical Chemistry Building – Caroline Leadbeater-Hart

- Caroline Leadbeater-Hart introduced herself as the new Plant and Structures programme delivery lead for Harwell site.
- The plant and structures decommissioning team covers all the buildings on Harwell site. Our live projects are: B220, B418, B459, and B551.
- B551 is our most mature project and is entering the decommissioning and demolition phase of the project.
- A brief history of B551 was provided.

- Performance to date – KDC who are the contractor working on site have taken ownership of the building, with an internal strip of the building undertaken. KDC have removed vents and have performed an asbestos strip (the building has been declared asbestos cleared).
- A radiological clearance certificate has been granted for two of the wings, with the north wing currently undergoing rad clearance.
- Conventional building demolition will occur on the 22nd March.
- Our next steps for the project are to complete the demolition and land remediation, delicensing of the land B551 occupies, and subsequent return of the land for future use.

Questions:

Q1: Target date for the campus handover?

A1: We are working through that now. Answer provided in a future update.

b) Presentation by UKAEA – Update on Fusion / STEP project – Saranne Postans

- Saranne Postans, UKAEA communications manager, provided the SSG with a presentation on the planned Spherical Tokamak for Energy Production (STEP) reactor development.
- Currently the STEP programme has received £222m of funding for phase 1 which includes the concept design, and site selection.
- There is no current interest from around Harwell Site for the siting of the STEP reactor. Siting nomination progress is open until the end of March with the decision to be made by the Secretary of State around the end of 2022.

Questions:

Q1: Have you worked out the economics of fusion as opposed to atomic energy / gas?

A1: We believe that to build STEP the cost will be similar to a Power Station at the moment, but we have not progressed that far into the development at the moment.

Q2: Can you clarify the likely regulatory position for STEP?

A2: Not progressed that far currently but as of this time they won't need to be located on a nuclear licenced site.

7. Campus Matters

a) Science and Technology Facilities Council – Joe Kelleher

- Joe Kelleher gave an update on STFC developments.

- STFC is now part of UKRI.
- The Rosalind franklin hub building is progressing.
- No major news at the current time with most people working from home. Employees can't use labs unless there is a pressing need. The ISIS neutron source has continued operations, however, with no external visitors allowed.
- Building work is continuing and the site is taking advantage of reduced operations to speed up and make progress before the end of restrictions.

b) Diamond Light Source – Laura Male

- Laura Male from the diamond light source communications team provided a presentation on recent work at Diamond and upcoming activities.
- Notable recent work includes examination of the little foot skeleton discovered in South Africa. The project team came to diamond and ISIS to conduct experimentation on the fossils without having to take slivers of bone from the skeleton – they didn't want to damage what is an incredible fossil of an almost complete skeleton.
- Laura then shared information about virtual public engagements activities taking place over the next couple of weeks. Kicking off with a virtual tour there are also webinars and virtual school visits.

8. Any Other Business

No date currently for the next meeting – or a decision on whether it will be physical or virtual. This has been quite a successful meeting so thank you to Marick for facilitating.

Thank you to everyone for attending.

9. Next Meeting

Next meeting date and format is to be decided and will depend on restrictions at the time.

Chris Broad – Chairman

Emma Burwood – Communications and Socio Economic Lead

Matthew Grozier – Minutes

12th March 2021