

BRADWELL SITE LCLC

Draft minutes of the 75th Local Community Liaison Council (LCLC) meeting

held via Zoom

10.00 am Wednesday 27 September 2023

ATTENDANCE

LCLC Executive

Brian Main	-	LCLC Chairman
Cllr John White	-	Deputy Chairman

LCLC Members

Sohail Ashraf	-	Bradwell Site Director
Cllr Terry Burns	-	Essex County Council
Cllr Tony Fittock	-	Althorne Parish Council
James Heavingham	-	ONR
Cllr John Lambert	-	Latchingdon Parish Council
Simon Napper	-	Nuclear Decommissioning Authority
Cllr Matthew Neall	-	Maldon District Council
Cllr Steph Nissen	-	Colchester Borough Council
Cllr John Noble	-	Bradwell Parish Council
Cllr Sophie Weaver	-	West Mersea Town Council

Members of the Public

Andrew Blowers		
Ian Clarke		
Matthew Meldrum		
Cathryn Pritchard	-	Magnox (Secretariat)
Janine Claber	-	Virtual event host

I Introduction

3278 The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

II Apologies for Absence

3279 None received.

III Approval of the Previous Minutes

3280 The minutes were approved as a true record of the meeting on 29 March 2023.

IV Matters Arising from the Previous Minutes

3281 There were no matters arising.

V Bradwell Site Director's Report

3282 Sohail Ashraf stated that there had been no safety or environment-related events at Bradwell; the positive reporting culture had been enhanced with task observations and safety conversations in the field, which had brought engagement and collaboration.

- Current campaigns included psychological safety, which aimed to make people feel free to talk about any issues at all in order to create an inclusive working environment. The first session had been held some months ago and was now being rolled out to the whole workforce. Feedback was good.

Within Magnox there had been a number of hand injury events across all the sites. Sizewell and Bradwell did not fall into those criteria and there had been much learning from other sites which reinforced the need for work safety assessments.

The 'target zero' theme had been this month's theme, focussing on lifting operations, with a good set of arrangements at Sizewell and Bradwell.

- The fifth annual inspection campaign had started on 4 September. Approximately 200 routine activities were to be undertaken and the frequency of inspections had been reviewed, particularly for asbestos, which lead us towards five-yearly inspections. Some enhancements would be made to the security management systems, eg software upgrades and physical enhancements.
- ILW waste packages: an application had been submitted to vary the planning conditions for the ILW store, which supports Dungeness A, Sizewell A and Bradwell, to increase the importation date by six years, to 31 December 2029. There was no change in the total package numbers. Transfers of packages to and from site would be planned as best as could be done to minimise transportation during peak hours.
- Socio-economic applications: funding remained at just over £1m across the 12 Magnox sites. £303,000 multi-year funding was already committed and £691,000 had been committed as of the beginning of this month. The 'good neighbour' allocation had £285,000 remaining, including £72,000 to the 'good neighbour' allocation and £43,000 left.

Four funding requests had been received from Bradwell, totalling £92,000. A maximum of £2,000 per application was allowed, with an allocation of £6,000 per site. Those present were reminded to encourage the 'good neighbour' scheme and applications to NDA.

Summary of applications: Bradwell Bay United (£1,300 for football kit); Fellowship Afloat charitable trust (safety equipment); Maldon District Council £80,000 of support over two years to manage and administer the Rural Enterprise Prosperity Fund; year 2 investment

to Maldon District Council for the YouFest festival. Funding objectives remained aimed at mitigating the socio-economic impact of decommissioning, helping build sustainable communities and being a good neighbour.

The NDA socio-economic strategy will have a refresh, looking at challenges and opportunities in the local economies, and the priorities in the communities around the NDA estates. The NDA will engage with stakeholders over the coming months to understand better what local priorities should be.

- Volunteering: Magnox and NDA had enrolled Neighbourly at three sites, where personnel from Magnox could help and volunteer to support local communities via an online portal. In the future, local communities would be able to input their needs to this portal so Magnox can see where they can help.

3283 Questions were invited and Tony Fittock asked how Bradwell would view this week's progress in terms of the general engagement from parishes and towns around the district. Sohail said that the relationship with the LCLC community was very good: transparent and honest. He said that the help of the community was needed to help promote the socio-economic efforts; hence the request to help advertise them more widely. Money was not infinite, but Sohail wanted to use every last penny in the local community. Tony opined that a relatively narrow number of people attended the forums, people not attending would not be aware of the help available so there was more work the community could do to encourage engagement. Sohail asked that people let NDA know if there were different ways they could help with the communication of what was available.

Brian Main confirmed that it was those who did not attend the meetings who needed to be reached. He said that since the nuclear hazard on the site was more than 99% removed, a lot of the more distant or smaller councils had stopped sending representatives because they were more interested in the hazard to their neighbourhoods due to the nuclear threat, rather than coming and talking about what was happening on the site. He would like to pursue the idea of contacting people actively but was not sure that more people would attend.

Sohail emphasised that the minutes of meetings were sent to all groups, so the information was widely available, even if people did not attend. He agreed that we were now in a different phase, moving towards the original strategy of a remotely-managed site. He thought we had good engagement but that it was probably proportional to where we were in the life cycle in comparison with other sites.

Brian pointed out that it reflected back on Magnox trying to spend the money and said that the area in general needed to want to attend the meetings. Tony felt that the benefits of engagement needed to be refreshed, as opposed to sending out highly technical minutes and other documents, which may not be read. In addition, the representatives of councils change and the matter could be forgotten. Brian stated that the secretariat had made efforts to contact those groups who did not send representatives to the meetings. He felt we should consider how to extend our publicity and appeal.

3284 Ian Clarke asked about item 3264 of the March meeting, where he had undertaken to gather photographs of similar sea defences around the estuary that had collapsed, had expressed concern about the vulnerability of those at Bradwell and asked whether a shoreline management plan was in place.

Sohail stated that the Environmental Agency had produced a sea wall condition report in October 2020 and this was produced on a five-yearly basis and he confirmed that Magnox did track this issue and undertook any activities recommended. He thanked Ian for the photographs.

VI **Nuclear Decommissioning Authority Update**

3285 Simon Napper reported as follows:

- There had been more changes to Government: the new Secretary of State at the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero was Claire Coutinho and we still had the Minister for Nuclear and Networks, Andrew Bowie.
- Ros Rivaz had completed her term as Chair of the NDA and an interim Chair, Chris Train OBE, had been appointed by Government whilst a new permanent Chair was sought. Mr Train would be meeting the Chairs and Vice-Chairs of the SSGs in mid-October.
- There would be a virtual stakeholder summit on 21 November this year and an in-person one in Cumbria in 2024.
- On 11-14 September an annual NIA meeting was held in Parliament to explain to MPs what goes on in the nuclear industry and decommissioning, and we sponsored a skills fair. There would be future competition for young people coming into the industry as our and the Government's plans progress; hence our sponsorship. The NIA also organised an event in Cardiff on 26 September, to talk about the role of nuclear, going forward.
- The annual report and accounts were published last week and printed copies were available on request or on line. The document covers the taking on of Dounreay and the programme for decommissioning the advanced gas-cooled reactors previously operated by EDF. The first reactor at Hunterston had now been fully defueled and work was on-going to defuel Hinkley Point and Hinkley Point B. The report includes 47 strategic outcomes to complete our mission over the next 100 years and four had already been completed.

The annual business plan would be issued before Christmas for consultation. This is a statutory requirement, even though its content is largely covered in other documents.

- The review of the socio-economic strategy is carried out every three years and checks that what we are trying to do in our communities does reflect their needs. The pandemic had an impact on needs and the way we do things changes too. Key stakeholders around the country had been visited and a formal consultation would start before Christmas; SSG members would be invited to take part in this.
- Dounreay: Spot (a robot dog) was being used to get inside an unused, closed-up building which contained radioactive material, to check what was in there and help us to decide how to dismantle it.
- Sellafield: work was progressing and work had begun to extract waste from the pile fuel cladding silo, which had not been built with extraction in mind. We were now able to extract waste from all the main vaults and ponds on the site.

3285 Questions were invited. Brian Main asked if these latest techniques will eventually become available around the country to treat other difficult storage situations. Simon replied that, where we learn how to do something for the first time, if it has application elsewhere, we will make sure it is used.

Sohail Ashraf stated that Spot had been going across the estate at Sizewell and a demonstration had been given at Bradwell of how to operate it.

3286 Ian Clarke asked about intentions for the graphite cores. Simon said they would be a major but later part of the decommissioning process. What will happen with the cores had not yet been finalised and would be a few decades away.

Ian asked if incineration was being considered on or off the site. Simon offered to find out as he did not know the technical details. **Action: Simon to find out plans regarding incineration, particularly for incineration of graphite.**

3287 Andrew Blowers asked what the national ILW disposal facility was for: taking some recharacterized waste out of the GDF and putting it into a shallow disposal facility, thereby

releasing some capacity in the GDF but also imposing a facility on another ?? [00:46:27] or was its purpose wider and taking ILW from existing sites where it was currently in store? This proposed facility would be of considerable interest if it had implications for Bradwell.

Simon stated that his had been consulted on and he had heard that there were over 300 substantive contributions to the consultation and the Government was currently working through those. Until the Government takes a view and puts forward a policy, we cannot answer the question.

Andrew felt that to go to a consultation with a half-formed project was irresponsible.

- 3288 Andrew also asked about the end state of Bradwell. One current designation, in the business plan 2021-24, was that “all land remediated and dedesignated will be achieved at Bradwell by 2092”, yet the business plan of a year later (2023-26) states that “all land in the end state and all planned physical work will be completed by the 2080s”. Are these two in conflict? What does it mean? What is meant by “end state”? Do the NDA and Magnox know? There seemed to be a lack of clarity as to what would be happening and a lack of serious activity at Bradwell. Was there going to be a proper plan for decommissioning of the site to the end state, which could be specified in terms of what would be done and when?

Simon stated that, talking in 2023 about something that would happen decades ahead, based on what we know now, we would expect the process to be finished and had given an indicative date. Whilst the 2092 date had seemed very specific, things change and, based on what we know now, the 2080s were where we expected to be. Our mission was to decommission safely and, if there were to be an unexpected occurrence, we would make it safe as soon as we were aware of it and our monitoring is designed to do pick up on things quickly.

Sohail added that, as the licensee, it was his responsibility and inspection and maintenance over the foreseeable years would reinforce that and a case would be made for any additional remedial work that may be identified. It was all about managing the risk, not walking away.

VII Magnox Corporate Update

- 3289 In the absence of Bill Hamilton, no report was available.

VIII Environment Agency Site Inspector's Report

- 3290 James Heavingham reported as the new lead EA regulator for Bradwell. Compliance activities: a report had been circulated before the meeting. James summarised that monthly meetings were continuing with the Sizewell A environment management team, who manage the activities at Bradwell, as were meetings with the EA, the ONR and Magnox to discuss any emerging issues and projects. Events and incidents were also reviewed with regard to any impact on the environment – none had occurred since the last LCLC meeting.
- 3291 Work had started in June 2023 on a detailed review of the care and maintenance programme, which had reached its fifth anniversary. This would be a five-yearly health check which would consider the maintenance and plans undertaken plus the strategy and programme going forward. Areas of land quality would also be looked at, as would the qualifications of the Magnox personnel involved in the process. It would be a joint inspection with the NWAT (Nuclear Waste Assessment Team), who are specialists in high activity wastes.
- 3292 There had been no non-compliances nor enforcement action since the last meeting and there were no expected changes to the permit for the near future. Discharges had not changed and there were no concerns.
- 3293 Questions were invited and John White asked about the food and environment reports: his parish was within the 5-mile radiation limit and his local dairy farmer was still having studies on the milk and local fishermen had to send samples for examination. No report on these was received but John noted that, according to the EA report, radiation had gone up and he wondered how that could happen.

James replied that this could potentially be natural or a laboratory error or activities abroad.
Action: James to look at the data and speak to the specialists who compile the RIFE report.

- 3294 Ian Clarke asked about the outfall into the estuary: he understood that it was no longer in use but asked if it was still a licensed discharge route and, if so, why was the licence being maintained? If it was being maintained, had silting occurred and was the outfall still being flushed with biosize to prevent fouling?

James stated that the outfall was not being used and was no longer a permitted disposal discharge route. He had no further information on the flushing and physical condition of the outfall.

IX Any Other Business

- 3295 John White referred to questions submitted by Ian Clarke, some of which had been covered in the meeting and asked how the remaining ones would be picked up. The Chairman asked Ian whether he wished to pursue those now or ask the experts to look into them in order to respond later. Ian was happy for the answers to follow later; Brian asked the experts present to look into the questions and come back with answers for the next meeting.

- 3296 Andrew Blowers referred to the decommissioning plan and mistakes and said he had found the response vague and predictable. He felt we should have a more specific idea of how this was being done and suggested that a more detailed look at this should be requested, especially in the light of climate change. He presumed that a margin was included for various possibilities coming out of the climate change forecast which could affect this area, which was low-lying and had a high water table and therefore created potential danger for the site. He would like more detail on what Magnox had in mind, eg regarding the boilers and AGRs coming on stream.

Sohail Ashraf stated that Magnox had good evidence on the condition of the structures on the site and there would be on-going inspection and maintenance. Regarding the out-year forecast for final site clearance, that could change and evolve, including looking at the condition of the boilers – other sites had already removed theirs because they were outside structures and subject to different conditions to ours. We would refine the programme as the life cycle progressed and a pathfinder project was focussing currently on boilers across the NDA estate. Things were being developed in the background and would continue to evolve over time, with environmental conditions in the out-years being considered. Bradwell was currently one of the lowest-risk sites in the NDA estate but new strategies would be looked at if that would help reduce hazards in an efficient, cost-effective manner.

Brian Main asked if Bradwell being the first site to be put through this process had pushed it to the back of the queue. Sohail disagreed that it was at the back of the queue and said he would like to see how the Sizewell and Bradwell teams could use our site for further innovation.

X Date of Next Meeting

- 3297 The Chairman stated that the current meeting had originally been planned to be the AGM but, because of meetings being held virtually and therefore attendees being able to see how other attendees voted, it had been postponed whilst a solution was found to enable ballots to be hidden. It had been decided to hold a meeting where those eligible to vote would be present and others would not be.

Therefore this meeting would shortly be closed and those not entitled to vote asked to retire, then the vote for Chair and Vice-Chair could take place. However, the vote to be taken at an AGM was postponed and either a special meeting would be called or the AGM would be deferred to the next scheduled meeting to continue that discussion.

- 3298 Date and time of next meeting: a face-to-face meeting in Bradwell village hall had been requested, which would be accessible to local people but not to all. Brian noted that we seemed to be gravitating towards meetings being almost exclusively virtual and asked those present whether they felt we should, at some near time, have a face-to-face meeting and call it our AGM.

Sohail Ashraf suggested an alternative proposal, that one of the meetings be held out of hours (eg at 5.00 or 6.00 pm).

The Chairman noted that a face-to-face AGM was not desired and that an out-of-hours meeting was favoured. Therefore the next meeting would be the delayed AGM and would take place out of hours, details to be confirmed.

XI Close of Meeting for Non-voting Members

- 3299 The Chairman closed the formal meeting and asked the voting members to remain whilst the others left. He thanked them for their contributions. Voting members remaining were:

Brian Main	John Lambert
John White	Matthew Neall
Tony Fittock	John Noble

- 3300 The Chairman suggested that the two candidates introduce themselves and proposed that he stand down and for John White to chair the first vote and, depending on the result of the vote, the new Chair would then chair the second vote. Voting would take place via an on-screen poll.

Tony Fittock encouraged greater engagement across the Dengie Peninsula to try to get greater awareness of what Magnox do and ensure proper scrutiny of any future proposals so that the parishes fully understand the positions being moved from and into. He favoured meetings taking place out of hours.

Brian Main summarised his career and experience in Bradwell, and noted that his interest in the LCLC stemmed from living only a mile from the site.

XII Election of Chair and Vice-Chair

- 3301 The electronic poll was launched and the two candidates for the role of Chair voted for. Six votes were received; the result was that Brian Main was elected.
- 3302 There being only one candidate for Vice-Chair, John White was confirmed in the role.