BRADWELL SITE LCLC

Draft minutes of the 74th Local Community Liaison Council (LCLC) meeting

held via Zoom

10.00 am Wednesday 29 March 2023

ATTENDANCE

LCLC Executive

Brian Main	-	LCLC Chairman
Cllr John White	-	Deputy Chairman

LCLC Members

Sohail Ashraf	-	Bradwell Site Director
Paul Burgess	-	
Amy Davies	-	Magnox, SSG Secretariat
Bill Hamilton	-	Magnox External Affairs Director
Cllr Martin Harvey	-	Malden Town Council
Simon Napper	-	Nuclear Decommissioning Authority
Cllr John Noble	-	Bradwell Parish Council
Peter Reynolds	-	Environment Agency
Shirley Swan	-	
Donna Walton	-	

Members of the Public

Andrew Blowers
Ian Clarke
Bea Chandler

Janine Claber	-	Virtual event host

I **Introduction**

3239 The Chairman welcomed everyone and asked any newcomers to introduce themselves. He stated that meetings were now by invitation and so documents were not available unless by circulation before a meeting.

II **Apologies for Absence**

3240 Received from Valerie Blowers, who had been present at the last meeting, although this was not noted in the minutes.

III **Approval of the Previous Minutes**

3241 Valerie Blowers's presence at the meeting of 28 September 2022 was noted and the minutes were approved.

IV **Matters Arising from the Previous Minutes**

3242 The Chairman responded to a comment by Valerie Blowers about bureaucracy within the constitution document by saying that an effort had been made to reduce this but he would welcome any further comments.

V **Bradwell Site Director's Report**

3243 Sohail Ashraf stated that various members of his site team would be invited to future meetings. The Site Director's presentation had been circulated before the meeting; he high-lighted certain points:

- **Safety and environment:** regular campaigns were run on safety topics, which were about being transparent and learning.
- The amount of HVO fuel used had been reduced, leading to lower CO2 emissions, amongst other benefits.
- Magnox was on the route to net zero, with 90% fewer greenhouse gas emissions.
- **Annual inspection:** this had been completed ahead of schedule and the information gathered was being interrogated. It would be ensured that new staff will benefit from the experience and knowledge at Bradwell.
- **Site update:** a technical visit by the Government had included a positive discussion and future discussions would also be held. Like everyone, Bradwell had been impacted by Covid and the current economic situation as well as funding issues.
- ILW waste packages: still committed to delivering the current scope but timescales would have to be adjusted. The packages were unlikely to change in volume but there would be fewer packages transported annually. A request would be made to Essex County Council to remove the end date of December 2023.
- Socio-economic applications: funding was around £1m for 12 sites and "good neighbour" funding had increased.

3244 Questions were invited, and John White asked about the delay regarding intermediate-level waste (ILW) and whether all the Dungeness ILW was now in and it was the Sizewell waste that was being delayed. Sohail explained that not all the Dungeness packages were in yet but this was mainly driven by the management schedule at Sizewell.

3245 Ian Clarke asked about the ILW store at Bradwell being designed to take ILW for the south-east region; he had believed it was designed to take the ILW from the Bradwell site but was then able to accommodate ILW from other south-east region sites. Sohail had assumed that it was the packages for the south-east region: Dungeness A, Bradwell and Sizewell. The Sizewell A packages had not yet been started on. **ACTION: Sohail to check the history and report back**.

The Chairman confirmed that Ian's interpretation was correct.

3246 Ian also asked about radioactive waste and whether Sizewell was looking to construct an LLW store at Sizewell and, if so, could that be at Bradwell? Sohail stated that there was no LLW store at Sizewell; there was an LLW processing facility at Sizewell, not a store, and the intention was for all LLW to be processed and then go to existing repositories. There were no plans to build a store at Sizewell.

VI Nuclear Decommissioning Authority Update

3247 Simon Napper enlarged on his presentation (circulated before the meeting).

- There had been many changes in Government recently and BEIS (the department for Business, Energy, and Industrial Strategy) had been broken up into several departments, the one relevant to us being the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero (DESNZ). The nuclear directorate had transferred to the new department, the Secretary of State was still Grant Shapps and Andrew Bowie (MP for West Aberdeenshire) had been announced as the new minister for nuclear.

- 800 people had taken part in the latest stakeholder survey (200 more than last time). One improvement asked for was more information on mission delivery; this would be addressed.

- The next in-person Stakeholder Summit would be in Cumbria in 2024 and there would be a virtual one this year. A series of in-person regional meetings would be held this year, linked to universities with a nuclear science department.

- A NIA reception was held in Parliament in January, designed to inform MPs about what was going on in their constituency. There was a skills fair too, also sponsored by the NDA.

- The Budget on 15 March had announced the launch of Great British Nuclear, which will look at small, modular reactors. NDA has been approached by developers and technology suppliers asking about the availability of land on their sites. NDA was continuing to support Cwmni Egino in Wales and would align its activity with theirs.

- The first decommissioning and waste management consultation since 1995 had been published and agreed by the UK, Scottish and Welsh governments. The 12-week consultation would close on 24 May. Requests for meetings about the consultation can be made by email to: *RSNDPolConsult@beis.gov.uk*.

- A new NDA-wide graduate scheme was announced in January and applications invited to ensure a continued flow of young people in the business.

- Technology changes included a change from steel to concrete boxes for radioactive waste and the first had been filled at Berkeley. A robot had been designed to safely inspect hazardous environments.

- As different parts of One NDA were subsections rather than contracted out, there was more sharing of knowledge and experience and a solution had been developed to a radioactive waste problem.

3248 Questions were invited. Andrew Blowers asked for updates on the impact of the current strategy on Bradwell, especially the status of the idea of a regional store at Bradwell and any implications for LLW. Regarding the overall strategy of NDA and one part looking at the possibility of a GDF, Andrew noted that NWS was taking out adverts in regional newspapers to promote the idea of a GDF and he asked if they were looking at Essex and seeking a volunteer from there – something he considered unwelcome. He was also concerned about a new proposal for a shallower waste disposal store: could this impact on the Bradwell site? He assumed that NDA would not be looking at this as a result of past experience but felt that more information was required to help understand where Bradwell sat in the context of developing strategies for waste disposal.

Simon Napper said that the policy for GDF was a national programme and anyone could express an interest, if they felt it would be appropriate for them (eg adverts and articles in East Anglia). Elsewhere in the programme, if someone comes forward and the discussion becomes serious, a public working group is formed and discussions then take place in public. It was policy to make sure that people are aware of the opportunity to take part.

Regarding near-surface disposal, Simon stated that this was a new policy option, dealt with within the consultation he had mentioned earlier. One part was new things to be changed and associated questions, then it would all be put together to show what the policy would look like (180-page document). He offered to provide a link to the page so the LCLC could see what was being proposed; alternatively, they could contact the e-mail address he had given to get answers to their questions.

Sohail Ashraf responded about LLW, saying there was no store at Sizewell or Bradwell but there was a processing facility at Sizewell which packaged the waste and sent it to relevant repositories in Cumbria. LLW would be sorted and segregated at Sizewell and removed.

3249 Brian Main asked for the link to the consultation to be sent to all those invited to this meeting – **action: Magnox to send link**.

Andrew Blowers hoped people would respond to the consultation and suggested the LCLC should also respond. Regarding the title of the new department, he said some people were referring to it as the Energy Security Department, which was not the same as Net Zero, and asked for his view to be reported back by Simon Napper. Simon said the Secretary of State had asked for the department to be referred to as the Department for Energy or for Energy Security so we have to follow this guidance.

3250 Ian Clarke asked about the capacity for LLW storage and whether it was still adequate. Sohail Ashraf confirmed that it currently was.

Andrew Blowers asked for Simon Napper to produce an overall summary of what was happening at Bradwell. **Action: Simon to consult with Sohail to do this.**

VII <u>Magnox Corporate Update</u>

3251 Bill Hamilton reported on the new website, which he felt was a useful site for people who could not get to the meetings as it was a good source of information. There were also feedback forms so people could ask questions.

3252 The NDA had published its draft plans since the last meeting, which included dates for final site clearance: decades when sites would reach final clearance had been indicated, going from the 2040s to the 2080s. Bradwell was within the 2080s tranche. The ILW stored at Bradwell was destined for a GDF; if the GDF was open and accepting ILW at the time of final site clearance, then ILW would go straight to the GDF; otherwise, the ILW would remain until the GDF was open.

3253 A lot of changes were going on at Magnox. Over the next decade Magnox would take responsibility for at least 20 nuclear sites (up from 12) and would increase staff from 3,000 to 6,000. The annual budget would increase from £500m to over £1bn. Changes would include Dounreay joining with Magnox this month and seven advanced gas reactors would come off line and defueling would start; they would then transfer to the ownership of NDA//Magnox to manage decommissioning. A lot of work was being done on the transfer of people, assets and liabilities. The first AGR was expected to come from Hunterston, in a few months' time.

3254 Magnox was going through a rebranding programme as fewer of their sites were now Magnox sites. The public would be made aware of this and the new brand was expected to be announced in October.

3255 Socio-economic programme and the cost of living crisis: the NDA had supplied funding of about £16,600 to all the operating companies to support their communities, including about £2,00 to the Bradwell community groups to print promotional materials for such things as food banks and warm hubs. Direct grants of £8,000 had been provided to warm hubs in the Bradwell area; the Malden District Council emergency storage container had been supported with £4,000; and £2,500 had been given to Malden District CBS for their work in the community.

There were no questions.

VIII **<u>Environment Agency Site Inspector's Report</u>**

3256 Peter Reynolds's report had been circulated before the meeting. He stated that one inspection had taken place in the last six months and he had looked at the accessible assets and noted that Magnox had been keeping a close eye on these things and the environment was being maintained, including the perimeters.

3257 The water table was high at Bradwell but was being monitored, including Magnox pumping off and disposing of excess water. Civil inspections of the safe stores were to be done later in 2022 and the outcomes were awaited. The ISF was also looked at and no unsuitable materials were being stored there outside of what was used in day-to-day operations. The storage of ILW was closely controlled.

3258 He had looked at waste management to see that waste was safely stored and segregated. Low-level waste - <500 kg pa for pre-2022 years – was stored in drums, packed into lockable containers. The EA was happy with that in the short term, but this situation could not continue indefinitely, hence the drums being taken to Sizewell to be sorted, segregated and disposed of appropriately, possibly by incineration or to landfill.

3259 Discharges: the standard reporting values had been checked and were reasonable. The impact register had also been checked and EA had asked Magnox to incorporate risks from the asset register into the aspects and impact register.

3260 Plans for maintaining environmental resources were also checked, regarding radioactive and non-radioactive waste, and all questions had been answered satisfactorily.

3261 Peter announced that, as site inspectors were rotated from time to time, he would be replaced on 1 April by James Hibbingham but would be lending his support next year.

3262 Questions were invited, and Martin Harvey asked, on behalf of concerned local residents, about an unexploded bomb washed up on Bradwell beach and how this was covered from an environmental and a safety point of view. Sohail Ashraf stated that arrangements were in place with local authorities and there were emergency contingency plans. 99% of the potential hazards had been removed from the Bradwell site so the environmental risk had been reduced. Brian Main pointed out that the station had been designed to withstand greater threats, so this should not be too great a problem.

3263 Bea Chandler asked how long the LLW had been in drums at Bradwell and when it would go to Sizewell. Peter Reynolds said it had been there since 2019, when all the accessible LLW had been removed, so the only LLW left was a small amount in some of the reactor voids, which would not be accessible until work begins to demolish the reactor (2070s-2080s). Maintenance activities produced an amount of contaminated clothing and gloves, which were stored on site before they would be taken to Sizewell, for which permission was needed from the District Council at Sizewell. The waste would be removed as soon as that permission was granted.

Sohail added that the planning permission was now in place and the soft waste would be moved during the next transportation campaign, rather than adding extra vehicles to the roads now. He emphasised that, since 2019, it was mainly soft waste that had been produced, ie gloves, paper coveralls, etc.

3264 Ian Clarke said he had taken photographs of sea defences similar to those at Bradwell broken down on this side of the estuary and from Mersea during storm surges, which he would provide for circulation. He was concerned about the integrity of the sea defences around the site and the conditions of storm surges, also in respect of climate change.

Action: Sohail Ashraf offered to investigate and report back.

3265 Andrew Blowers was concerned about the long-term deterioration of the cores and asked what kind of maintenance would be done over time, as it could be easy to forget things that were hidden behind cladding. How would this be monitored? How passive was "passive store" in terms of maintenance? What efforts were made to ensure that deterioration would be marked and acted upon?

Sohail Ashraf said the inspection campaign was continuing and included safe stores, civil structures, etc. An eye was kept on the necessary frequency of inspections and maintenance.

Peter Reynolds stated that the EA was also interested in asset management and would be producing a report on Magnox's asset management strategy next year.

IX <u>LCLC Chairman's Feedback</u>

3266 Brian Main had not attended any national meetings since the last meeting but had attended the site visit requested by a new member, which had been informative and he had been impressed by the opportunities for and calibre of young people.

John White had found the news from the Edinburgh meeting enlightening, although he had been disappointed not to have been able to attend some of the side meetings.

X <u>LCLC Constitution Review</u>

3267 The Chairman noted that the amount of printed paperwork had been halved. All the comments from the last LCLC meeting had been incorporated as far as possible. Some questions had arisen at the last meeting regarding the change of length of the term of chairmanship and vice-chairmanship from three to five years; the Chairman clarified that this was in line with the NDA's recommended document in an attempt to unify the LCLC document with the NDA's. It had been suggested that this period was long and perhaps the sentence about being "confirmed annually at the AGM" should be reinserted, but the Chairman felt that, as we only met twice a year, it would seem odd to reconfirm an appointment made only a year before but he was open to hearing views on this.

3268 The Chairman believed that elections should take place at an AGM but noted that our present meetings could not easily be opened to the public and this was therefore not suitable for an AGM. He proposed that the AGM should be the next meeting, in a face-to-face format, probably at Steeple village hall. The final wording of the constitution could be confirmed at that meeting, with increased public engagement. He felt that we should have a face-to-face AGM every year.

3269 Brian also proposed an improvement to a line at the bottom of the section on membership, whereby the old phrase about "observers, by agreement of the Chair, are members of the public and the press" would be deleted and replaced with a statement that members are residents of public associations, representative stakeholders, etc plus members of the public and press, as members of the public are welcome, with or without the discretion of the Chair.

3270 He asked if the document reflected what members wanted to pursue for ratification at the AGM. Andrew Blowers mentioned comments sent in writing previously and the Chairman confirmed that these had all been acted on.

3271 Andrew referred to membership: voting members appeared to be representatives elected to various bodies but there was no indication of how many there were and very few had attended today's meeting. He asked whether there should be some designation of the total number or whether it would be left as an open issue. In contrast, non-voting members could constitute the majority of those present at a meeting and he asked that categories of members be considered which could be scrutinised and appointed as members.

The Chairman said that there used to be a paragraph about groups such as Andrew's representing a body of opinion and that Andrew was elected by that body of people to attend our meetings, but Andrew had thought this excessive so it was removed. Andrew clarified that his only objection had been about stating the number of members. The Chairman pointed out that we only have two votes per year: to appoint the Chairman and Vice-Chairman and (rarely) to amend the constitution. He preferred that voting members should be elected by the public at large.

3272 Regarding the next meeting, Andrew Blowers said that a Zoom meeting offered attendance to many people who could not attend otherwise and suggested that the idea of a hybrid meeting could be considered. The Chairman stated that he had taken advice on this and general opinion seemed to be that this does not work well. Janine Claber confirmed that it would need to be carefully and technically managed and that the costs may not be worthwhile.

Andrew felt that the hybrid meeting in Manchester, run by the NDA, had been reasonably successful. He felt that a completely different set of people would attend a face-to-face meeting than would attend a Zoom meeting. He left the decision to the Chairman.

Bill Hamilton stated that Magnox's experience of a hybrid meeting was that it works well in a modern building with all the necessary technical facilities, but doing this from a village hall would be difficult and he was quite concerned about the prospect.

3273 The Chairman asked for the opinion of everyone present as to whether the AGM should be face-to-face, in the village hall. A show of hands was requested and six people were in favour of this, which was roughly half of those present. The Chairman said he would consult further about this outside of the meeting.

3274 The Chairman summed up the situation by saying, bearing in mind Andrew Blowers's comments, the proposed wording seemed to be 95% okay but some trimming may be necessary around membership. He took it that there was agreement on the wording and said that he and John Noble would work further on this.

John Noble stated that he agreed with the document and thought it should be ratified at the AGM.

XI **<u>Any Other Business</u>**

3275 Ian Clarke asked about advertising meetings, particularly in the printed media, and had noticed that the number of attendees had reduced, although he recognised that the information was circulated to previous attendees and parish councils, etc.

The Chairman stated that we should try to find ways of publicising meetings more widely but we needed to discuss the feasibility of that and of operating a large Zoom meeting. We would try to increase our visibility. He noted that, since shutdown and going into care and maintenance, a number of councils felt that not enough was going on to warrant their attendance at meetings.

3276 Ian Clarke referred to paragraph 3207 of the previous minutes and paragraph 3181 of the meeting before that, where he had raised the issue of transmission lines, pylons, etc. He accepted that this was a matter for National Grid but said it was not clear that these things fulfilled any function and it was unclear what proposals there were for their dismantling. The Chairman confirmed that this was a matter for National Grid and that we had no input into this.

XII **Date of Next Meeting**

3277 27 September 2023, how and where to be decided.