

## **BRADWELL SITE LCLC**

### **Draft minutes of the 76<sup>th</sup> Local Community Liaison Council (LCLC) meeting**

held via Zoom

**7.00 pm Wednesday 27 March 2024**

#### **ATTENDANCE**

##### **LCLC Executive**

|                 |   |                 |
|-----------------|---|-----------------|
| Brian Main      | - | LCLC Chairman   |
| Cllr John White | - | Deputy Chairman |

##### **LCLC Members**

|                             |   |                                             |
|-----------------------------|---|---------------------------------------------|
| Ian Cuthbert                | - | Bradwell/Dungeness/Sizewell A Site Director |
| Cllr Ian Clarke             | - |                                             |
| Cllr Tony Fittock           | - | Althorne Parish Council                     |
| James Heavingham            | - | ONR                                         |
| Cllr Andrea Luxford Vaughan | - | Colchester City Council                     |
| Cllr Matthew Neall          | - | Maldon District Council                     |
| Cllr John Noble             | - | Bradwell Parish Council                     |
| Cllr Jayne Rumary           | - | Tillingham Village Council                  |

##### **Other Attendees**

|                      |   |                                          |
|----------------------|---|------------------------------------------|
| Andrew Blowers       |   |                                          |
| Bea Chandler         |   |                                          |
| Eirian Vaughan Lewis | - | NRS Communications & Socio-Economic Lead |
| Linda Gemmill        |   |                                          |
| Janine Claber        | - | Virtual event host                       |

## **I Introduction**

3303 The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked them for attending at this new, experimental time.

## **II Apologies for Absence**

3304 Received from Bill Hamilton of NRS; Pip Hatt of NDA; Cllr John Lambert of Latchingdon Parish Council, Cllr Paul Burgess of Althorne Parish Council and Cllr Paula Spenceley of Maldon District Council.

## **III Approval of the Previous Minutes**

3305 The minutes were approved as a true record of the meeting on 27 September 2023.

## **IV Matters Arising from the Previous Minutes**

3306 There were no matters arising.

## **V Bradwell Site Director's Report**

3307 Ian Cuthbert announced that his tenure as interim Site Director for three sites would be ending shortly and that Alan Walker would be the new Bradwell Site Director from 8 April.

3308 Ian noted that there had been a problem of water ingress in December, due to heavy rainfall, but the general condition had held up well. A mental health first aider would attend the site in March to raise awareness and reduce the stigma around mental health issues. A five-year care and maintenance inspection was due to start in September, which would last for three months. Data from previous inspections continued to be reviewed.

- ILW update: 137 Mosaiks had been sent from Dungeness into ISF to date and the resin was finished. A number of drums were transported from Bradwell to Sizewell, sampled and sent off for disposal.

Any future waste arising from Bradwell would be transferred to Sizewell, maintaining Bradwell low level waste at zero.

- Socio-economic spend 2023-24: £1,035,035 had been committed to date (£61,000 at Bradwell) and there was £1,328 remaining. £1,020,035 is available annually across all sites. Ian encouraged people to put in applications for funds and reminded the meeting that up to £2,000 per application was available under the Good Neighbour scheme, with up to £6,000 being allocated per site. Eirian could advise on any potential applications.
- The NDA socio-economic strategy consultation had closed on 21 February 2024 and the comments and feedback were now being considered.

3309 Andrew Blowers asked about the water ingress and the possible effect on future planning, ie was it seeping up from the ground or due to rainfall? Ian replied that excessively heavy rainfall in December was the main cause and he was not aware of any other issues.

3310 Matthew Neall asked about the socio-economic funds and whether schools could apply. His village hall also needed work which would require funding. Ian stated that schools should be eligible for funding of up to £2,000 and thought that the village hall would most likely be supported. Eirian Vaughan Lewis offered to send the criteria for funding to Matthew and to provide any help required. The Chairman encouraged anyone with a local project to submit an application.

3311 John White noted that his village was five miles from Bradwell and had, in the past, had its cows and fish tested for radioactivity. He asked whether his local football team could apply for funding as he was not sure whether they were included in the area Bradwell would fund.

The Chairman assumed that the area covered would be a circular radius (perhaps up to 15 miles?) around the site and invited John to submit an application.

## **VI      Nuclear Decommissioning Authority Update**

- 3312      No representative of the NDA was present, although an update had been received in advance of the meeting. Andrew Blowers commented that the NDA had split into four sections and that a representative of the Nuclear Waste Services (NWS) section should attend our meetings. The Chairman agreed to remind them of this.
- 3313      John White asked whether we should have a report from NWS, rather than NDA, and how many groups remained in discussions before we could go for planning for the GDF. Andrew Blowers, who is part of the NDA Exchange, a working group to look into this subject, stated that there had been three partnerships in West Cumbria, working with local communities towards acceptance or rejection of plans. Two sites remained which could take a GDF plus another in north Lincolnshire, which was investigating and would move towards a community vote. Other sites had also been considered but had withdrawn or been blocked. Andrew felt that a lot more work needed to be done in the early stages to avoid arriving at an automatic rejection later along the line. Andrew would be working with a team from NWS to look at how to handle the siting strategy.

## **VII     Environment Agency Site Inspector's Report**

- 3314      James Heavingham reported that monthly meetings were continuing at Sizewell A and they were looking at such issues as the water ingress at Bradwell. Quarterly meetings were also held between the Environment Agency, NRS and the ONR, where the environmental impact of any incidents at Bradwell were discussed. The care and maintenance inspection and the arrangements that were in place were being reviewed. James noted that NRS had a robust system in place for this and the reports were of a good standard and very detailed.
- 3315      The land quality management plans and the surface water monitoring plans were reviewed in February and it was noted that a robust system was in place for managing and monitoring areas of contaminated land. Nuclear waste and any discharges were being checked and were consistent with previous years. No breaches of the permit had occurred.
- 3316      James commented on a question from the last meeting, about an increase in radioactivity in the food and environment reports. In 2020 the total dose for a representative person around the Bradwell site was less than 0.005 mSv; in 2021 this had increased to 0.006 mSv but had dropped back to the 2020 level in 2022 and was due entirely to direct radiation from the site and not from any discharge. To put this in context, James noted that the average person receives a dose of 2.7 mSv annually, from various sources.

## **VIII    Any Other Business**

- 3317      **Questions previously submitted to the NRS by Ian Clarke** – Ian Cuthbert responded as follows:
- Sea defences: the photos previously shared were from further down the estuary and the question should be directed to the Local Authority, which would have a shoreline plan.
  - Graphite cores: the site in Wales had a long-term plan to remove the graphite core as a lead site. The current strategy was to dispose of it to GDF but the plan could be revised as new technologies develop. Ian confirmed that incineration was being considered but this was in its infancy. No inspections of the graphite were currently being undertaken; determining its condition would be part of future activities, based on learnings from other sites and current technology at the time.
  - Heat exchangers: although these had been removed at Berkeley and Trawsfynydd, each site was different and Bradwell's had been overclad and were deemed to be in good condition; much better condition than at Dungeness. Regarding structural integrity,

annual inspections were carried out but the data indicated that the frequency may be reduced. Ian confirmed that the heat exchangers were supported sufficiently to withstand a seismic event.

- Outfall: this was still in use under the existing permit and would be used for decommissioning. There was no indication of silting and the outfall was no longer flushed. The remains of the structure were expected to be removed during final site clearance, beginning in 2071.
- FED vaults: low rates of groundwater ingress were expected during the care and maintenance stage and were constantly monitored. There was no evidence of any egress of water.
- Cooling ponds: this water was disposed of through outfall but a dispensation had not been required to increase active discharges as they were within the previous limits.
- Near surface disposal of ILW: Ian Clarke had asked if the volunteering principle for such facilities was being applied and at what level. Ian Cuthbert was unable to answer this question; however, he confirmed that current plans for ILW were that it would go to GDF, which would be available around 2050.
- Final site clearance: the current strategy was for decommissioning work to begin in 2071. All ILW will have gone to GDF by then.

Ian Clarke noted that two of the three photos of the sea defences had been taken from the opposite side of the estuary, where stronger sea walls than Bradwell's had collapsed in surge tides. The image of the sea wall at Bradwell was taken during a minor surge tide and the water was close to the top. Ian's concern was that the sea walls around the Bradwell site may need reassessment in view of the other walls which had collapsed.

Ian Cuthbert was unable to answer the question and the Chairman reminded the meeting that we had been informed that such issues should be addressed to the Local Authority. James Heavingham understood that these plans were managed by the Environment Agency and the Local Authority and said that plans that were in place could be found on the gov.uk website by searching for 'shoreline management plans'. **Action:** Ian Cuthbert to pose the question within the Environment Agency and report back.

Matthew Neall ascertained that the relevant Local Authority would be Essex and offered to help push the ECC representatives to respond, if necessary, and asked Ian Clarke to send the photos to him.

Ian Clarke asked for clarification of the response regarding the outfall into the estuary as this meeting had been told that it was being used but item 3294 of the previous meeting stated that this was no longer a permitted discharge route. James Heavingham stated that, when the site was operational, it had a main discharge route for the radioactive cooling water and also had a secondary discharge for surface water. When the site went into care and maintenance, the radioactive water discharge point was removed from the permit. Ian asked whether that still ran out to the main outfall; it was confirmed that it does.

Ian asked about when decommissioning work would start again and the date for final site clearance. Ian Cuthbert stated that the work would start in 2071 and should be completed in 2094.

- 3318 Andrew Blowers asked if we could have a note of the replies to Ian Clarke's questions or whether we could ensure that someone from NWS would be present at the next meeting to explain what is happening in more depth. The Chairman pointed out that the comments would be in the minutes of this meeting and that he already had an action to follow up on attendance by NWS. Andrew felt that a presentation by NWS was required on this issue.

3319 Andrew felt that the issue of ILW was particularly important, and that NWS needed to be clearer on this. There was the prospect of an ILW facility whose purpose and the implications for Bradwell were unknown. He was concerned that some of the waste, instead of going to a GDF, might be destined for an NSF and he would like to know if that was in prospect.

3320 Andrew was also concerned about the prospect of inspections becoming less frequent at a time when deterioration of large structures may be likely to increase and therefore need more frequent inspection. The Chairman emphasised that reduced frequency of inspections would occur only if things did not change much over time.

Ian Clarke asked if we could request a site-specific report from NWS for the next meeting. The Chairman already planned to action this.

3321 **Other business:** Brian Main had attended a national conference of sites similar to Bradwell, where two main points about communications with the public were made. It was felt that engagement needed to be improved and that we need to enable scrutiny by allowing members of the public to attend our meetings and SSG Chairs could attend national meetings. Many SSGs were suffering from low attendance at meetings, and it was thought that the fact that the local power station was offering money for local causes, if publicised more widely, might encourage attendance at meetings.

Matthew Neall agreed that we should make ourselves more attractive to the public. Brian suggested that Matthew and Tony Fittock could get together to devise a publicity campaign for us to communicate better and make ourselves more visible.

Ian Clarke asked Brian to clarify who he wanted to aim such a campaign at; Brian said it was to make us more visible to the general public and encourage people to want to attend our meetings.

3322 Ian Clarke acknowledged that the Chairman would pursue NDA attendance at our meeting but wanted to emphasise that the report they had sent was too general and information needed to be site-specific.

## **IX Questions from Bradwell Action Network**

3323 Linda stated that there were 1,500 local members in their Facebook group and mentioned two questions raised there:

- (i) Why was such a large building not covered with solar panels to make it productive?

Ian Cuthbert stated that this matter was being considered at various sites and he would pass the query on to his colleague. He was not sure whether we could pick up the national grid but would ask.

- (ii) Many pictures had been available when Bradwell was built but none have been seen of the decommissioning.

The Chairman stated that there have been publications on the decommissioning, so pictures were available, although there was nothing photo-worthy happening now. He would speak to the member who had posed the question.

Linda offered to publicise LCLC meetings on the Facebook group to encourage people to attend. The Chairman accepted this offer as a way of encouraging attendance by more Bradwell people.

Matthew Neall suggested to Ian Cuthbert that, if solar panels were to be put on Bradwell A, some electric vehicle points could be installed in the parking area to be powered by them.

Andrew Blowers suggested asking EDF to put solar panels on Bradwell B.

- 3324      Timing of the LCLC meeting: after canvassing the views of those present, the Chairman confirmed that an evening meeting seemed more popular (or at least less onerous) than a daytime meeting and proposed that the current timing continue, to enable working members of the public to attend.