BRADWELL SITE

Local Community Liaison Council

Minutes of the 79th Bradwell Local Community Liaison Council (LCLC) meeting held via Zoom
Wednesday 24 September 2025, 19:00

ATTENDANCE

LCLC Executive

Brian Main	LCLC Chairman

Voting Members

Cllr John Akker	West Mersea Town Council
Cllr John Driver	Maldon District Council
Cllr Matthew Neall	Maldon District C’cil/Bradwell on Sea Parish C’cil

Non-voting Members/Members of the Public

Andy Blowers	BANNG
Ian Clarke	
Lucy Welsh	Bradwell resident and NRS EHSS&Q Manager

Company/Regulator Representatives

Alan Walker	NRS Bradwell & Sizewell A Site Director
Bill Hamilton	NRS Corporate Affairs
James Heavingham	Environment Agency
Alastair Findlay	NDA
Hayley Board	NRS

SSG Secretariat

Kayleigh Ridley	NRS, Communications & Socio-economic
Tonya Hughes	NRS, SSG Secretariat
Kim Avery	Marick
Mollie Nolan	Marick

1. Welcome from the Chair / Apologies for absence

3382 The Chairman, Brian Main, opened the meeting at 7.05 pm noting that attendance was lower than usual with around fourteen attendees present.

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Paul Burgess (Althorne Parish Council) and Cllr Doug Brown (Burnham Conservative Club).

The Chair remarked that although attendance was disappointing, the LCLC remained a vital communication forum and asked that this be recorded in the minutes.

2. Approval of the minutes of the 78th Meeting – 26th March 2025

3383 The minutes of the previous meeting were confirmed as circulated. No written objections had been received. The minutes were therefore approved as a true record.

John Akker requested that his representation be corrected to reflect that he was attending as a council representative rather than a member of the public. The Secretariat agreed to amend this. The Chair thanked him for identifying the error and confirmed the correction would be included in the official record.

3. Matters arising from the previous minutes

3384 The Chair confirmed that the matter of flood defences raised previously would be addressed later under the Environment Agency's report.

He also drew attention to the continuing issue of limited attendance from local authorities and parish councils. John Akker emphasised the importance of ensuring that smaller councils were aware of the LCLC's work and suggested members personally promote the group within their local networks. The Chair endorsed this and requested that it be formally noted that all members should take responsibility for promoting LCLC activities and attendance within their own councils and communities.

Ian Clarke proposed exploring advertising through local print media, as had been done historically. Matthew Neall agreed and suggested social media engagement might be more effective today, offering to assist in setting up an official LCLC Facebook page if suitable material were provided by the Secretariat.

The Chair thanked members for the suggestions and said the Secretariat would explore ways to increase public engagement before the next meeting.

4. NRS Corporate Update – Bill Hamilton

3385 Bill Hamilton, NRS Corporate Affairs, reported that the organisation had secured a stable four-year funding settlement from Government, providing flat funding through the current Parliament. While this required internal efficiencies, it ensured continuity of major decommissioning projects across the estate.

He explained that final site clearance would involve demolition of all site buildings except for the Interim Storage Facility, which would remain until Intermediate Level Waste (ILW) could be transferred to a Geological Disposal Facility (GDF).

Bill added that NRS hoped to conduct community engagement sessions in the Bradwell area during the following year as part of a nationwide series on 'future use of sites'.

Members questioned how the settlement addressed inflationary pressures and environmental contingencies. Bill responded that resilience and flood-risk analysis remained integral to NRS planning and that expert reviews projected hundreds of years ahead.

The Chair asked that this assurance be recorded in the minutes and thanked Bill for confirming the organisation's commitment to continued engagement with local communities.

5. Bradwell Site Director's Report – Alan Walker

3386 Alan Walker presented the Bradwell Site Director's Report.

He reported no first-aid cases, incidents or security events since March 2025 and confirmed that environmental performance remained compliant.

Routine inspection and maintenance programmes were completed successfully, and structural repairs to the Reactor 1 void cells were finished in June. Monitoring of those areas would now determine whether inspections could safely be extended from annual to five-yearly intervals.

Alan detailed improvement work to signage, site welfare areas and the nature trail car park.

Fly tipping continued to occur sporadically along the approach road; members were thanked for reporting such incidents promptly.

A joint beach clean with the Marine Conservation Society had been well received. Cllr Matthew Neall expressed disappointment that notice of the event reached residents too late for many to attend and asked that future events be promoted earlier. Alan undertook to ensure better notice and liaison with Bradwell Parish Council.

Questions were raised about waste storage capacity and disposal schedules. Alan confirmed that the ILW store had a total capacity of 380 packages and currently contained 290. He clarified that three additional packages from Dungeness were expected within the financial year and between 12 and 20 packages from Sizewell A in future years, leaving adequate capacity.

During discussion, Alan corrected a minor error from his earlier report, confirming the number of packages already received from Dungeness was 137 in addition to those produced from Bradwell waste and that the store therefore remained comfortably within capacity.

At this point in proceedings the Chair apologised unreservedly to Ian Clarke for earlier impatience expressed during discussion of Strategy 5 documentation, acknowledging Ian's careful preparation and long-standing commitment to LCLC work. This apology was accepted and was asked to be formally recorded for the minutes.

6. NDA Update – Alastair Findlay

3387 Alastair Findlay gave an update from the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority (NDA).

He confirmed that Lord Patrick Vallance had been appointed as Minister for Nuclear Energy and that the NDA's draft Strategy 5 consultation was closing the following week, with the final document due in March 2026.

The NDA's priority remained safe, sustainable decommissioning and maintaining stakeholder confidence.

Members raised several questions about the NDA's engagement with Government on new-nuclear policy. Andy Blowers expressed concern that the new Nuclear Regulation Task Force appeared dismissive of community involvement. Alastair replied that the NDA had stressed to ministers that continued public engagement was essential and that ONR and EA attendance at local meetings exemplified best practice.

Ian Clarke queried whether the NDA would give additional weighting to local views when determining site end-states; Alastair said that future engagement would give significant attention to community preferences.

The Chair reminded members that the NDA consultation on Strategy 5 had been circulated to the LCLC for comment ahead of this meeting. No comments had been received. He would therefore prepare a draft response on behalf of the LCLC, summarising previous discussions. He expressed disappointment that he had to prepare the response alone and asked that this be formally noted in the minutes.

Andy Blowers offered that his own detailed submission from the Bradwell Against New Nuclear Group (BANG) be adopted as the LCLC response. The Chair thanked him but declined, explaining that the LCLC must represent a balanced collective view rather than that of any single organisation. The meeting agreed with the Chair's position.

It was further agreed that the NDA should advise the LCLC Secretariat of the timeframe required for any future constitutional or consultation responses to ensure members have adequate opportunity to contribute.

Action: NDA to advise Secretariat on standard response timeframes for LCLC input.

7. Environment Agency Report – James Heavingham

3388 James Heavingham presented the Environment Agency (EA) report.

He confirmed that the EA's Care and Maintenance Management Review found Bradwell compliant with its environmental permit, though groundwater ingress into subsurface voids required continued monitoring.

No permit non-compliances or enforcement actions had been issued.

Regarding flood defences, inspections between May and June 2025 had rated the defences as 'fair', requiring only routine maintenance. James explained the EA's permissive powers under the Water Resources Act 1991 and clarified that primary responsibility for maintenance lies with the landowner.

Future assessments for the Blackwater and Colne estuaries would be updated using 2018 climate-projection data, extending forecasts to 2150.

Funding for major repairs was prioritised nationally based on population and property protection rather than nuclear decommissioned site status.

Members discussed whether localised coastal changes might warrant a regional review. James undertook to feed this suggestion to EA colleagues and thanked members for their interest. The Chair asked that the explanation of 'permissive powers' and the EA's prioritisation process be recorded in the minutes.

The discussion concluded that the risk of flooding to the Bradwell site is low, and the consequences have been mitigated to the radiologically sensitive areas with the installation of additional barriers or raised construction levels. NRS will periodically review the situation in line with normal company processes which considers the latest climate change information.

8. Any Other Business

3389 The Chair opened discussion on additional matters.

Andy Blowers revisited previous concerns about LCLC representation and proposed forming small sub-groups to focus on specific issues such as flood defences, communications, and environmental monitoring.

The Chair welcomed the idea in principle but cautioned against fragmenting reporting lines, stating that transparency was best maintained through full Council discussions. He proposed instead that informal working contacts between interested members could operate between meetings, with outcomes reported to the next LCLC.

Alan Walker supported this approach, noting it would keep discussions proportionate to the site's current care and maintenance status. The Chair agreed and asked the Secretariat to note that members were encouraged to collaborate informally on specific topics but that decisions must remain within the full LCLC forum.

A brief discussion followed on the LCLC Constitution. Alastair Findlay agreed to confirm the NDA's expectations regarding timescales for constitutional responses.

The Chair also restated for the record that, although the NDA had invited comment on Strategy 5, no submissions were received from members.

Andy Blowers again queried whether his BANG submission could accompany it as an annex; the Chair declined, reiterating that the LCLC must maintain independence and consistency.

Alan Walker provided closing clarification on ILW storage numbers and confirmed that the site remained within safe and permitted capacity limits.

The Chair thanked all participants for a constructive and sometimes challenging meeting and emphasised the importance of maintaining respect and transparency in future sessions.

The next meeting, which would also serve as the AGM, was scheduled for March 2026.

There being no further business, the meeting closed.