



## **CLLC**

Meeting Reference CLLC(09)M2

<b>Date</b>	Thursday 15 <sup>th</sup> October 2009	<b>Copies To</b>
<b>Present</b>	Prof Steve Cowley (CCFE) Mr Martin Cox (CCFE) Mrs Jennifer Hay (CCFE) Mr Mike Hurp (CCFE) Dr Francesco Romanelli (EFDA-JET) Cllr David Turner (OCC) Mr William Hanks (Sutton Courtenay PC) Ms Laurel Symons (VWHDC)	Mr Kevin Broughton (OCC) Mr Chris Dupond (Clifton Hampden PC) Mr Robin Holcombe (European School) Mr Simon Sharron (European School) Mr David De Leyser (Crystalox)
<b>Apologies</b>	Dr Anthony Webster (CCFE) Mr Tim Williams (VWHDC) Cllr T Crabbe (OCC) Cllr Ann Purse (OCC) Miss Jane Randle (SODC) Mr Glen Bartley (Culham PC)	Ms Olive Garfoot (Nunemham Courtenay PC) Mr Dean Worthington (Culham Innovation Centre) Dr Karl Littlewood (Environment Agency)

## **MINUTES**

### **Welcome – Steve Cowley**

### **Minutes of Last Meeting**

The minutes from the meeting held on the 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2009 were accepted, subject to some changes on the European School report.

### **JSSG Update**

David Turner reported that he was still receiving copies of NDA Meeting minutes and would copy them onto Chris Carpenter.

### **Matters Arising**

Following on from the last meeting, David Turner raised a question on the need for new power supplies on MAST. Martin Cox replied that new power supplies would be needed and existing ones would be offered to the EU Community.

### **General developments – Steve Cowley**

The sale of UKAEA Ltd happened very quickly at the end of the Summer 2009. The company was sold to Babcock International. Culham and the Joint venture at Harwell were not included within the sale and remain within the Shareholder Executive. As from 31<sup>st</sup> October 2009 the abbreviation UKAEA will belong to Babcock and the remaining United Kingdom Atomic Energy Authority will not be abbreviated.

This re-branding will also mean changes at Culham with the existing Board transferring to Culham and the Harwell Joint Venture and the records section at Harwell. As the sale happened quickly there are still outstanding questions, such as who will be on the Executive Board. We will not be changing to a new owner for a while. With the changes there is also a need to re-brand in conjunction with Euratom (this has still to be agreed). Once a clearer view is known an announcement to stakeholders will be made. Following the changes there will also be a need for a new Chief Executive Officer and Chief Finance Officer as the existing postholders have transferred to Babcock.

The Research Councils are undertaking a review of Fusion. A high level panel (made up of UK and International members) has been created under Keith Burnett (the Vice Chancellor for Sheffield University). Steve Cowley has made a presentation to the panel.

The Department of Energy (DEC) will make a statement on its energy plans up until 2050. It is expected to include fusion. The Research Councils are looking at the upgrade of MAST. Unfortunately we are not hugely optimistic, as the Research Councils are expecting a 15% cut next year.

The original ITER funding costs have increased. This has made things difficult within Europe but ways forward are being explored. It is certain that ITER will happen.

The JET budget has been agreed to 2011 and from then on will have to be agreed year by year. After the shutdown JET will come back with an exciting future programme. Work on the 2012 budget will start at the end of 2010.

Culham continues to host visitors. James Elles MEP visited recently and is helping to arrange a meeting with conservative MEP's in Strasbourg.

On social activities: Culham is hosting a fireworks evening on the 31<sup>st</sup> October for the first time. The event has proved popular with over 1000 tickets having been allocated.

### **EFDA-JET Report – Francesco Romanelli**

Following support from other European labs and discussions with the European Commission, agreement has been reached regarding JET funding for 2011. Discussions have started regarding the continuation of JET beyond 2011. As this will fall into a new framework programme discussions at European level are needed regarding funding. Support for continuation from all European labs has been enthusiastic.

Visits to JET have included a symposium organised by a group called RAMIRI (a committee looking at new member states in Europe who are looking at building a new research infrastructure in Europe). They also visited other inter-governmental institutes in Grenoble and Heidelberg.

The JET programme shutdown was ready to start in 11 days time and will last until the end of 2010 or early 2011. The team involved have been fully trained to work on the shutdown. This will be the largest shutdown since the early nineties. The work is at a very advanced stage with 60 million Euros having been committed.

The EFDA Steering Committee has appointed Task Force Leaders who will have the responsibility of putting together and executing JET's programme in 2011. There has been a good representation of CCFE scientists. The results of the shutdown mean that it is crucial that JET is capable of helping towards ITER. This will basically guide our programme choices in the coming years and also the discussion with the partners for a large involvement of US interaction.

## **UKAEA Fusion Report – Martin Cox**

MAST continues operations. In late June there was a brief intervention to install some new diagnostics which took up July and August. Operations resumed in September and will continue until just after Christmas. There will then be a longer break of about 6 months to install a new diagnostics system and upgrade one of the coil systems. It is still hoped that there will be a significant upgrade of MAST, but this is about 3 years away. At the moment upgrades are only undertaken when and if the opportunity arises.

On safety it is now two and a half years since a member of staff had a lost time accident. The safety performance also remains good amongst the contractors.

## **UK PR Update – Jennifer Hay**

As of 1<sup>st</sup> November 2009 Culham will be known as the United Kingdom Atomic Energy Authority for any legal obligations, and the fusion activities will be known under the branding CCFE (Culham Centre for Fusion Energy). As part of the new identity there is a lot happening and a new and more interactive website is due to be launched. The Culham Science Centre will still exist and CCFE will be an activity on site.

As mentioned above there have been lots of events and visitors. Lord Drayson visited in May and a new MEP, Catherine Bearder, visited in the summer. A seminar on communicating science and media to the public was held in June to celebrate Chris Llewellyn Smith's retirement. Steve Cowley was a speaker at the prestigious TED conference in Oxford in July and a group from the conference came and visited.

Media interest has continued with filming for Horizon, featuring Brian Cox, and a recent BBC 1 prime time show 'Bang goes the theory' featured JET and acrobats pretending to fuse as atoms. Other media interest has included Channel 4, Radio 4 frontiers programme and a film has been made on MAST for UKTI. The Mail on Sunday ran a big feature on JET and various articles have been produced in Nature and New Scientist. Outreach continues with at least one external talk each month and open evenings continue to be popular with at least 100 people attending each time. The Sun Dome for primary school children is going from strength to strength. Approximately 15 schools (1000 students) have been visited in the past 6 months and the Sun Dome was shown at the BA science festival. This programme is now expanding to include secondary schools.

In addition to the above, Steve Cowley mentioned that a meeting of the Council of Ministers were meeting on Friday to pursue the development of ITER.

Cllr David Turner asked if we took part in Venturefest. Steve Cowley confirmed that he had attended and given a talk on fusion. He then asked if there had been any progress on the visitors centre. Steve Cowley replied that the Chairman was very interested, and possible sources of funding were being pursued.

## **UKAEA Site Report – Mike Hurp**

The demolition of the redundant generator house (Building F1) and the old boiler house chimney have been completed. The redundant transformers have also been removed. Further demolitions are planned of buildings on the north-western part of the site. Preparatory work is underway and, pending survey work, specifications will be written to go out to tender. Tendering for the demolition contract is anticipated at the end of the year with the demolition starting on site in Spring 2010.

The programme of infrastructure works to improve pedestrian safety by replacing slab footpaths with tarmac has been completed. This work has also involved improved provision for pedestrians, road and car park marking and signage, and improvements to perimeter security. Civil work on the new power supply to building D1 is about to start, and work is also planned to improve access to a number of building roofs to facilitate maintenance work.

New signage at the main gate was awaiting planning consent, which has been received. The signs will be similar to the existing ones and are coincident with the changes to CCFE.

On the planning policy front it was pleasing to see the statements of support in the SODC's draft core strategy document. Discussions continue with planners at SODC.

A useful meeting with OCC transport officers was held in September to discuss transport issues. The meeting was an opportunity for Culham to be informed of possible future changes to bus and rail services and to highlight cycle way issues. The meeting was useful in raising the profile of Culham with the County Council Officers. It was also agreed with OCC to share the postcode data from the on-site travel survey which gives information on where people who work at Culham travel from and may help in planning future services. The next meeting will be in 6-9 months.

In addition to the above, Steve Cowley added that earlier in the year First Great Western trains discontinued their midday stops at Culham which caused concern as there were shift workers on site who used the trains. Richard Roland from First Great Western agreed to come on site and meet the staff and discuss the issues. He explained that the reasons for the reduction in the service to Culham station were the delays to fast trains coming through, and the cost associated with stopping at Culham. However, the discussions and letters proved positive and two midday trains were subsequently reinstated. There may be an issue in the future of maintaining this rail link.

It should also be noted that Steve Cowley had now joined the board of Science Vale UK as a representative for the site.

### **Culham Apprenticeship Scheme – David Martin**

David Martin, Engineering Department Manager, gave an overview of the Culham Apprenticeship Scheme. The scheme at Culham was designed around the Harwell Apprenticeship programme. Four apprentices (two electrical and two mechanical) are taken on each year with the first year spent at Abingdon and Witney College. The scheme has received accreditation from IET and IMECHE – a dual accreditation for mechanical and electrical. The whole scheme is made up of a group of 6 administrators and mentors around site. A recent graduate event was held to mark the graduation of the first apprentices where Ross Brawn (an ex-Harwell apprentice) presented the awards.

In addition to the scheme an Apprentice appreciation week is held for year 10 school children. The week provides electronic based challenges and ends with a competition to build and air powered rocket.

### **Update from tenants**

Simon Sharron gave an update on the European School. The plan to transform the European School (currently jointly funded by the EU and British Government) to a UK State maintained academy is on track for a 2010 change. It is still necessary for the EU and UK having to find a mechanism to enable the transition and there are challenges ahead. If all goes to plan it will guarantee a future of the school in the local community. As an Academy

the school can continue with the original service and can include a wider catchment area. The Academy would be a specialist language and (with links) a science college. If, however, the Academy status is not achieved the school will close in 2017 starting from 2010. This is all dependent on funding agreements which are due about April 2010.

David De Leyser gave a brief update on behalf of Crystalox. The company is operating well considering the current climate, although expansion plans have been put on hold. The installation of a fibreoptic link between Culham and Milton Park is underway. Milton Park is the hub of operation and is operating well.

David Turner asked if there was any progress in backup supplies at Milton Park. David De Leyser replied that they were in place like on site at Culham.

### **Transport issues**

Peter Ronald gave an overview on how OCC transport issues are managed. He explained that he was working with the local Parish Councils on a regular basis, and that roads were continually being assessed. Steve Cowley raised the issue of bicycle routes in and out of Abingdon. Peter suggested that it would be necessary to talk with Abingdon Town Council regarding routes in and out of Abingdon.

Any other Business.

### **Any other Business**

Steve Cowley would welcome any suggestions for future agendas.

### **Date of next meeting**

Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2010.

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Minutes Approved

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Chair