

WEST MERSEA TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE BRADWELL MONITORING COMMITTEE (BMC) MEETING

HELD ON TUESDAY 12 JANUARY 2021 AT 10.00AM

PRESENT Councillor Peter Banks (PB) - Chair
 Councillor John Akker (JA)
 Councillor Julie Baker (JB)
 Councillor Chris Wood (CW)
 Mr Alan Brook (AB)
 Mr Ian Clarke (IC)
 Mr Richard Haward (RH)
 Mr Roger Mullis (RM)
 Ms Shirley Swan (SS)

THIS MEETING WAS HELD VIA ZOOM VIDEO CONFERENCE CALL (CORONAVIRUS ACT Part 2020 1 Section 78 Regulations 2 – 17)

21/001 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

No apologies for absence received

21/002 TO RECEIVE DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were declarations of interest received by SS, RM, IC, JA, AB and PB as members of Blackwater Against New Nuclear Group (BANNG). RH as officer of The Tollesbury & Mersea Native Oyster Fishery Co Ltd. JA, JB and CW as members of STOP350 and JA and IC as members of Mersea Island Society (MIS). PB of the Office for Nuclear Regulation (ONR) and the Government Department of Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) Non Governmental Organisations (NGO) Nuclear Forums.

21/003 MINUTES OF MEETING HELD 11 AUGUST 2020 AND MATTERS ARISING

The minutes of the meeting held on 11 August 2020 were confirmed and virtually signed by the Chair as a true record.

Matters arising: There were no matters arising not covered elsewhere on the agenda.

21/004 TO DISCUSS LATEST INTERACTIONS WITH BRADWELL B (BRB)

PB gave an overview of the latest meeting that West Mersea Town Council (WMTC) had with the BRB team and, as WMTC representative, the meeting with the Bradwell B Community Forum.

CW felt that the BRB team were much more combative than previously and whilst light on detail they were intolerant of any criticism. CW and JA felt that this was merely a box ticking exercise. Contributions stated that many locals were unaware of the scale and scope of the BRB proposal. ¹More discussion ensued with a conclusion that WMTC should still continue engagement and should contact BRB to insist on much better interaction. This was endorsed by the committee.

JA asked about the relationship of Edf and land ownership. PB requested that IC give an overview, ²thanks to IC for offering to provide notes for the committee's perusal.

¹ **The WMTC BMC will compose an email/letter to be sent to BRB.**

² **Ian Clarke to provide Notes for inclusion with these minutes.**

21/005 TO REPORT/DISCUSS LATEST FROM LOCAL AUTHORITIES

PB gave excerpts of correspondence MPs had made to members of BANNG along with an outline of the Planning Inspector's visit concerning the BRB planning appeal to MDC and the council meeting when a letter for their MP and Stephen Speed (Director of BEIS) to support SMR research was narrowly carried.

21/006 TO REPORT/DISCUSS LATEST INTERACTIONS WITH REGULATORS

PB outlined sections of the minutes relating to BRB from the Nuclear Forum virtual meeting held in November 2020 with the Office for Nuclear Regulation (ONR) and also reminded members of the current EA consultation on the UK HPR1000 reactor Generic Design Assessment (GDA).

JB raised a question on who was monitoring the estuary and any emissions. PB explained the role of the Environment Agency (EA) before asking RH to expand on the role of DEFRA.³ RH will write up a briefing note. IC also contributed and will kindly forward a relevant note.⁴

RM also mentioned the CO₂ contribution from radioactive waste management and decommissioning. RM will follow up with a briefing note on this topic⁵.

21/007 TO DISCUSS FUTURE ACTIONS BY THIS COMMITTEE

After discussion it was decided that a communications strategy should be developed⁶. An offer of cooperation will be extended to NGOs. In this respect there was an appetite to produce a WMTC leaflet to counteract the BRB publicity machine for distribution on Mersea with a particular mission to unpack the false promises. JA offered to provide an estimate to put before the full council⁷.

CW stressed the need to communicate, as an example, the overwhelming visual impact of the cooling towers. CW suggested the BMC commission some artwork to illustrate this from a Mersea perspective⁸. Both points agreed.

AB outlined the urgency to inform locals about the proximity of what will be a multi generational high level radioactive waste store.

21/008 TO RECEIVE AND UPDATE ON THE TASK TRACKER

PB asked for approval to abandon the Task Tracker most topics are now covered by the agenda and additional matters discussed during the meeting. This was agreed.

21/009 DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

Members requested an informal ZOOM meeting within a few weeks re the EA Consultation and requested a further informal ZOOM meeting within a few weeks re the Communication Strategy. PB to arrange⁹.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 11:50am.

Written by Cllr. Peter Banks, Chair, on 12 January 2021.

³ **Richard Haward to provide briefing notes on DEFRA and regulators for the marine industry.**

⁴ **Ian Clarke will provide notes as requested.**

⁵ **Roger Mullis will provide a note on Carbon contribution from Waste Management.**

⁶ **The WMTC BMC will develop a Communication Strategy.**

⁷ **John Akker to research costs for leaflets.**

⁸ **Chris Wood to investigate commissioning of artwork.**

⁹ **Peter Banks to set up ZOOM meeting(s).**