



Agenda Item 2

Chairman – Dr. Brian Marker- brian@amarker.freemove.co.uk.

Secretary - Duncan Pollock - pollock25@talktalk.net.

Minutes of the Ninth Meeting of the UK Minerals Forum, held at The IoMMM HQ 1 Carlton House Terrace London SW1Y 5DB on Thursday 18 June 2009 at 10.30am.

Present;-

Dr. Brian Marker –Chairman
Duncan Pollock - Secretary
Keith Duff – Vice-Chairman-Elect

Andrew Bloodworth-BGS
Ruth Chambers – WCL/CNP
John Cummins - DoENI
Mick Daynes – CBIMG/mpa/Hanson
Dwight Demorais – BCA/Lafarge
Bob Fenton -CBIMG/MAUK
Richard Gill –BIS
Lester Hicks
Nick Horsley- CBIMG/SAMSA/Sibelco Uk Ltd.
Jon Humble- English Heritage
Peter Huxtable – CBIMG/BAA/IOM3
Bob LeClerc – CBIMG
Hugh Llewelyn -Defra
Hugh Lucas – AI/mpa
Richard Read HampshireCC/POS
Andy Tickle- CPRE
Chris Waite – SEERAWP/LAWP
Paul Wilcox – Staffs CC/POS
David Wilkes -CLG

Apologies:

Natalie Bennett- Natural England
David Brewer –Coalpro
John Brumwell -BIS
Chris Dobbs – CBIMG/mpa/Tarmac

Peter Doyle –English Stone Forum
Chris Hall – CBIMG/BCC
David Highley
Jon Humble – English Heritage
Nigel Jackson –CBIMG/mpa
Sue Martin – Welsh Assembly Government
Joanne Smith – Welsh Assembly Government
Simon van der Byl –CBIMG/mpa

NB. mpa in lower case refers to The Minerals Products Association

9/1 Welcomes and Introductions

The Chairman welcomed Mick Daynes to his first meeting.

9/2 Minutes of the Last Meeting (13.3.09)

These were agreed subject to the following amendments: -
Minute 8/5 (sixth bullet) to read –“.... work and could lead to a draft directive. The project excluded energy minerals”.

General – because of confusion with acronyms for the Mineral Planning Authorities, The Mineral Products Association would have to be written in full wherever referred to.

9/3 Matters Arising ,Not dealt with Elsewhere :-

Re .Minute 8/3 -Environment Agency Membership

Agreed: - (i) The EA Mine Waste Team might be prepared to attend – Claire Robertson or Charlotte Danvers were possible contacts.

(ii) Bob LeClerc/Peter Huxtable would provide contact details

(iii) The EA should also be asked for an organogram.

9/4 LWM 3 – Revised Brief

Discussed – the revised LWM3 Brief and which had been circulated with the agenda papers.

a) Purpose of the Document – Members discussed whether the document should still be linked to LWM 3 or whether it should now become free standing.

Agreed - (i) It should become free standing with a brief introduction setting out its links with LWM3.

(ii) It should be retitled “Shaping UK Minerals Policy”.

b) The Revised Text –Members then examined the revised text and agreed the following amendments: -

Para 1, 1st. red text –delete “good quality”

2nd. Red text –deleted bracketed text.

1st. para, top of page 2 –NGO’s should be in lower case

para. 2’ – keep yellow text, delete red.

Page 3’ “Analysis”, third para. –insert comma after “energy minerals”

Page 4, 3rd. para. Delete “ agenda for action” insert “key discussion points” here and elsewhere.

- 4th. bullet, insert “and heritage” after “economic”

para.3 –delete yellow text, keep red. Delete “sites” in line 2 of red text.

Page 5 ,3rd. bullet –after “Netherlands” insert “or increasing capacity”

Page 6, final bullet, delete” East Hampshire and Sussex Downs AONBs” and insert “Proposed Sussex Downs National Park designate2

Page 9, 1st. line amend 30% to read 32%

Page 11, 3rd. bullet amend to read –“The better regulation Executive to complete its review of impact assessments. NGO,s to be in lower case.

- under” UK Minerals Forum”, delete references to government staff and make clear they attend as observers only.

Page 12, amend “Chris Waite reference to read SEERAWP/LAWP.

Agreed – (i) the above amendments

(ii) the revised text should now go to Barrie Hedges for a final edit

(iii) a pdf version should then be circulated to members for one week’s final comment.

(iv) the final version should then be sent as a pdf to all forum members , to all delegates who attended LWM3 and should be put on the Forum website.

(v) a press release would be prepared by CBI/BGS and cleared by the Chairman before being published by the technical press.

(vi) the working group reports would also be released at the same time.

Action – Bob LeClerc/AB/BM

9/5 Forum Working Groups

Discussed – the outstanding issues from the four Working Groups: -

WG3 –Carbon and Proximity

Lester Hicks explained the revisions to the final report, a note of which had been circulated with the agenda papers. The silica sand site emission figures had now been corrected, as had the figures for transport emissions. The figures for slate had been discussed and revised in consultation with BGS and the references to “waste” in the annexe had been amended. A new final recommendation had been added on the possible use of ALSF funding (see item 6a below)..

WG’s 1 and 2-Security of Supply and National Parks/AONBs

Reported – these reports had been revised in the light of members’ views and were ready for publication.

WG 4 – Cumulative Impact of Policy and Legislation etc.

Noted – this still needed re-formatting to match the other WG Reports

Action – SVB

Agreed - Once the above work had been completed, the four WG Reports should go on the Forum website, asap.

9/6 UKMF Work Programme 2009/2010

Discussed – the future work programme in the light of the detailed paper circulated with the agenda papers.

Agreed - the remit of the Forum must remain UK-wide despite the data problems in Northern Ireland and Scotland.

a) Rounding off WG Activities: -

Noted – the following suggestions from the WG’s

-WG3 – a possible ALSF research bid for continuing the work of the group.

-WG2 – further ALSF research was underway but there remained a case for a public perception survey in relation to the National Parks/AONBs

On the WG3 issue, Lester Hicks explained the background to the additional recommendation in its report on possible ALSF funding on work for emissions/carbon reductions. The Working Group had favoured collective voluntary action by the minerals industries, though this had not fully endorsed by the voting at LWM3. In practice it might be more feasible to build on ALSF-funded work already in hand by the Carbon Trust on energy use and emissions in the aggregates sector. This would need further discussion. But to pave the way for the possibility the new final recommendation noted in general terms the availability of Aggregates Levy funding for work on carbon emissions from aggregate extraction and transport. With

aggregates being the great majority of all UK minerals by tonnage (excluding oil and gas), there could be scope to explore possible synergies for all minerals industries.

Agreed – CBIMG should discuss the proposal, perhaps with Lester Hicks present

Action – Bob LeClerc

b) EU Issues- Raw Materials

Peter Huxtable introduced this topic. He reported that the EU had set up two working groups with BGS reps. on both. UK participation was otherwise low level. An EU communication had been issued at the end of May 2009. There was an opportunity for the UKMF to feed in views.

Andrew Bloodworth reported that BGS had been asked by CLG to report back as the initiative progressed.

Members felt that UK involvement would be difficult with only three Forum meetings per year. And with EU working groups often needing responses at short notice. There was support for a UKMF e-mail sub group to deal with consultation issues.

David Wilkes reported that the key CLG contact on this issue was Mark Plummer.

Agreed – BGS could contact Forum members direct by e-mail when necessary

Action - A Bloodworth

Hugh Lucas raised a concern about the UK transposition of EU regulations and cases where “gold-plating” had occurred. Paul Wilcox noted that WG 4 had identified this as an issue of concern. Hugh Lucas expressed concern at the lack of joined up policy by CLG/Defra/ BIS. Richard Gill felt the BIS Better Regulation Teams could help on this issue.

c) Skills Shortages-

Discussed - the note prepared on this issue by David Brewer. CBIMG favoured this as an issue for the Forum to deal with.

David Wilkes noted that CLG had a planning-wide Skills Initiative.

Richard Read reported that this was an issue of concern to POS as was the age profile of current mineral planners. POS had done some research on this topic.

Duncan Pollock noted that any work done on relation to minerals planning courses would need to be done in concert with RTPI. Also, there was a current ALSF research project into a possible distance learning minerals planning course by Leeds University /University of Western England.

Mick Daynes pointed out that the skills shortages extended to all professions not just to minerals planners.

The Chairman felt this was an issue for the Forum to make representations to government and RTPI. More data was needed on the issue, however.

d) Communications Toolkit

Discussed – the paper prepared by Richard Read and which had been circulated with the agenda papers. Members made the following key points: -

- Examples of the many company initiatives in this respect were needed.
- The paper read like an ALSF proposal- should this be pursued?
- QPA had prepared its minerals planning textbook and there was also Environment Council work in this respect.
- The work would be too labour intensive for the UKMF to carry out without help.
- The project should be extended to cover waste issues
- There was a need for a scoping paper.
- There was a need for a public perception survey.

e) Infrastructure/Safeguarding

Discussed the note prepared by Paul Wilcox and which had been circulated with the agenda papers.

Noted: - CBIMG supported this proposal. Members generally supported this proposal, which followed on from the work of WG1. However, some outside help might be needed to progress the issue.

f) Shift from Designated Areas

Discussed the note prepared by Chris Waite and which had been circulated with the agenda papers. Members made the following key points: -

- More data would be needed on rail movements and capacity.
- The work followed on from the WG2 work.
- Any research would be both onerous and expensive.
- Data on National Parks/AONBs was only available for England and Wales
- Mineral working in designated areas in Northern Ireland was not yet a controversial issue in NI but would become so.
- Ongoing ALSF projects relevant to these issues would report in November 2009.

g) Towards a Minerals Policy

Discussed the note prepared by David Highley and which had been circulated with the agenda papers

Noted - -there was no prospect of CLG/BIS preparing any sort of high level minerals policy statements. Members felt that preparation of these by the Forum without Government endorsement would be difficult.

h) Conclusions

The Chairman then went through the list of proposals and asked members which they supported in the light of the above discussions.

Agreed –the following outcomes: -

- i. Consideration should be given to a member workshop/seminar on Regulation and on the Communities Toolkit – paper to be prepared for the November meeting – **Action – HL/RR/BM**
- ii. On Infrastructure/Designated Areas a proposal for A Working Group should be prepared for the November meeting **Action – CW/PW/BM**
- iii. On Skills Shortages, more detail should be discussed at the November meeting –paper to be prepared. **Action – PW/DB/BM**
- iv. CBI should consider what resources were available for the above work. **Action – Bob LeClerc/NJ**
- v. On EU issues, BGS to contact members as and when necessary, consideration to be given to an e-mail contact group for fast responses on consultations – **Action – AB**

9/7 Local Engagement Event

Agreed: - (i)- this should be delayed until completion of the SE Minerals EIP in the autumn.

(ii)- A paper should be prepared with a set of proposals for the November meeting – **Action RR/NJ**

9/8 Forum Website

Noted – more content was needed for this.

9/9 Other Issues of Concern

Reported the following updates: -

- i. EU Habitats Directive –no progress to report.
- ii. EU Soils Directive – the Czechs were not prepared to compromise on this.
- iii. EU Mines Waste Directive- no progress to report.
- iv. Planning System- Killian/Pretty Review- this had been published with a further paper on extended permission time limit flexibility being published on 18.6.09. Further papers were due in the summer.
- v. Minerals Mapping in Wales – this project was proceeding on time with the final report expected in June 2010.
- vi. ALSF Funding Issues – this remained of concern, as there now seemed no aggregates link to many of the projects.

9/10 Any Other Business

DECC –Noted – The Chairman agreed to contact DECC with a view to representation on the Forum once Richard Gill had provided the relevant e-mail contact. -

Action –BM/RG

9/11 Date of Next Meeting

Thursday 12 November 2009 at 10.30 am at The IoMMM, I, Carlton House Terrace,
London SW1