



Oldbury on Severn
Parish Council

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**Minutes of the Meeting of the New Nuclear Build committee
Held via the Zoom platform on Wednesday 8th June 2022 at 10am**

1. Present: Chairman Cllr Keith Sullivan, Cllr Matthew Riddle, Malcolm Lynden, Dr Anthony Acton, Tony England, Gillian Ellis-King

Clerk: Victoria Bailey

2. To receive apologies

No apologies received

3. To accept minutes of the last meeting 11/05/2022

Proposed KS seconded TA; minutes accepted

4. Declarations of interest and dispensation requests

None received

5. Fusion Reactor (STEP) and Rolls Royce Reactor slideshow from Dr Anthony Acton

VB screen shared AA's slideshow; TA talked through each slide covering and comparing the two the reactors potential capabilities, land requirements, employment opportunities, environmental impact, approvals needed, funding and timescales.

KS enquired about cooling; TA responded that the water itself is air cooled and since the accident at Fukushima water cooling has been greatly improved.

GEK advised that it is understood that other regions have been approached to host the manufacturing facility for SMR's.

ML voiced concern over the Berkeley and Oldbury sites being under different local authorities ; GEK assured him that there is a strong collaborative approach to the project with all Councils and other partner organisations working effectively as a single team.

6. Gillian Ellis-King's presentation on STEP progress

VB screen shared GEK's slideshow about the STEP nomination which she elaborated further on as the following slides were shown:

- The nomination is ready to go – it has community support, need and impact, industrial and science base, committed political leadership, skills and learning
- Severn Edge also has strong political cross party and cross border support, as well as support from a wide range of industrial partners.
- The other nomination sites locations are Goole, Moorside, Ardeer and West Burton)
- STEP timelines: the technical assessment and commercials are complete. It is understood that the nominations are with BEIS and a Ministerial decision on site selection is expected by the end of 2022)
- Separate from the UKAEA technical assessment process, but given the long lead in times for education, training and skills, Oxford Advanced Skills has recently made a site visit to Oldbury and Berkeley to look at the options for early delivery. Round table discussions were held including with industry representatives from across the Western Gateway area.
- The Severn Edge webpage is live www.wg-severnedge.co.uk and includes a page to register interest and support.

KS then asked for questions for GEK:

KS began by questioning the need for levelling up for secondary schools. GEK advised that as part of the Levelling Up White Paper, Government has identified South Gloucestershire as one of 55 'education cold spots' across the country that are in need of investment to raise attainment. MR advised that historically South Gloucestershire had received the lowest allocations of Government funding in the country, and there has also been an issue of large schools without a full role. KS asked how the schools could be supported; GEK responded that STEP could provide a catalyst in terms of promoting STEM subjects, large projects can also deliver other initiatives. For example National Grid's Hinkley Connections project has delivered training opportunities for local people and grants for schools to purchase STEM equipment.

KS cited a visit the NNB made to Hinckley site C to see how it worked but noted that the site is much larger and more advanced than Oldbury.

ML said the Thornbury Gazette doesn't mention the bid enough. VB said that it was frequently covered in the Thornbury Voice magazine. KS felt that the Parish Council page in 4Ward could mention the project more.

MR suggested using the Oldbury on Severn's website's news desk more; VB will add when she is sent updates.

Action

KS to write more frequently and update Parishioners in 4Ward on STEP

ML to promote the nomination in the local press from an SSG perspective

VB to add material relating to the bid on the news desk

KS suggested writing to the local MP Luke Hall to support the nomination. All agreed it was a good idea to show the confidence and support the Committee and local community have in the Severn Edge nomination. MR has discussed it with Luke Hall MP on the telephone. ML previously wrote to LH but did not receive a response.

Action

VB to write a letter of support for the project to Luke Hall MP.

GEK offered that the Severn Edge team would be very happy to give Luke Hall MP a tour of the Oldbury and Berkeley sites if that would be helpful; ML added Siobhan Bailey MP and John Stanton are very supportive.

Action

GEK to invite Luke Hall MP for a tour of the site

7. Malcolm Lynden's report from the Site Stakeholder Group (SSG)

VB screen shared ML's report which ML talked the committee through; ML slightly concerned not enough parish councillors from surrounding areas attended as he had hoped but added that it was most relevant to Oldbury.

8. Any other items of report

KS suggested meeting every two months; this was supported by the NNB Committee.

9. Date and time of next meeting

27th July 2022 at 10.00am on Zoom