

**Minutes of AHAUC Meeting held on Friday, 29th October 2010
at Hinchingsbrooke Country Park**

1. Introduction by attendees

Apologies received from :

A. Chatfield	Cambs CC
K. O'Brien	Cable & Wireless Worldwide
E. Owen	Veolia Water
P. Castleman	Herts Highways
C. Vintner	Veolia Water
D. Newson	Suffolk CC
A. Prigmore	Beds Borough
C. Huckle	Central Beds
A. McGrath	Virgin Media

Attendees

	Name	Organisation
John	Kirk	AWS
Martin	Freeman	BBC + CBC
Sarah	Widdows	BCC
Samantha	Brothwell	Central Networks
Richard	Boissieux	EDF Energy
David	Capon	JAG (UK)
Rob	Scott	Luton B.C. (Chair)
Lilian	Drew	MKC (Secretary)
Dave	Giles	National Grid Gas
Tony	Norman	Network Rail
Clive	Derry	Norfolk C.C.
Keith	Childs	Openreach
Peter	Brigham	PCC
Barry	Rainger	TW
Carole	Syme	Veolia Water
Vicki	Stewart	Veolia Water

2. Presentation by Balfour Beatty on the new SROH

**3. Minutes of the last meeting
of Accuracy**

(6g) Report on Herts HAUC, word change, should read 'objected' not 'rejected'.

Para. 2 - Spelling mistake Bossineux should read Boissieux.

(b) **Matters Arising**

Items 3 Authority Contacts – still outstanding.

MF

- (6f) Forward Planning Notices/ELGIN – All to note. TW reported that this was currently being trialled in Oxford.

C. Networks reported that they were keen on sending these, but there had been a problem knowing six months in advance what works were proposed.

4. **Working Group Updates (Good Practise)**

(a) **AHAUC Website AP**

AP not in attendance.

DC proposed that this webs site could 'sit' under the new 'one road' network (was HAUC (UK)) web site)

AHAUC could be a micro site on this for no fee. There was already a designated web master for the site and it would seem practical for AHAUC to do this. All members present were in favour of pursuing this. DC to explore. DC

(b) **Co-ordination Principles SW**

No meeting held – ELGIN/Forward Planning notices to be encouraged.

(c) **Performance Information – CD**
Meeting to be held w/c 1/11/2010.

(d) **Olympic co-ordination SW**

There were now lots of splinter groups and it was proposed that this was taken off the working group list, subject to E. Owen agreeing. EO

(e) There was a suggestion that a new Good Practise Working Group be set up for 'Permits' in the Anglian Region.

Currently, 5 Authorities were moving forward on this, Herts, Bedford Borough, Central Beds, Luton and Southend.

Volunteers for the Working Group were :
P. Castleman, J. Kirk, V. Stewart and D. Capon.

5. **Performance Information**

CD produced spreadsheets/graphs.

No utilities had supplied information.

There seemed to be a downward trend in HA works, although this more probably reflected a more rigorous inspection regime.

There was an open ended question of 'were more HA's going to carry out Cat. B and C inspection'. It was suggested that coring be taken off for HA's.

6. **County HAUC Feedback**

a **Suffolk**

- well attended.
- Forward planning notices starting next month from Network Rail.
- FPN'S to be generated from 1/11/2010.
- There was an issue with contractors attending defect and other meetings, who could not agree result. If contractors attend meetings, they must be able to make decisions or there was little point in holding the meeting.
- There must be a delegation of power to the contractor.

Utilities were asked if they did this ?

Open Reach answered 'yes' – but this did not appear to be happening.

b **Luton/Beds Borough/Central Beds.**

Good Attendance.

Issue with Thames Water not attending rattling covers in reasonable time. TW advised that this should now improve.

c **Bucks/MK**

Well attended.
Forward Planning Notices encouraged.
Reinstatement of yellow lines an issue, preventing parking enforcement.

d **Norfolk**

Well attended.
Performance good – overall.

e **Cambs**

Virtual meeting held electronically.

f **Essex**

Meeting held.

Waiting for result of re-organisation at Essex CC and update on structure.

g **Herts**

Good attendance.

S/A's – some utilities over 10% non compliance.

Section 81's – Improving.

KPM's – Co-ordination – Herts praised all concerned.

FPN's – No major concerns.

Noticing – no major concerns.

Un-attributable noticing for Section 81, Herts to start implementing through Eton.

7. **AHAUC Seminar**

Now cancelled due to legislation on Safety Code and Inspections being placed on hold.

However, was there a desire to hold future seminars/road shows ?

DC had received a proposal from Aldercross, to arrange and run a roadshow in 2011. Aldercross would take over all the administration and setting up but AHAUC would decide on subject matter. It was advised that no financial risk would be involved. Any proceeds would be split between AHAUC and JAG (UK).

A preliminary date of 3 or 4 October 2011 had been put forward.

All were in favour of taking this forward (subject to confirmation that no financial risk was involved).

Working group to be :

Keith Childs

Carole Syme

Martin Freeman

David Capon

8. **AHAUC Finance Report**

JK was now receiving bank statements (but they were addressed to V. Manro !).

There was a credit of £2,500 in the bank. Last year,
spent £41,000 (41,000)
income £43,600.

The roadshow had cost £38,000.

There had been no more orders for the DVD's.

There was still outstanding sponsorship from 09/10 of
£2,800 HA
£2,400 Utility

Those members who had not paid their membership

AWS
Beds Central
Central Networks
Edf
Luton BC
Network Rail
Peterborough
Thames Water
Veolia Water
Virgin
Scottish – Southern Gas

More volunteers were needed to sign cheques.
S. Widdows and K. O'Brien nominated.

9. **Codes of Practice Update**

- (a) **Inspections** on hold, could be a 2012 start.
- (b) **SROH** – Started 1/10/2010.
- (c) **Training** – Ongoing – If current SCOTVEC card expires between now and October 2010, it can be renewed by sending form/cheque to SCOTVEC **before** April 2011. After April 2011, all renewals must have passed a re-training exam (10 questions, must pass 8 to pass).

Signing, lighting and guarding now a unit in its own right & can have its own SCOTVEC card. (DfT had not yet ratified the above, but it was thought to be going ahead).

- (d) **Safety** – May be issued in 2011 with implementation in 2012.
- (e) **Noticing**

- Section 81's being discussed.
- Storage of materials on site.
- Work activity footprint.
- Next meeting December 2010.

(f) **Permits**

- DfT will not review legislation but looking at changes for easier implementation. LA to run scheme for 12 months before approval sought.
- Fees can now be signed off by CEO of LA not studied by DfT.
- Further meetings to be held w/c 1/11/2010.

(g) **Diversionsary Works**, advice note to be drafted.

(h) A new working party had also been proposed dealing with **Communications around Streetworks**.

10. Dispute Resolution

a Post Meeting Note :

As no further information had been minuted regarding the Herts v Veolia Water case, the result was,

Herts won on appeal.

Veolia Water had to pay costs of £85,000.

As a result, there would be a change to the wording in the 'blue book' , item 12.2.1.

b It was also recorded that conciliation may be sought in a dispute between Herts and Thames Water over defects.

11. Health & Safety

The issue of foam concrete possibly exploding in a confined space was mentioned, it must have an air flow around it to be safe.

12. HAUK (UK)

The Committee had discussed both the quantity and format of meetings.

Decided to hold meetings 3 times a year not 4.

Looking at changing the format of meetings.

Performance Measures – to go to the software developers, meeting to be held to discuss.

It was also mentioned that the DFT had asked HAUK(UK) for its priorities on forthcoming legislation but HAUK (UK) had replied that all outstanding issues were equally important.

13. Traffic Management Charges (requested by edf)

It was believed that this subject was about T TRO charges, from Herts, who wanted payment up front, with no invoice – Utilities needed a receipt for their audit trail.

14. Any Other Business

- (a) The item from Herts was brought up – edf were working on a WRP Notice but had found cables on top of the electricity cables, laid at a shallow depth. Who should pay to move then ? It was agreed that the Utility who had responsibility for the shallow cables should pay for removal/re-location (BT agreed that if this was their equipment, they would pay to re-locate).
- (b) RS advised that this would be his last meeting as Chair (and maybe the last meeting at AHAUC he attended, due to a re-structure at Luton BC) and he thanked every one for their help over the last 2 years.

Sarah Widdows would take over as AJAG Chair. The Utility side (K. O'Brien) to chair AHAUC meetings from 2011, (for the next two years.) L. Drew no longer Secretary for AHAUC after December 2010, Utilities to provide next Secretary (to be advised).

Next Meeting, Friday, 28th January 2011.