

## **Minutes of the 41<sup>st</sup> meeting of the UK Bridges Board held at the Chartered Institution of Highways & Transportation on 20 June 2013**

Mike Winter	ADEPT/ Dorset County Council (Chairman)
Barry Colford (to item 7)	Large Bridges Rep/Forth Road Bridge
Kevin Denith	ADEPT/Devon County Council
Richard Fish	Bridge Owners Forum
Satbir Gil	TAG/Hounslow Highways
Rod Howe	Canal and Rivers Trust
Wayne Hindshaw	Transport Scotland
Liz Kirkham	ADEPT
Neil Loudon	Highways Agency
Willie Kerr	Northern Ireland Roads Service
David Mackenzie	SCOTS/ Highland Council
Stuart Molyneux	Metropolitan Councils
Justin Ward	CIHT (Secretariat)

### **In attendance:**

David Ashurst representing the World Road Association Technical Committee 4.3 'Road Bridges'.

### **ITEMS FOR NOTE/ESCALATION TO UK ROADS LIAISON GROUP**

- ***ADEPT & Network Rail Liaison needs to resume promptly to address issues between the rail network and local highways***
- ***Board highlighted concerns that the late release of supporting materials from CIPFA was not helpful for local highways authorities returns for whole of government accounts***
- ***Board concerned about the slow progress with the Bridges Inspector Training, particularly with establishing the contract to lead the process on this***

### **1. Welcome, introduction and apologies**

Mike Winter welcome everyone to the meeting, apologies were received from Stephen Pottle, Ian Bucknall, Richard Frost, Steve Berry, Paul Hersey, Neil Garton-Jones, Graham Bessant and Jason Hibbert.

### **2. World Road Association**

David Ashurst gave a presentation on the work of Technical Committee TC 4.3 Road Bridges. David is the UK representative of that committee. David explained that the World Road Association was about the exchange of knowledge and techniques and not about research. The Board agreed that for assistance with questionnaire input and technical matters there was a more appropriate link to be forged with the Bridge Owners Forum (BOF). The Board agreed:

**Action: David Ashurst to attend the BOF meeting in October**

**Action: Justin Ward to circulate David Ashurst's contact details with the minutes**

**Action: Justin Ward to send David Ashurst the UK Bridges Board members contact details [completed]**

For further details of the World Road Association go to [www.piarc.org](http://www.piarc.org)

There was a discussion on climate change and Justin Ward confirmed that there was a Technical Committee focused on this area.

**Action: Justin Ward to contact Simon Price, UK representative on TC 1.3 Climate Change and Sustainability**

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

- **Accuracy**

A couple of minor amendments were noted: Wayne Hindshaw's surname was incorrect, Ian Bucknall had asked for some corrections to points made about Network Rail, Liz Kirkham's name was missing from the attendee list and Northern Ireland contact was incorrect.

- **Matters arising**

Mike Winter said that the action on DfT to establish a process for validating software companies' systems using the Toolkit needed to be carried forward.

Liz Kirkham highlighted concerns that the supporting materials to the LPAC had not been issued. The Board agreed that it was of concern that the toolkit and notes of guidance were not yet available to the sector [Post meeting note, since available - the details have been published as a news item on the UKRLG website, now available via:

<http://www.ukroadsliaisongroup.org/en/news/index.cfm/supporting-materials-whole-of-government-accounts>]

The Board were concerned that the late issue of the data-packs given that returns were due in July.

**Action: Liz Kirkham to invite Lila Tachtsi to the ADEPT Bridges Group meeting to discuss revising the Highways Structures Code of Practice**

**Action: Justin Ward to add BIM as an item on the UK Bridges Board Business Plan**

**ADEPT & Network Rail Liaison** - The Board noted that, although good liaison was taking place in Scotland and Wales, there were concerns about a lack of progress with re-establishing liaison between ADEPT and Network Rail in England.

Wayne Hindshaw highlighted the Scottish Roads Review that had led to the establishment of the Scottish Roads Research Board and Mike Winter said that this was a good way to prioritise and coordinate research. The Board agreed that research should be coordinated more broadly across the UK and there could be benefits in bringing together the work of BOF and the new research group in Scotland.

**Action: Wayne Hindshaw to contact Gerry Hayter at the Highways Agency about the coordination of research on bridge issues**

Mike Winter said that Graham Cole is updating the scoping document on Vehicle Restraint Systems for Local Roads, which will be presented at the next UK Bridges Board meeting. Mike said that this would pick up issues from DfT post the Oxshott incident. It is planned to jointly fund the work between ADEPT and DfT, with DfT procuring the work as a “follow on” from the previous work on this topic by Atkins.

Neil Loudon highlighted that CIRIA was trying to develop a project on concealed components and that Chris Chiverall was working on this.

**Action: Mike Winter to speak to Chris Chiverall from CIRIA to establish the current position with the potential research project on concealed components**

The Board discussed the issue of people reporting safety incidents through CROSS to help the industry learn from mistakes. Mike Winter proposed that BOF was the more appropriate forum for updates from SCOSS/CROSS and the Board agreed that this was a pragmatic way forward. There followed a discussion on the balance of what is on the members only area of the BOF website and what is on the publicly available part. Richard Fish said that the presumption should be that information is publicly available for the benefit of the wider bridge community but certain documents – for example, when work is in progress or commercially sensitive – would have to continue to be held in the members only area.

#### **4. UK Roads Liaison Group minutes**

Mike Winter provided an update on the staff changes within the UK Roads Liaison Group. Mike said that each Board had been asked to highlight its top three research priorities and Mike said that, in his opinion, the proposed work on developing guidance on the identification, inspection and management of concealed components should be one of the three from the UK Bridges Board. He hoped that BOF might be able to propose a “top three” for the Board’s consideration (see item 15).

#### **5. ADEPT & Network Rail Liaison**

As highlighted in the matters arising. Justin Ward said that Ian Bucknall had informed him that a meeting was likely to take place in July/August.

Paul Hersey had sent a note explaining that Steve Berry had had a number of meetings with the ORR with respect to the Stowmarket RAIB report on the Vehicle Incursion and had agreed an action plan with them. A further ORR/NR/DfT meeting was scheduled for the coming week and Steve would report back to the Board on this.

**Action: Justin Ward to contact Ian Bucknall/Keith Ross for an update on the Bridge Strike Protocol**

Wayne Hindshaw then gave a presentation on work that Transport Scotland had undertaken to reduce the number of bridges being struck by vehicles. Wayne highlighted a range of activities including attendance by Transport Scotland at Truck Show events that were useful to raise awareness of the issued. Problem areas were also targeted with the use of VMS

signage. Further information available here: <http://www.transportscotland.gov.uk/strategy-and-research/publications-and-consultations/j12054-00.htm>

**Action: Justin Ward to circulate a copy of the presentation by Wayne Hindshaw**

## **6. Level “0” Assessments**

Mike Winter introduced the item and explained that Mott Macdonald was working with Network Rail to set up and assist with a methodology. Liz Kirkham said that this was effectively a filtering system. Mike said he had wondered whether there was a potential benefit of applying the process to the highways sector.

**Action: David Mackenzie to raise the issue of level 0 assessments and applicability to the highways sector with Network Rail and report back to the UK Bridges Board**

## **7. ADEPT liaison with Canal & Rivers Trust**

Rod Howe said that a meeting had not taken place as Paul Williams had been off work due to an operation.

## **8. Eurocode circulation list**

Mike Winter handed out a paper and said that Steven Denton from Parsons Brinckerhoff, from the UK, was one of the European coordinators for the Eurocode implementation. Liz Kirkham reminded the Board that on the 1<sup>st</sup> of July the Construction Products Directive comes into force.

## **9. Strategic Bridge Risk**

Mike Winter said that he was still hopeful that Steve Berry would agree to funding a small piece of work on strategic bridge risk to feed into the Code of Practice revision work and to provide some interim guidance. The work of the World Road Association on risk and resilience could provide some useful input to the work.

**Action: Steve Berry to consider DfT funding some interim work on Strategic Bridge Risk.**

## **10. Bridge Inspector Training**

Mike Winter read a note from Paul Hersey that recognised the delay in procuring a scheme administrator due to other ministerial priorities. He hoped that progress could now be made.

The Board raised concern with the very slow progress on this work but did look forward to seeing it move forward. The Board agreed that a number of organisations wanted to put their staff through the course for accreditation and that Sheffield Hallam was ready to run the training.

## **11. Structures Toolkit**

Mike Winter read out a note from Paul Hersey which explained that the Structures Toolkit would be available in mid June. The Board noted that since WGA responses were expected to be required in July the timing was not very satisfactory.

## **12. Climate Change & Local Transport Adaptation Steering Group**

Mike Winter said that Michelle Witton-Smith was no longer the DfT lead on climate change within DfT and had moved to a different role within the department. Mike said that he was representing the UKRLG on a Local Transport Adaptation Steering Group.

**Action: Justin Ward to send details of HMEP Drainage Webinar**  
**[[www.ciht.org.uk/hmepdrainage](http://www.ciht.org.uk/hmepdrainage)]**

**Action: Neil Loudon to raise the issue of the group with Dean Kirkwood-Crisp from the Highways Agency**

Mike said that the National Adaptation Plan is due to be published on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of July and that a number of regional workshops were being planned on climate change impacts on transport to encourage Highway Authorities to assess the resilience of their local road networks.

## **13. Local Highway Authority and Highways Agency boundary issues**

The Board noted and were pleased that progress was now being made on this issue. The Board noted that CH2M (formerly Halcrow) were undertaking the work on behalf of the Highways Agency. Wayne Hindshaw said that Halcrow had undertaken work on behalf of Transport Scotland to review the boundary issues in Scotland.

**Action: Wayne Hindshaw to speak to Donald Morrison and contact Neil Loudon to ensure coverage of the approach undertaken in Scotland is taken account of in the review in England.**

## **14. Bridge Owners Forum (BOF)**

Paul Hersey's note to the Board stated that it was DfT's intention to take the agreed constitution of BOF to the July meeting of UKRLG for final agreement.

**Action: Steve Berry to submit the BOF Constitution to the next UKRLG meeting.**

**Action: Richard Fish to send a copy of the final BOF constitution to Justin Ward for publication on the UKRLG website**

## **15. Research**

The Board requested that BOF finalise the top three research priorities for submission at the UKRLG meeting in November.

**Action: Richard Fish to send Mike Winter the top three research priorities as determined by BOF in their October meeting**

There was a brief discussion on a CIRIA workshop being help on scour as part of the project to rewrite the Scour Manual C551.

**Action: Liz Kirkham to send details to ADEPT Bridges Group members to collate interest for potential attendance at the workshop on scour at bridges on the 16<sup>th</sup> of July.**

## **16. Code of Practice Update**

The Board agreed the updates

**Action: Justin Ward to publish updates on the UKRLG website after approval at the UKRLG meeting.**

**Action: Justin Ward to highlight to ATKINS that the report from the M1 fire incident had been published but that it is expected to ultimately be covered in the new risk and resilience section of the Code.**

## **17. Revision of Code of Practice**

Mike Winter read an update from Paul Hersey on the revision of the Code of Practice. The methodology for the project was being finalised and it was hoped to be able to commission Atkins to commence the review in July.

## **18. UK Bridges Board Business Plan**

Mike said that the plan had been updated on the website [available here: <http://www.ukroadsliasongroup.org/en/UKRLG-and-boards/uk-bridges-board/uk-bridges-board-business-plan/uk-bridges-board-business-plan-monitoring.cfm>]

Mike said that he had reviewed the actions from some previous meetings and noted that some issues were still outstanding. Mike said he would speak with Justin Ward about a better way of tracking ongoing actions.

**Action: Mike Winter and Justin Ward to consider use of an Actions log as an appendix to the Minutes.**

## **19. Conferences & Courses**

No updates were provided apart from the ones previously noted.

## **20. BIM**

Mike Winter thanked Stephen Pottle for a good paper on BIM that had been circulated with the meeting papers.

**Action: Stephen Pottle to give a presentation on BIM at the next UKBB meeting**

Neil Loudon said that there should be an emphasis of the 'I' of 'BIM' – information – as there is already a lot of work undertaken with asset management systems and databases that assists with BIM approaches to work i.e. the sector is probably already doing a lot that fits with the BIM agenda.

There was some discussion around whether the financial threshold limits for BIM projects had been removed. Liz said there had previously been one, but had seen this had been removed and Neil Loudon agreed.

The Board agreed that a good way of conceptualising BIM was to, instead of considering a large building, you should think about a section of the road network and all the individual components contained within that section.

## **21. Steelworks sector scheme**

Neil Loudon said that there was a need to refresh the membership

**Action: Liz Kirkham to put round a request to ADEPT Bridges Group on taking part in the steelworks sector scheme**

## **22. Items for UKRLG approval or to note**

Noted at the front of the minutes.

## **23. AOB**

The Board noted that three bridges had recently collapsed in the USA. One of the bridges was demonstrated on the screen [<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LLVKb1HxhAY>].

Mike Winter said that this highlighted the issue of strategic risk management and that network managers/operators needed to identify any structures that have specific risks and mitigate them as appropriate.

David Mackenzie noted a couple of changes were required to the membership area of the UK Bridges Board website [completed, see: <http://www.ukroadsliaisongroup.org/en/UKRLG-and-boards/uk-bridges-board/uk-bridges-board-membership.cfm>].

## **24. Date of next meeting**

3 October 2013