

## **Minutes of the 32<sup>nd</sup> meeting of the UK Bridges Board held at the Chartered Institution of Highways & Transportation on 16 June 2010.**

### **Present:**

Greg Perks	ADEPT/Northumberland CC (Chairman)
Graham Bessant	London Underground
Graeme Brown	DRD (NI) Roads Service
Bob Flitcroft	ADEPT /Lancashire County Council
Paul Foskett	DfT
Neil Garton Jones	CSS Wales
Liz Kirkham	Adept/ Gloucestershire County Council
Richard Kromolicki (substituting for Stuart Molyneux)	Tameside Metropolitan Council
Rod Howe	British Waterways
Neil Loudon	Highways Agency
David Mackenzie	SCOTS
Andy Phillips	Welsh Assembly Government
Stephen Pottle	TfL (Vice Chairman)
Bill Valentine	Transport Scotland
Mike Winter	ADEPT /Dorset County Council
Paul Williams	LoBEG/London Borough of Brent
Justin Ward	CIHT (Secretariat)

### **Apologies**

	TAG/London Borough of Hounslow
Satbir Gill	
Graham Cole	CSS/ Surrey County Council
Stuart Molyneux	Metropolitans / Salford MBC

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

Greg welcomed the Board to the 32<sup>nd</sup> meeting of the UK Bridges Board. Apologies were recorded from Satbir Gill, Graham Cole and Stuart Molyneux. The Board welcomed Richard Kromolicki and Liz Kirkham.

## **2. Membership**

Greg informed the Board that he would soon be leaving Northumberland County Council and, as such, would have to stand down from the UK Bridges Board. Greg noted that there was therefore a need to nominate a new chairman for the UKBB.

Greg said that he had written to the 11 “eligible” members of the Board to determine if they wished to be considered for the post of Chairman. The only positive response received was from Mike Winter. Stephen Pottle proposed that Mike be nominated as the new Chairman of UKBB and Neil Garton Jones seconded the proposal.

Greg said that he would write to John Dowie informing him that he would be standing down as Chairman of the UKBB.

Mike Winter thanked Greg on behalf of the Board for both his contribution as a member and then as Chairman. The Board expressed their thanks for all the work that Greg has done to support the bridge community.

Mike noted the changes to the ADEPT Bridges Group, where Graham Cole was to move to vice Chairman of the Group and Liz Kirkham would take over the role of Secretary.

Bob Flitcroft's proposal that Stephen Pottle continue as Vice Chairman of the Board was accepted by Stephen and seconded by Paul Williams.

<p><b>Action:</b> Greg to write to Chairman of UKRLG to notify him that he is to stand down as Chairman of the UKBB.</p>
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### **3. Notes of last meeting and matters arising**

#### **a) Notes of last meeting**

The note of the last meeting was approved

#### **b) Matters arising**

Greg noted work on the business plan – a “live document” - was progressing.

<p><b>Action:</b> Greg to send latest draft of UKBB Business Plan to Mike Winter.</p>
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#### **Interim advice note**

Neil Loudon noted that the interim advice note was still to be issued and would update the Board when this was done.

#### **Depreciated Highway Structures**

Mike Winter expressed concern that there was still outstanding work on the Depreciated Highway Structures project and that this would have a damaging effect on the progress with Asset Management. Paul Foskett informed the Board that he understood that the 1<sup>st</sup> stage of this work had been completed. David Mackenzie noted that he was involved in the project and that there was still a need to finalise the 1<sup>st</sup> stage.

#### **Bridge Inspector Training**

Stephen Pottle noted that work was progressing well towards awarding the tender for this project.

## **Research**

Greg said that he had written to the Chairman of the UKRLG noting that there was still a role needed for:

- Identifying and prioritising research
- Possible worth considering that research could be considered more as best practice and an efficiency or saving aid.

Greg's email to John Dowie had been circulated to UKBB members.

## **Personal Safety Incidents at Bridges**

Bill Valentine noted that Transport Scotland was trialling options at Erskine Bridge and the Board discussed the work that Bill had collated from bridge owners in regards to personal safety incidents. Mike Winter noted that there had been a request for this information at the ADEPT Bridges Group and suggested that this document could be useful for a wider audience. The Board agreed that the document would need to be edited so that responses could not be attributed to any particular bridge owner.

**Action:** Bill Valentine to edit the document on personal safety incidents at bridges to ensure that no comments can be attributed to any particular bridge and then pass this to Liz Kirkham for distribution to Bridges Group.

## **Factsheets**

Mike Winter noted that following the flooding in Cumbria the UKBB had produced a briefing sheet for the press and noted that it would be useful to have a range of factsheets as a resource to call on for any future potential media enquires. Mike circulated a range of proposals for comment by Board members. Members were invited to advise Justin of any other topics for factsheets.

**Action:** UKBB members' to send suggestions for factsheet topics to UKBB Secretary

## **LOBEG 25 Year Anniversary**

Greg and other UKBB colleagues had attended LOBEG's 25 year "event", where some high-value networking had taken place. Greg congratulated LOBEG on their achievement and thought the organisation to be an excellent example of bridge owners working together.

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

Greg made a brief report on the UKRLG meeting of 20 April 2010. Most of the meeting had been spent discussing "severe weather" and "pothole damage".

Greg highlighted item 8 which referred to the evidence provided by the UKBB [via UKRLG] to the Transport Select Committee hearing on the flooding in Cumbria.

Greg noted that the UKBB would have to wait and see if the Transport Select Committee would carry out any further work on this since being reformed following the General Election.

The Board discussed the research dissemination role and sought further clarify on what that would entail.

**Action:** UKBB Secretary to circulate brief on the UKRLG research dissemination role.

## **5. Flooding and Bridges – post Transcom discussion**

Greg noted that he had circulated a draft brief prior to the meeting that outlined a risk ranking approach for bridge owners. Mike Winter passed round a note 'Assessment of Bridge Vulnerability to Flood Damage – Outline Proposal' that he informed the board was presented at the Transport Select Committee hearing on the flooding in Cumbria.

Mike noted two steps:

- To pick up the Network Rail work that had already undertaken in regards to bridges and flooding; and,
- Ensure that there are links between Local Authority work and Highways Agency work on bridge flooding.

Following discussion, the Board members agreed that a wide range of factors needed to be taken into account beyond just the effects of scour during flooding incidents such as abrasion and water borne debris. The Board also noted that the impact of surface water drainage and the Pitt Review into flooding were important determinants.

Neil Loudon noted the Highways Agency work shop in co-ordination with Parsons Brinckerhoff that was feeding into a review of BA74 on July 21<sup>st</sup> 2010 should be well attended by members of the UK Bridges Board and the views at the current meeting would be conveyed into that review workshop.

## **6. Structures Code of Practice**

Greg noted that the original code was published in September 2005 and raised a discussion about the progress towards full implementation of the code. The Board agreed that it will continue to recommend and encourage full implementation of the Code by all Highway Authorities. Mike Winter noted that the Transport Select Committee was interested in the COP implementation. The Board agreed that continuing to encourage progress towards the milestones was important.

**Action:** UKBB Chairman to write to Local Authority Chief Executives and Directors of Environment encouraging progress towards the milestones of implementation of the COP

The Board supported the updates to the COP Complementary Guidance.

**Action:** UKBB Secretary to publish updates to the COP Complementary Guidance on the UKRLG website after sign-off at the next UKRLG meeting

## **7. Vehicle incursions**

Bob Flitcroft presented his paper on vehicle incursions. Greg noted that this topic was of interest to the UKBB but not to be managed by the Board.

Following a discussion on the accuracy of the data and the lack of responses by some Local Authorities to enquiries from DfT, the Board agreed that their support to this could help progression with full responses from Local Authorities.

**Action:** Paul Foskett to provide a template letter and list of authorities who have not responded and pass this to Liz Kirkham for distribution through ADEPT National Bridges Group.

## **8. ADEPT and British Waterways Liaison**

Rod Howe provided a brief update noting that British Waterways was aiming to achieve trust status.

## **9. Eurocodes updates**

The Board noted that that there was no specific update on Eurocodes.

## **10. Conferences & Courses**

Greg highlighted a flyer on a Masonry Arch Bridge Masterclass on the 19 – 20 July 2010 at the University of West of England.

## **11. Communications**

The Board discussed Mike Winter's proposal for factsheets [at item 3] and suggested that in addition to Mike's suggestions a sheet on personal safety incidents could be helpful.

The Board agreed that one key issue was to gain an overview on data for the number and condition of bridges across the UK.

The Board noted that a focus on the work of the Board would soon be required for an issue of Transportation Professional.

## **12. Presentation on Geotechnical Asset Owners Forum**

Chris Chiverrell – Secretary of the Geotechnical Asset Owners' Forum - gave a presentation on the GAOF and demonstrated that there were some key areas of shared interest between that forum and the UKBB.

## **13. Any other business**

Greg noted that he had received limited responses to his request for “census” information on bridges.

## **14. Next meeting**

Wednesday 6 October 2010.