

## **Minutes of the 39th meeting of the UK Bridges Board held at the Chartered Institution of Highways & Transportation on 3 October 2012**

Mike Winter	ADEPT/ Dorset County Council (Chairman)
Brian Bell	Network Rail
Steve Berry	DfT
Graham Bessant	London Underground
Barry Colford	Large Bridges Rep/Forth Road Bridge
Graham Cole	ADEPT
Cameron Gait	Transport Scotland
Jason Hibbert	Welsh Government
Neil Loudon	Highways Agency
Willie Kerr	Northern Ireland Roads Service
David Mackenzie	SCOTS/ Highland Council
Stuart Molyneux	Metropolitan Councils
Stephen Pottle	TfL (Vice Chairman)
Paul Williams	LOBEG/London Borough of Brent
Justin Ward	CIHT (Secretariat)

### **In attendance:**

Sarah McCann-Bartlett (item 2)	The British Constructional Steelwork Association Limited
Roger Pope (item 1-2)	The British Constructional Steelwork Association Limited
Jason Messenger (item 1-2)	The British Constructional Steelwork Association Limited
Michelle Witton-Smith (item 1-3)	DfT
Lila Tachtsi (item 12-15)	Atkins
Chris Hendy (item 12-15)	Atkins

### **1. Welcome and apologies**

Mike welcomed everyone to the meeting and in particular Barry Colford who had joined the group to represent the Large Bridges Group. Apologies were received from Liz Kirkham, Richard Frost, Neil Besley, David Yeoell and Satbir Gill

### **2. Presentation on RQSC scheme**

Roger Pope, lead assessor for the RQSC (Register of Qualified Steelwork Contractors) scheme gave a presentation. The British Constructional Steelwork Association (BCSA) maintains and publishes the Register.

For further details go to: [www.steelconstruction.org](http://www.steelconstruction.org)

### **3. Presentation on climate change adaptation**

Michelle Witton-Smith gave a presentation on climate change adaptation.

**Action: Mike Winter to invite Michelle Witton-Smith to the ADEPT National Bridges Group**

**Action: Michelle Witton-Smith to circulate contacts at devolved administrations to Justin Ward for circulation to UKBB members**

The Board asked Michelle if there was much information and advice on expected changes to wind. Michelle said that it was very difficult to accurately forecast this and that high wind speeds were considered as extreme events in the work on adaptation. There was agreement among the Board that more focus must be given to climate change adaptation.

#### **4. Notes of last meeting and matters arising**

The minutes of the last meeting were approved as an accurate record.

##### **Matters arising**

**Action: Justin Ward to circulate note from Stephen Pottle on TfL risk assessment work [circulated 8 October 2012]**

Jason Hibbert was asked about the make-up of the Road Tunnel Operator Forum and said that there was the Forum that included client organisations, consultants and contractors and an Association that only included client organisations.

**Action: Jason Hibbert to provide feedback to UKBB following Forum meetings.**

Brian Bell said that there had been a minor change to the Network Rail diagram.

The Board agreed to carry forward three outstanding actions:

**Action: Neil Garton-Jones to confirm the liaison arrangements between CSS Wales and Network Rail**

**Action: Liz Kirkham to encourage ADEPT members to report bridge strikes**

**Action: Liz Kirkham to circulate the document on Strategic Bridge Risk by Mike Winter to seek views through ADEPT**

There was a discussion on the document on the provision of road restraint systems and Brian Bell said that use of H4A parapets is mandatory and, as such, Network Rail's position on the issue was non-negotiable.

**Action: Steve Berry to discuss with WS Atkins as authors of the Local Roads Guidance.**

Neil Loudon said that the Highways Agency was developing a document on reviewing PTSI.

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

Stephen Pottle provided an overview of the UKRLG meeting highlighting that the UKRLG had asked members of the UKBB if they considered the strategic bridge risk work should be progressed. Following a discussion by UKBB there was agreement that the work was useful and that the table in the document should be developed and included in the Management of Highway Structures Code of Practice. To this end UKBB members were asked to provide any further comment on Mike Winter's discussion document.

**Action: Justin Ward to add in 'sufficient resource' for the mitigation measure for inspector and reviewers and then circulate to UKBB for comment by the end of October 2012 [circulated on 8 October 2012]**

**Action: Mike Winter/Steve Berry to discuss with Atkins on where the strategic bridge risk work would sit within Management of Highway Structures**

## **6. Bridge Strikes revised protocol**

Mike Winter explained that the document: Bridge Strikes – revised protocol had been developed by Keith Ross for the Bridge Strike Prevention Group and had undergone significant consultation. Graham Bessant said that he had not seen the document and that he had significant objections to certain parts of the document. Steve Berry said that he had not seen the document either.

**Action: UKBB members to contact Keith Ross directly with comments on the document Bridge Strikes – revised protocol**

## **7. Vehicle incursions**

Mike Winter said that he would expect highway leads within local authorities to be aware of sites which still had high risk ratings and be satisfied that progress was being made to implement mitigation measures. Alternatively, he would expect them to satisfy themselves that the reasoning behind not taking action had been properly scrutinised and documented.

Following a discussion on vehicle incursions the board agree:

**Action: Steve Berry and Brian Bell to meet with the ORR (and possibly HSE) to take forward actions on the vehicle incursion programme**

## **8. Highway maintenance block funding**

Steve Berry said that the DfT is not developing a block funding model based around asset management data and will instead have a look at the existing block formula and make some alternations for the next spending review period. In the longer term, the DfT will return to developing the formula around asset management principals.

Steve Berry said that 21 options for adjusting the formula are currently being worked through and that Liz Kirkham was representing the UKBB views on the group.

## **9. BOF**

Stephen Pottle said that the draft new constitution was discussed at the last BOF meeting and that Cam Middleton and Richard Fish were expected to make further changes to the document.

**Action: Steve Berry to review feedback on the constitution comments by Cam Middleton and Richard Fish when received and prepare a proposal to UKRLG on use of BOF's services by UKBB**

## **10. Research – CIRIA Scour Manual**

Steve Berry explained that Norman Baker MP had received a request from CIRIA for DfT to fund the shortfall on the CIRIA proposal to update the Scour Manual. Steve said that if the UKBB support this project, a recommendation could be made to the UKRLG to support the project.

Brian and Neil confirmed that their organisations – Network Rail and the Highways Agency – had committed financial support to the project.

Following a discussion on the CIRIA proposal for an update on the Scour Manual the Board agreed to support it, subject to the following:

- Must be freely available
- Published on the UK Bridges Board website

**Action: Mike Winter to highlight UKBB support of the CIRIA update of the Scour Manual at the UKRLG meeting**

## **11. Boston Manor Viaduct**

Neil Loudon gave a presentation on investigations and repairs at Boston Manor Viaduct.

Neil said that the HA was underway with a risk based inspection programme of post-tensioned structures.

## **12. Structures Toolkit**

Steve Berry highlighted a letter published in NCE in September 2012 that was critical of the toolkit.

**Action: Lila Tachtsi to contact Stephen Pottle/Mike Winter with specific questions to ask ADEPT bridge practitioners in seeking feedback on the Structures Toolkit**

**Action: Steve Berry to pull together responses and provide some supportive**

**case study examples of authorities that have used the toolkit successfully (e.g. Staffordshire CC)**

**Action: Atkins (Chris Hendy) to provide an example of a commercial view of the benefits of good asset information**

### **13. Code of Practice update**

Lila Tachtsi explained that there was no update to the Code for this cycle but that the Code had been converted into a single document, the Board welcomed this change.

#### **Inspection issue**

The Board said that they were not satisfied with the proposal from the UK Roads Board meeting (19 June 2012) and wanted the board to consider the current proposal outlined at the meeting.

**Action: Justin Ward to circulate UKBB proposal to UKRB on the inspection issues for the Structures and Highways Code [completed]**

**Action: Neil Loudon to provide an update on the M1 Mill Hill incident [completed]**

Mike Winter then talked through a list of potential updates to the Code of Practice. [note – there was a post-meeting discussion on future updates to the Code between Mike Winter, Stephen Pottle, Neil Loudon, Steve Berry, Lila Tachtsi, Chris Hendy and Justin Ward]

### **14. Any other business**

Brian Bell said he would like an update on the media briefings.

**Action: Next UKBB meeting to have an agenda item on media briefings**

### **15. Date of next meeting**

To be confirmed.