

**INSTITUTION OF CHEMICAL ENGINEERS: ENVIRONMENT SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP
MINUTES**

Title Minutes – 115th ESIG Committee Meeting

Venue IChemE, Rugby

Date/Time 13.00 Thursday 7th November 2019

Item	
Attendance: David Green, Stephen Billington, John Drabble, Ali Javid, Nick Harwood, Gareth Jones (part)	
1.	<p>Apologies for absence: Andrew Buchanan, Mike Nicholas, Jonathan Lewis, Kevin Soulsby, Clive Hadfield.</p> <p>DG welcomed everybody to the meeting.</p>
2.	<p>Minutes of last meeting - Proposed – JD Approved – NH</p> <p>DG confirmed that there were no outstanding items to address and current actions would be taken during the meeting.</p>
3.	<p>ChemEng Matters</p> <p>DG updated the Committee on recent developments but confirmed that he was not able to attend the most recent SIG Forum.</p> <p>SB confirmed that the new membership structure was having a positive impact on the governance of IChemE. Membership of the SIGs had increased significantly across several groups including ESIG and this was primarily due to members increasingly subscribing to more than one group.</p>
4.	<p>Recent Events</p> <p>DG confirmed that there had been one new event held over the current reporting period. This was a site visit to an analytical lab offering a service to companies that needed environmental analysis and organised by JL. The planned event to the Sirius Mineral's polyhalite mine organised by JD had to be postponed due to attendance issues.</p> <p>The Committee thanked both JL and JD for all their efforts regarding the preparation for these events. Given the current business pressures many members were enduring there was an acknowledgement that it was not easy to get a successful event established.</p>
5.	<p>Future Events</p> <p>Please be aware that any events planned should be formally confirmed to IChemE in the first instance.</p>
a)	<p>Visits</p> <p>i) Tour of Telford AD Plant</p> <p>DG confirmed that his contact is now back from maternity and that the planned tour of the plant will go ahead in Spring 2020.</p> <p>Action: DG to confirm date of visit and to go ahead with arrangements.</p> <p>ii) Tour of Cement Works</p> <p>In CH's absence it was confirmed that he was in the early stages of planning a tour of a cement works for Spring 2020.</p>

	<p>Action: CH to liaise accordingly.</p> <p>iii) Other Visits</p> <p>In AB's absence the committee confirmed that they would still like him to go ahead with an alternative arrangement to the North Tees EFW plant.</p> <p>Action: AB to consider alternatives.</p> <p>DG mentioned the possibility of a site visit to Argent Energy in Glasgow to look at a biodiesel plant but this visit will also have to be postponed.</p> <p>Action: DG to progress when appropriate.</p> <p>DG tentatively suggested that a site visit to a large bakery site might be possible. The site visit would cover a number of environmental and safety issues.</p> <p>Action: DG to follow up.</p>	
b)	<p>Safety and Environment Seminars (Ongoing action)</p> <p>In AB's absence, the committee was unsure about AB's progress with the next Hazards event. SB suggested that the Committee would still like AB to continue liaison with the organising committee for any future Hazards events. In AB's absence perhaps MN could follow up.</p> <p>Ongoing Action: AB to follow up (MN if AB not available).</p>	
c)	<p>Major Accident Case Studies (Ongoing action)</p> <p>SB confirmed that the intention was for more case studies to be prepared for the new IChemE website.</p> <p>Ongoing Action: MN to consider the possibility of developing further case studies for publication.</p> <p>Ongoing Action: DG to draft accompanying text to go onto the website which could form the basis of a questionnaire.</p>	
d)	<p>Regions (Ongoing action) <i>All regions: AJ confirmed that he would like to close off the Fracking site visit. This is due to the current uncertainty regarding site selection.</i></p>	
	<i>Teesside... no reports.</i>	<i>South Wales...no reports although JL has confirmed that he will look at options for collaboration. JL has suggested that a collaborative event on water treatment might be an option.</i>
	<i>Thames Valley...no reports.</i>	<i>Scotlandno reports.</i>
	<i>South-West...no reports.</i>	<i>Ireland....These initiatives have been postponed until an Irish member is prepared to take them on. This includes a visit to a biodiesel plant. A new Dublin group has been formed and a possible pharma visit is also being considered.</i>
e)	<p>Environmental Hazards Event (Ongoing action)</p> <p>Nothing further to report.</p> <p>Ongoing Action: DG to contact AB to follow up on an event on inspection and containment.</p>	
6.	<p>Webinar Development Group</p> <p>Ongoing action: NH is working on a contact list.</p>	

	<p>Ongoing Action: NH to analyse the attendance and contact details.</p> <p>Webinars that had been held recently include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Animal Testing Alternatives. 2. Medium Combustion Plant Directive. 3. Large Combustion Plant Directive. 4. Waste to Energy. 5. Air Pollution and Public Health. 6. Introduction to CCS Sorbent Technology. 7. Role of Sustainable Chemistry and Chemical Engineering in Society. <p>All contributors involved were thanked by the committee.</p> <p>Planned events in place include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Environmental monitoring using wireless technology (postponed until 2020). Action: NH 2. Flood preparedness (Andrew Nixon). Action: MN 3. Secondary Containment after Bunsfield in conjunction with CIRIA. Action: DG <p>We anticipate at least 100 attendees for each one.</p> <p>IChemE confirmed that they require 4 weeks' notice of a webinar. Each webinar will be advertised three times.</p> <p>Action: KS to liaise with IChemE regarding advertising arrangements.</p>
7.	<p>SIG Survey/Technical Opportunities Fund</p> <p>It was confirmed that the fund is no longer in operation but IChemE would be prepared to consider initiatives for very small budgets.</p>
8.	<p>Part A Forum and Regulatory Developments</p> <p>JD confirmed that there had been no recent activity but he would continue to represent ESIG at the Forum where appropriate. JD felt that Brexit activity within Defra was drawing resource away for the time being.</p>
9.	<p>Website and AVERT (KS)</p> <p>The ongoing commitment to Avert was discussed particularly with regard to KS support. It was agreed that we will do a trial period of ongoing notifications, directly via the website, rather than Avert. Short reports could also be prepared for our section of the website and KS will continue to co-ordinate this.</p> <p>Action: KS to receive appropriate mentoring and support from IChemE to ensure that ESIG is using all the potential functionality of the new website.</p>
10.	<p>Finance (SB)</p> <p>Current ESIG membership stands at 910 and this continues to be an increase on the numbers reported last time. This is also a record membership of ESIG. At the start of 2020 we expect the membership to fall away a little before it stabilises again.</p> <p>The c</p> <p>urrent financial position was broadly tracking our expectations of a balanced budget.</p>

	No further applicants had come forward for the ESIG Schools' Bursary for 2018/19.
11.	<p>IChemE update</p> <p>ESIG is expecting a payment transfer from the Midlands Branch.</p> <p>SB confirmed that we await any feedback from IChemE Council on our advice for the new Environmental Policy Statement.</p> <p>Current support for ESIG from IChemE comprises: Katie, Gareth and Serena.</p>
12.	<p>AoB</p> <p>DG suggested that he would look into arranging an ad hoc meeting on LinkedIn, mainly to discuss webinar development.</p> <p>RWM has approached ESIG regarding a potential collaborative event.</p> <p>Forthcoming meetings:</p> <p>Committee Meeting: Thurs 23rd April 2020, Online Only. (Dial in to be confirmed.) 13.00 start.</p>

**Stephen Billington,
ESIG Secretary,
November 2019**