

Minutes of Meeting of the 25th January 2010

Held at the Countryside services offices of Warwickshire County Council

1. Attendance

Mike Woollacott	Chair – Greenwatt Technology
Susan Juned	Greenwatt Technology
Jacky Lawrence	Warwickshire County Council
George Harvey	Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council
Paul Tuszynski	Cold Logic Ltd
Jason Reakes	BMW Group UK
Rob Oldaker	O&S Technology Ltd
John Hall	Axon Automotive
David Speak	Allied Vehicles
Steve Maxey	North Warwickshire Borough Council
Mike Ellithorn	C.A.V.E.L.
Brian Price	Aston University
Juliet Carter	Building Arts
Matthew Jones	Verdant Group

1.1 Apologies were received from Derrick Knight (SLC), Jeff Tuyn (RASE), Neil Butcher (ARUP), and Victoria Johnson, (Johnsons Coaches).

2 Minutes of meeting

2.1 As this was the first and formative meeting of the Forum there were no previous minutes. Mike Woollacott explained that the Forum had been set up under the auspices of the Warwickshire County Council Climate Change Partnership.

3. Presentation by Brian Price, Aston University on the CABLED Project

3.1 Brian Price explained the background to the CABLED Ultra Low Carbon Vehicles Project which will showcase electric cars across Birmingham and Coventry in the west Midlands. The project is making vehicles available to a wide cross section of users and will collect data on the everyday use of the vehicles. The trial will not cover infrastructure, service of the vehicles or the end of life disposal.

3.2 A data logger is installed in every car which is able to track via GPS where each car is, the state of charge of the vehicle and the distance covered for each trip and the time taken. Prior to the start of the trial data loggers were installed in the testers own vehicles to compare and contrast results.

3.3 A copy of the presentation has kindly been made available to members of the Forum and will be sent with the minutes. Information is also available on the website www.cabled.org.uk.

Agreed:

Copy of the PowerPoint presentation given by Brian Price to be circulated – Action SJ

4. Discussion on the remit and future programme of the Forum

4.1 It was agreed that the remit of the Forum should cover information exchange and best practice. Attendees also wanted to have information on costs, grants available and updates on Government policies and strategies where appropriate to the Forum's agenda.

4.2 Other suggestions for the Forum's agenda covered information on retrofit, methods to reduce emissions and information to help Local Authorities meet their targets.

4.3 There was general agreement that future topics should cover subjects such as dual-fuels, 'lighter' manufacture, battery technology and infrastructure. Expertise on infrastructure providers, HGV's, public transport alternatives, European funding availability and updates on research being conducted. Best practice for vehicle fleet specification was also a suggestion.

4.4 Several attendees have offered their offices for future meetings. These are to be confirmed. Other suggestions for venues include Gaydon and visits to see the latest R&D, vehicle fleet management or a biodiesel plant.

Agreed:

Proposals for future subject matter to be drafted and circulated for comment as soon as possible. Responses, with suggestions for venues for future meetings, are to be sent to Susan Juned for action.

5. Update on the Johnsons/Optare electric bus trial

5.1 Mike Woollacott and Susan Juned summarised the position with the proposal for an electric bus trial at the Stratford upon Avon Park and Ride site. Johnsons have been successful in their grant application to Government under the Green Bus Fund. The decision to proceed with an order for 4 electric Optare Solo buses with the support from the fund will be taken by June. A proposal for a practical trial to compare the electric and conventional bus performance along with passenger perceptions is under development. Brian Price of Aston University has offered to undertake data collection. The trial is, however, subject to funding support being available.

For further information or offers of support or cooperation contact Mike Woollacott at mike@greenwatt.co.uk - Tel: 01789 761367, or Victoria Johnson at Victoria@johnsonskoaches.co.uk - Tel: 01564 797000

6. News from around the table

6.1 MJ: Verdant are trialling different HGVs including dual fuel and used cooking oil. They are also looking at their energy management and will be able to report back later in the year.

PT: Cold Logic is interested in methods to retrofit vehicles to electric.

GH: N&B council are looking at a number of ways to improve fuel economics and is interested in the infrastructure that is required.

JR: Offered to host a meeting at the BMW Group. As a vehicle manufacturer they are interested in the engine production.

JH: Is working with Warwick Manufacturing Group and is interested in other methods of achieving CO2 savings such as the light weighting of vehicles and plug in hybrids. He is interested in understanding the needs of local authorities.

DS: Is a battery supplier. He can send information on events.

ME: Interest is in gas vehicles, natural and biomethane. The Government may be introducing a biomethane grant which would be useful for waste to biomethane use and this could be the subject of a future presentation. He is interested in portable and permanent gas stations of a cost c. £50k and below.

BP: Aston has a Sustainable Research Group and the work there may be of interest and could be a future venue and subject. The first reports from the CABLED project will be at the end of March and quarterly thereafter. He is interested in keeping in touch, and in possible future collaboration, with the Forum.

JL: The Climate Change Partnership website could be useful to exchange information.

7. Progress and next meeting

- (a) Greenwatt will carry on with the secretariat work for the foreseeable future.
- (b) It was suggested that a subject for the next meeting could be funding and the grants available.
- (c) The venue for the next meeting is to be agreed but suggestions are welcome.

8. Any other Business

8.1 No other business

9. Dates and Venues for Future Meetings

- (a) Date for next meeting Wednesday, April 21st at 13.30 pm. Venue to be confirmed.
- (b) Suggestions for a venue, agenda items and a theme for a presentation or for discussions to be sent to Susan Juned by February 26th 2010. Email: susan.juned@greenwatt.co.uk , Tel: 01789 761367

SJ 05/2/10