

MINUTES OF SURVIVE GROUP EXECUTIVE MEETING HELD ON 16TH OCTOBER 2017

Present Rob Gifford – Chairman
Shaun Coole - RRRRA
Brian Drury - AVRO
Steve Ives – AA
Pete Martin – Highways England
Derek Muir - RAC
Andrew Reeve - Secretary

ACTION BY

1 Apologies for Absence

Simon Henrik - Direct Line / Green Flag
Mary Hill - RAC
Dave Jones - NPCC
Damon Jowett - Direct Line / Green Flag
Mike Wilson - Highways England

RG welcomed Pete Martin, who was standing in for Mike Wilson and also Derek Muir, Secretary of WG2, who was standing in for Mary Hill.

2 Minutes of the meeting held on 19th June 2017

The minutes of the last meeting were accepted and approved as a true record of the meeting.

3 Matters arising not covered on the Agenda

3.1 HE AVIS information to Third Parties

PM advised that a meeting with the recovery industry was being held on the 15th November to discuss the information that could be provided and hopefully an update would be available at the next Executive meeting.

MW

3.2 Four Nations Safety Group

AR reminded the meeting about the need to inform the devolved nations (namely Scotland, Wales and Ireland) of the work carried out by SURVIVE, especially the protocols etc. agreed with HE.

AR advised that a teleconferencing meeting had been held with the Four Nations Safety Group during which he had explained the composition and role of SURVIVE plus some of the working practices agreed with HE.

It had then been agreed that following publication of the updated Best Practice Guidelines, a copy would be sent to the members of the Safety Group for further discussions regarding working practices.

AR

DM advised that consideration was being given to some sections of motorways in Scotland becoming Smart Motorways.

3.3 Police Forces dealing with Breakdowns

AR reported that he had spoken with Dave Jones from NPCC regarding breakdown / recovery issues on roads not included within the Strategic Road Network. DJ had advised that the NPCC leads for 'national contact management' were ACC Alan Todd and Pauline Smith.

AR had made contact with Pauline and was currently awaiting a return call to discuss with her the circumstances and correct procedures for recovery operators calling the Police for assistance at the roadside.

AR

3.4 Vehicle Lighting – DfT

AR advised that he had sent an email to Adrian Burrows at DfT proposing that a meeting be held to discuss recovery vehicle lighting requirements on Smart Motorways and ALR sections of motorways. As yet no response had been forthcoming.

4 Working Group Reports

4.1 SURVIVE Working Group 1 (Practices and Procedures)

SI reported that the Expressway Project had now been delayed due to concerns over Brexit.

Regarding the Best Practice Guidelines, SI thanked the Executive for their valued comments on the draft that had been circulated. He reported that the publication of the updated version was now temporarily on hold in order to review its contents in the light of the recent fatal incidents on the M25 and M69, to ensure that any learning points were also now included.

SI then reported on the recent evaluation and trial carried out by the AA involving a new emerging technology, "self-illuminating livery", for vehicles. A short video clip was then shown to the meeting. In principle, it was agreed that the livery appeared to be effective, however there was a slight concern over whether or not the livery could be deemed as being 'directional'.

SI advised that the Home Office had reviewed the 'livery' and had given its approval for use. An approach would now be made to DfT for their approval as well. It was then planned that the AA would trial this new livery on 3 patrol vehicles.

It was agreed that this subject would be discussed by WG1, to ascertain their views on its effectiveness and possible applications.

WG1

SI advised that the contact at DfT was Ian Yarnold and it was then agreed that AR should not proceed any further with discussions with Adrian Burrows / DfT regarding vehicle lighting.

RG commented that it was important that dialogue was maintained with DfT and if required their assistance could be requested to help resolve any legal issues regarding the new 'livery'.

SI advised that Rachel Jones from the AA would soon be co-opted onto WG1, in readiness for her replacing him as the chair in a few years' time.

4.2 SURVIVE Working Group 2 (Standards)

DM reported that a WG2 meeting had taken place on 30th August as well as 2 other meetings to a) review Technician training requirements and b) review comments received from AVRO and FCB plus elements of the ROLS scheme for inclusion within PAS 43.

DM advised that Steve Holland from Britannia Rescue had now been replaced on WG2 by Bradley Williams and that Frank Taylor was shortly to leave IVR and his replacement had not yet been decided.

It had been agreed at the last meeting of the Executive that the structure of WG2 should be reviewed, and as part of this review it was now recommended that its terms of reference were also agreed and signed by the organisations who were represented, which would commit them to certain conditions, including the role of the members. It was agreed that this would be an agenda item at the next Executive meeting.

AR

Regarding the progress of PAS 43:2017, DM advised that draft 5 had now been prepared and sent to BSI in order to commence the consultation process.

DM reported that WG2 felt that SURVIVE had a role to play in encouraging organisations to develop suitable training modules for technician training. The meeting agreed with this view and the Executive members plus WG2 were requested to help provide such encouragement.

All / WG2

It was further agreed that the title of training modules should in future reference the actual course content and not simply be a module number.

It was also agreed that WG2 would review the current training modules and provide their details to AR for inclusion on the SURVIVE website.

WG2 / AR

DM advised that PAS 43 currently makes reference to the need for ongoing technician assessment but that there is no guidance relating to this. It was therefore agreed that options for assessment i.e. internal, external and independent accredited assessments, should be referenced and that examples should be provided on the SURVIVE website.

WG2 / AR

DM reported that approval of the proposal relating to inspection sampling of vehicles had now been received from UKAS. This approach would be communicated to Certification and Inspection Bodies as part of the consultation process and thereafter as part of a Q & A Document relating to PAS 43, which is to be developed by WG2.

4.3 SURVIVE Working Group 3 (Communication)

RG advised that the discussion with SH regarding the way forward for WG3 had not yet taken place.

RG / SH

5 Smart Motorways

RG made reference to the recent letter received from Mike Wilson regarding the updated safe recovery guidance and advice from HE that had been presented at the Recovery Tow Show. The video that was included in the guidance documents was then shown, which included footage taken at the ERA trial earlier in the year at Moreton in Marsh.

The HE guidance and advice was then discussed and SI advised that the relevant sections of the Best Practice Guidelines would be checked before publication to ensure that they included the advice being given. It was also planned that the AA would circulate this information to their patrols and would include the guidance within their training material.

WG1

It was then agreed that the Executive members should help in the promotion of the HE guidance within the Recovery Industry by a) establishing a link to it on the SURVIVE website and b) circulating the details of the HE web page which contains the guidance documents and video.

**AR
All**

The link to the web page is below: -

<http://roads.highways.gov.uk/advice-for-recovery-operators-on-highways-englands-smart-motorway-network/>

SI and DM were requested to also circulate MW's letter to all the members of their Working Groups in order to help with the promotion.

SI / DM

SI also confirmed that WG1 would look into how best to communicate the HE guidance to those recovery operators who did not belong to any trade association.

WG1

AR was requested to ascertain from HE that there were no copyright issues with people using the HE guidance and advice.

AR

RG commented that an area of concern with calling for assistance from the roadside was regarding the communication between roadside telephone users and the RCC personnel. It was essential that both parties had a clear understanding of the messages being both given and received. PM agreed to look into this.

PM

SC also commented that some recovery operators had experienced often lengthy delays in the assistance requested being provided at the roadside.

PM advised that HE would be carrying out an analysis of the new surfacing of the SOS areas, with a national rollout of the new colour scheme etc. from the end of the year.

PM also advised that the 'stopped vehicle detection' system would be going live on the M25 in the Spring of 2018.

PM commented that an analysis was also being carried out by HE regarding the impact of Smart Motorways, and It was hoped that MW would be able to present an overview of the results at the next Executive meeting.

PM / MW

6 RoWSaF Meeting

AR advised that one item discussed at the recent RoWSaF meeting concerned vehicle incursions into coned off areas at roadworks. HE was leading on a project looking into this, including the various causes of such incursions, such as breakdowns etc.

It was agreed that the HE project manager, Nick Nandhra, should be invited to a WG1 meeting to discuss how best members of SURVIVE could assist HE in understanding the causes etc. of such breakdowns.

WG1

AR also advised that HE had been requested to look into which other projects may be suitable for input from SURVIVE members. PM confirmed that a recent review of the current HE projects had not identified any suitable projects but HE would bear in mind this offer from SURVIVE for the future.

A short discussion then took place regarding the 2 recent fatal accidents on motorways, one on the M25 on 22nd September and the other on the M69 on 10th October. It was agreed that any lessons that could be learned from these two very unfortunate incidents should be included, if required, in the Best Practice Guidelines and/or PAS 43.

WG1 / WG2

7 Any Other Business

SC advised that a petition had recently been posted onto the Government website calling for the introduction of a law to make drivers slow down or move over for vehicles that had broken down or had been involved in an accident. To date over 6,700 signatures had been received in support of this petition.

SI commented that this subject had been raised some years ago and had been discussed by the Executive. The general feeling then was that possibly more problems could be caused by drivers trying to change lanes, especially in congested traffic.

Following a brief discussion, it was agreed that this advice could possibly best be contained within the Highway Code and also the THINK campaign. AR was asked to look into this.

AR

It was also agreed that a reference should be made to the petition on the SURVIVE website.

AR

8 Date of the Next Meeting

It was agreed that the three meetings to be held in 2018 would take place on the following dates; -

- Monday 12th February at the AA Offices in Basingstoke
- Monday 18th June at the Direct Line Offices in Birmingham
- Monday 15th October at the RAC Offices in Walsall

All the meetings would commence at 11.30 am.

RG closed the meeting by expressing the grateful thanks of the Executive to DM and RAC for hosting the meeting and for their kind hospitality.