

MINUTES OF SURVIVE GROUP EXECUTIVE MEETING HELD ON 12TH FEBRUARY 2018

Present Rob Gifford – Chairman
Shaun Coole - RRRA
Andrew Eade – Highways England
Mary Hill – RAC
Steve Ives – AA
Mick Puleston – AVRO
Andrew Reeve - Secretary

ACTION BY

1 Apologies for Absence

Brian Drury – AVRO
Simon Henrik - Direct Line / Green Flag
Dave Jones - NPCC
Damon Jowett - Direct Line / Green Flag
Mike Wilson - Highways England

RG welcomed Andy Eade, who was standing in for Mike Wilson and also Mick Puleston, who was standing in for Brian Drury.

2 Minutes of the meeting held on 19th October 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

AE advised that significant progress was now being made with a project now underway regarding sharing data more widely than was originally envisaged. It was hoped that the project work would be completed by October 2018.

The data would include information regarding bridges (height etc.), marker posts and other HE assets on the road network. The project group would also be looking at how to share the information with interested parties.

3.2 Four Nations Safety Group and Police Forces

AR advised that now the new version of the Best Practice Guidelines had been published a copy would be sent to the members of the Four Nations Safety Group for further discussions regarding working practices.

AR

AR also advised that discussions were still underway with Pauline Smith, the NPCC contact for 'national contact management', regarding the circumstances and correct procedures for recovery operators wishing to call the Police for assistance at the roadside.

AR

3.3 Slow Down / Move Over Petition

SI reported that Paul Ansty (a recovery contractor and originator of the petition) had attended the recent WG1 meeting. A sub group had now been formed in order to formulate suitable changes/additions to the Highway Code and to then submit them to the DVSA for consideration in the next update of the HC.

WG1

It was also agreed that WG3 be asked to help promote this safety advice.

WG3

4 Working Group Reports

4.1 SURVIVE Working Group 1 (Practices and Procedures)

SI reported that Version 4 of the Best Practice Guidelines had just recently been issued and that the initial distribution to Rescue / Recovery Contractors would be made electronically via the Motoring Organisations.

SC enquired if the Recovery Trade Associations could also help with the distribution and their assistance regarding this was warmly welcomed.

SC / MP

RG also requested that WG3 be asked to issue a press release announcing the publication and the availability of the new edition.

WG1 / WG3

SI advised that the first "Expressway" would now be the A14 and that this would be classified as a 'motorway regulated road'. This would mean that the rules for attending breakdowns / recoveries on motorways would apply.

SI then reported that progress had been made regarding the "self-illuminating livery" for vehicles and that at a meeting with DFT, Ian Yarnold had confirmed that the current livery design did in fact contravene some aspects of the vehicle lighting regulations. There was no possibility of any changes being made to the current regulations, however DFT would now be assisting WG1 with the changes required to the "livery" to comply with the regs.

The AA would soon be fitting the livery to 2 vehicles for trial and evaluation purposes and would therefore be seeking exemption for these vehicles from the lighting regulations during the trial period.

SI / AR

SI advised that an 'information card', similar to the HE "Overarching Rules" card was being produced, to help technicians remember the basic safety requirements when working at the roadside. It was hoped that this could then be made available as a download from the SURVIVE website.

RG advised that an approach had been made to SURVIVE from the National Franchised Dealer Association, Commercial Vehicle Division (NFDA CV), stating that a number of their member companies were becoming increasingly concerned about the need for action to address deaths and injuries on hard shoulders. In light of these concerns NFDA CV were keen to become involved with the work of SURVIVE.

RG confirmed that NFDA CV's umbrella body was the Retail Motor Industry Federation (RMIF), who were currently involved with SURVIVE via WG2. It was therefore agreed that SI should talk to Thomas McLennan, NFDA Operations Officer & Analyst to discuss how best to take forward their involvement, possibly as a member of WG1.

SI

4.2 SURVIVE Working Group 2 (Standards)

MH advised that Chris Hoare from IVR had now replaced Frank Taylor on the working group.

Regarding the progress of PAS 43:2018, MH advised that it was becoming more and more difficult to obtain timely feedback from the working group members and that some necessary actions were not being completed. This had therefore resulted in the delay in the progress of the next update.

The deadline for the submission of the final draft to BSI is 1st March, with the deadline for the BSI Steering Group meeting being 21st May.

After a short discussion it was agreed that, due to the delay in responses from some WG2 members, MH should now chase for the required feedback, with a time limit for their reply. Should some responses still not be forthcoming then WG2 should proceed with producing the final draft for BSI.

WG2

MH advised that no further information had been received from IVR regarding the development of the course for recovery operators to help them in understanding the requirements of PAS 43.

MH reported that the issue of identifying suitable training modules, other than those available from IVR, was still ongoing and proving to be difficult. One issue was how to identify if any of those put forward were acceptable.

SC advised that RRRRA would soon be meeting with the IMI in order to obtain certification for their training package. Once this had been received SC was requested to provide the details to AR for inclusion on the SURVIVE website.

SC / AR

MH confirmed that an approach had been made to the IMI relating to the requirement for a review of the National Occupational Standards to reflect recent changes. The IMI had confirmed that their product development team were considering how best to take this request forward.

4.3 SURVIVE Working Group 3 (Communication)

RG advised that he had met recently with SH regarding the way forward for WG3 and that it had been agreed that WG3 should still be used to help communicate and promote SURVIVE activities plus its views on road safety issues.

RG requested the meeting's views on any issues that SURVIVE should now be considering and following a short discussion it was agreed that supporting the recent HE safety campaigns regarding Red X compliance and the correct use of SOS area etc. on Smart Motorways should now be considered.

WG3

RG agreed to talk to SH regarding the HE representation on WG3.

RG

MH proposed, and it was accepted, that the motoring organisations and trade associations should also become involved in the communication and distribution of safety related issues within the industry.

ALL

RG confirmed that there was now a requirement for the issue of a SURVIVE press release to cover: -

WG3

- Issue of version 4/18 of the Best Practice Guidelines
- Progress and timescale for publication of PAS 43:2018
- Support for the Slow Down/ Move Over campaign and possible update of the Highway Code.

5 Structure of WG2

RG made reference to the issues within WG2 regarding the lack of timely feedback from members and non-completion of actions. It was clearly apparent that the working group had become too large for its own good and that a review of its structure and composition was now required.

Following a discussion, it was agreed that there was a need to reduce the number of members who would attend the meetings to say a maximum of 10.

This could be achieved by 'grouping' members from similar sections of the industry together, with an elected spokesman who would put forward their collective views/feedback and also disseminate information within their group.

In addition, thought could also be given to some of the current members becoming "correspondence only members", "expert advisers" or "reference members", depending upon their areas of expertise.

MH and AR were therefore requested to produce a draft of an alternative membership structure and circulate it to the Executive for comment.

MH / AR

Once agreed this new structure would then be implemented with new Terms of Reference also being issued.

6 Smart Motorways

RG reported that he had attended the Smart Motorways Expert Advisory Group meeting on 5th February and AE then provided the meeting with a copy of the presentation given by Mike Wilson at the meeting.

This presentation covered the areas of the HE key commitments, benefits of all lane running, outcomes of the HE review of all lane running and HE planned activities.

It was agreed that a copy of this presentation would be circulated with the minutes.

AR

RG proposed that the focus at the next meeting should be on Expressway Roads, rather than just Smart Motorways.

It was therefore agreed that Bruce Nowells or David Stones from HE should be invited to attend the next Executive meeting to provide an update on Expressways.

AR

7 Any Other Business

7.1 M6 Toll Road

AR reported that the M6 Toll control room had recently provided the contact telephone number should assistance be required when attending incidents that occurred on the M6 Toll Road.

Unfortunately, this had arrived too late to be included within the new version of the Best Practice Guidelines. It was therefore proposed to include this contact number on the SURVIVE website, along with a downloadable version of a safety advice leaflet that Midland Expressway Ltd were planning to issue.

AR

7.2 Highway Code

AR advised that a review of the current Highway Code had shown that there were no mentions of Smart Motorways / All Lane Running.

It was agreed that this would also be mentioned to the DVSA by WG1 when they discussed the possible inclusion of the slow down / move over advice.

WG1

8 Date of the Next Meeting

The next meeting of the SURVIVE Executive will take place on Monday 18th June, at the Direct Line Offices in Birmingham, starting at 11.30 am.

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