

there was a need for smaller firms to raise their game. Bob Towse said that work was underway to try to change the macho culture in the industry, but HSE needed to prosecute more individuals rather than companies.

John Nelson pointed out that every time someone falls of a ladder there is a cost to the NHS. Louise Brealy said that there had been research on the cost of accidents. John Nelson wondered whether Claire might table a PQ on the subject.

CC-T

Summing up the discussion, Claire Curtis-Thomas said that the Group would be issuing a press release on the subject. **(Secretary's Note: the press release can be viewed on the Group website)**

GK/CC-T

10/07 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

1. Rogue Trainers

Chris Sneath said that the Plumbing and Heating Industry Alliance was continuing to get the message across on this issue and DfES had sponsored a Working Group to look at the problem. He had also written to Phil Hope asking what the Government could do to stop firms who purported to offer qualifications for large amounts of money. His response had been that Government was unwilling to legislate against private businesses. Claire Curtis-Thomas commented that it was essentially a civil matter and it was really up to the individuals affected to report problems to Trading Standards Officers. However, she would be seeing Phil Hope later in the day and would mention the matter to him. Chris asked Claire to pass on his best wishes to Phil Hope for his continued recovery from recent ill health.

CC-T

11/07 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

This has been arranged for 19 June 2007.

There was no other business and the Chair declared the meeting closed at 3.15pm.

emerged. The clips involved two prominent firms in the mechanical services sector. They appeared to be isolated stunts and some were filmed up to 2 years previously. He felt that the publicity tended to feed on itself and encourage others to emulate the activities. This was made easier by the advent of mobile telephones and video technology. The same sort of incidents occurred outside the building sector. Bill confirmed that the businesses concerned had identified the culprits and appropriate disciplinary action was being taken. This type of activity could only be described as “gross misconduct”. HSE had been informed and the matter had been discussed at the meeting of the Joint Safety Committee on 9 March. Bill invited Bob Towse, Head of Safety at the HVCA, to comment.

Bob Towse said that the Joint Safety Committee included representation from HVCA, the Electrical Contractors Association and AMICUS. The Committee was clearly concerned but it was necessary to keep things in perspective. It was clearly important to bar mobile phones from sites as they often contributed to site safety. The use of personnel protective equipment (PPE) also needed to be managed. Action being taken included investigation of the cases reported, briefing supervisors and closer control to make sure that staff were aware of the need for site safety. He also pointed out that HSE undertook regular surveys of operatives and most believed that safety is improving and firms are doing a good job to highlight the issues.

John Spellar felt that it was absolutely right to reinforce the message, but it was also necessary to keep a sense of proportion about the issue. Tim Boswell echoed this sentiment but emphasised the need to ensure that those dismissed did not reappear elsewhere. Claire Curtis-Thomas pointed out that maintenance on buildings and roadside repairs did not seem to attract health and safety observance. She saw examples of poor practice almost everyday. Louise Brealy agreed that a high percentage of fatal accidents were occurring on small sites and the HSE were looking hard at the causes of it.

Claire Curtis-Thomas observed that one reason was that perhaps there were not enough prosecutions brought. Bill Belshaw remarked that one of the worst instances of horseplay was on a small site not properly supervised. Andrew Eastwell pointed out that the growing trend towards off-site manufacture involved large items of plant and people were unaware of some of the dangers involved. There was a need for funding to undertake some research.

Blane Judd said that professional bodies had a role to play in giving advice and guidance. One thing they could do was to structure a campaign which reminded individuals of their responsibilities with regard to health and safety under the 1974 Act. There was a need to raise people’s awareness that if they see something dangerous they needed to report it. Bill Belshaw commented that larger firms were usually very good at briefing their people on health and safety issues but

ODA to limit their liability? She agreed with Blane Judd's suggestion that ODA should be measured against their own policy statements. John Spellar pointed out that there was a likely tension between the Treasury who wanted to trim costs and the industry who wanted to drive best practice. Gareth Keller said that Howard Shiplee would be attending the next meeting of the Group on 19 June and this would also be attended by Archie Robertson, Chief Executive of the Highways Agency and a member of the Public Sector Client Consultation Forum. He also said that ODA had offered members of the Group the opportunity to visit the Olympic site on 12 June. Details of the visit would be sent to members shortly.

GK

2. CIBSE Patron's Reception – 18 January 2007

This event took place and was ably hosted by Nick Raynsford MP.

3. Group Annual Luncheon – 2 July 2007

Gareth Keller confirmed that Margaret Hodge had agreed to speak. Lord Coe and David Miliband were both unavailable to attend, but Ed Balls office had yet to confirm his availability. Claire Curtis-Thomas suggested that she and John Spellar both contact Ed Balls and try and get him to attend. Gareth Keller said that he would shortly be contacting industry bodies regarding sponsorship of the event. **(Secretary's Note: Ed Balls is unavailable to attend)**

C-CT/JS

GK

4. Group Website

Gareth Keller said that contact details for industry attendees would be posted on the website. In response to a question from Blane Judd he confirmed that information about the Electrical Safety Council would also be included on the website.

GK

5. Responsibilities within Department of Trade and Industry

Cedric Sloan said that he had since met with Dennis Walker, the senior Civil Servant in DTI with responsibility for the construction sector. The issue had been satisfactorily resolved. Claire Curtis-Thomas suggested that Dennis be invited to speak at a future meeting of the Group. This was agreed.

09/07 SAFETY ON CONSTRUCTION SITES

Claire Curtis-Thomas welcomed Bill Belshaw, Chairman of the Joint Safety Committee and SEC Group Safety Committee, to the meeting and invited him to brief members on recent instances of dangerous horseplay on construction sites which had been published in H&V News and on the "youtube" website. Bill said that safety on sites had improved. Statistics showed that most accidents were due to "ships and trips". So it was upsetting to the industry when the video clips of dangerous horseplay

Neal Evans	-	AMICUS
Clive Dickin	-	APHC
Keith Marshall	-	SummitSkills
Stephen Matthews	-	CIBSE
Peter McCree	-	Energy Management Association

**ACTION DATE
BY**

07/07 WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

Claire Curtis-Thomas welcomed those present, particularly Bill Belshaw and introduced Gareth Keller from the Heating and Ventilating Contractors' Association who would be taking the minutes of the meeting.

08/07 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING AND MATTERS ARISING

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 9 January 2007 had been previously circulated. They were agreed without comment.

1. Olympics 2012

John Nelson said that he had attended a meeting of the SEC Group with Howard Shiplee of the Olympic Delivery Authority. The ODA had confirmed that they would be using project insurance and endorsed a commitment to construction best practice. They would not be using retentions but were non-committal at this stage about using project bank accounts. The prime target was to deliver the Games infrastructure on time.

Tim Boswell said that this was an encouraging response. He felt that the All Party Group should keep the pressure up, but we needed to be clear about our aims and keep any "shopping list" to a minimum. MPs could be useful if there were any areas that needed closer investigation. Andrew Eastwell commented that project insurance needed to be piloted and asked whether Martin Davis was aware of the project insurance issues. John Nelson said that he would send a copy of the notes of the meeting to the Secretary.

Blane Judd drew attention to the various policy statements issued by the ODA in recent weeks. These included a commitment to the legacy promise and a commitment to sustainability and local employment. It would be necessary to measure ODA's performance against these statements (**Secretary's Note: Copies of the statements can be viewed on the All Party Group website www.apbes.org.uk**)

Summing up the discussion, Claire Curtis-Thomas questioned what was meant by project insurance. Was it merely a device to enable the

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Date: 19 June 2007

Time: 2 pm

Venue: Portcullis House

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE ALL PARTY PARLIAMENTARY BUILDING SERVICES ENGINEERING GROUP HELD AT 2PM ON 13 MARCH 2007 IN ROOM N, PORTCULLIS HOUSE, LONDON SW1

PRESENT

Claire Curtis-Thomas CEng MP (Chair)
Rt Hon John Spellar MP (Deputy Chair)
Tim Boswell MP

IN ATTENDANCE

John Nelson	-	Specialist Engineering Contractors' Group
John Hardaker	-	MODUS
Chris Sneath	-	Plumbing and Heating Industry Alliance
Cedric Sloan	-	Federation of Environmental Trade Associations
Andrew Eastwell	-	Building Services Research and Information Association
Peter Rumley	-	Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings
Blane Judd	-	Institute of Plumbing and Heating Engineering
Ken Cross	-	Parliamentary Assistant to Betty Williams MP
Bill Belshaw	-	Chairman, Joint Safety Group
Bob Towse	-	Heating and Ventilating Contractors' Association (HVCA)
Brigitte Faubert	-	Heating and Ventilating Contractors' Association
James Rowlands	-	Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors
Lindsay Gillespie	-	SummitSkills
Louise Brealey	-	Health and Safety Executive – Construction Division
Gareth Keller	-	Heating and Ventilating Contractors' Association

APOLOGIES

Peter Bottomley MP (Vice-Chair)
Sarah McCarthy-Fry MP (Secretary)
Mary Creagh MP
Michael Fabricant MP
Liam Fox MP
Sandra Gidley MP
Dr Evan Harris MP
Lindsay Hoyle MP
Peter Luft MP
Baroness Nicholson
Baroness Prosser
Betty Williams MP