

MIDLANDS CONSTRUCTION SAFETY ASSOCIATION

Minutes of Meeting held on Tuesday 08th February 2011, Meeting No 187

1	Apologies for absence Stuart Losing, Ian Holland, Rob Skinner, Polly Begy, Kerri Grocock, Helen Marshall, David Watson, Michelle Measom, Andrew Corbett, Mark Blundy, Jason Jacques.
2	New Members Andy Owen & Louise Crawley, ARCO Sally Boylington, Opus International. Steve Warbrick, Metclad Terry Porter, Cullum Detuners.
3	There were 39 members and guests in attendance.
4	Minutes of the last meeting Approved as a true record. There were no matters arising
5	Guest Speaker - Shaun Knott, Casella Ltd A copy of the presentation will be posted on the MCSA web site. Audiometric Testing. Shaun regarded this as a useful exercise for all new employees as it establishes a benchmark against which any futures issues may be compared. Caution against the use of ear plugs – although preferred by many, there can be a hygiene issue leading to ear infection. Prefer ear muffs or banded ear plugs. Dust. A bad fitting dust mask offers no protection. Common to find masks left lying around gathering dust (which defeats the objective). Section 61 Notices. This is a declaration on planning permission on environmental issues such as noise, dust and vehicle emissions. Very common now for building projects.. LA's are now asking contractors to set up monitoring stations to enable them (the LA) to demonstrate to DEFRA how much environmental damage is being done by the site. Complaints will come from local community and involve inspection by the LA. Makes sense on the larger sites for the principal contractor to set up monitoring of noise and dust as a precautionary measure. See also DEFRA site for Noise and Dust policies and guidance http://www.defra.gov.uk/environment/quality/air/air-quality/laqm/guidance/policy/
6	HSE Update. Sharon Geeson HSE Sharon will be taking early retirement from the HSE with effect from the end of February. The Chairman, on behalf of the Association, thanked Sharon for her valuable contribution of the past years. Members present gave a warm vote of thanks. Sharon will be replaced by Nicola Smy who carries out a liaison officer role with the HSE and is based at Northampton. Sharon made the following points: The Occupational Safety Consultants Register (OSCR) will go live in January 2011 (Secretary's comment – a prize for the first member to find it !!!!) The register is intended for consultants and does not affect the standing of company safety advisers, officers etc. RIDDOR consultation now in progress seeking opinions of adjusting 3 day reporting to 7 day. 38 construction fatalities to date (Feb). Refurbishment Blitz soon in High Peak area. Future of HSE is 35% reduction in funding over next 4 years. Preston & Manchester offices set to close. Looking to lose 700 (mostly backroom) staff over next 4 years. Might see introduction of FEE Charging by HSE in future. This could be based on charging for "follow-up visits" to check that matters have been resolved. (Sec's cynical comment – could mean more visits than at present – hope they get paid quicker than the subbies!)
8	AOB None
9	Date of next meeting: Tuesday 12th April 2011

Roy Perkins
Honorary Secretary
05th April 2011