

Meeting: Groundwork Committee Meeting
Date: Wednesday 10 March 2021
Time: 10:00 – 12:30
Location: Zoom
Chairman: Dave Armsworth
Paper: Minutes of meeting – Meeting 01



Attendees

Dave Armsworth	CONSTRUCT CSG	Ronnie Lett	LOR – Expanded
Dave Campbell	CONSTRUCT CSG	Paul Millea	Mabey Hire
Richard Knight	Anderson Group	Martin Cragg	MPB Structures
Robert Moore	Byrne Bros	Sean Brosnan	O'Shea
Daniel Botma	Careys	Paul Kirkbride	PERI UK
Richard Seers	Doka UK Formwork	Steve Hemsley	Stephenson Ltd
Richard Sanders	John Hunt Ltd	Mick Bray	Tamdown Group
James Brennan	JP Dunn		

Apologies

Neale Beardsley	DYWIDAG Systems Int.	Joe Mitchell	Mitchellson Formwork & CE
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1. Item 1 - Welcome & Apologies

Dave Armsworth (CONSTRUCT) welcomed the attendees to the first CONSTRUCT Groundwork Committee meeting. Dave informed the meeting that there were a number of apologies. All apologies would be recorded in the minutes of the next meeting. Dave asked that a brief introduction be given by all those attending the meeting. A list of attendees would be included in the minutes.

Dave briefly discussed the intended Zoom etiquette which all conformed to throughout the meeting.

2. Item 2 – Expectations from the members:

The following questions were posed to the attendees by Dave Armsworth (CONSTRUCT):

- What would you like to get out of this committee?
- What is your current biggest challenge in the groundworks space?
- Ideas for the set agenda?
- Frequency of meetings?

The overall response was the importance of collaborative working whether it is to produce common practice guidance (these are the documents/standards we use as a group to plan groundworks etc) or to improve equipment, sharing good practices and lessons learned from accidents and incidents. The consensus was that as a group more could be achieved

than individually as members all shared similar problems. The idea to discuss quality would also be of benefit.

The current biggest challenge for the contractor members is securing labour, in particular good quality and trained operatives. It is also at times a challenge to find a Broker that provides a value for money service for things such as provision of discharge licences. It would be good to share recommendations of good experiences with these stakeholders. From a supplier point of view, it is to break the barrier that a supplier is only trying to sell the whole 9 yards, which is not the case. The dialogue should be set to give the customer exactly what they need to carry out the work safely to a high standard and keep the costs as low as possible. The design aspect for most TW is a free service so customers are encouraged to engage in dialogue as early as possible in planning and also when on site so that if the ground conditions have changed then the correct equipment can be identified. Understanding the roles and responsibilities between the supplier and customer can be a challenge to define.

Dave Armsworth (CONSTRUCT) discussed ideas for the set agenda and frequency of meetings. It was decided to have a quarterly meeting and any sub meetings of working groups would be as required to achieve the objective. Dave showed the general outline which can be seen below; the items in bold were suggested by the attendees.

Item 1

Welcomes and Apologies

Item 2

Minutes of the Last Meeting and Matters Arising

Item 3

Guest Speakers – **(to include innovation – keep groundworkers safe and away from machines) possibly inviting suppliers to present for 5-10 minutes on innovation etc, as the longer presentations can lose context and time is precious; be more punchy so that if someone is interested then they can approach in their own time).**

Item 4

Feedback from the Council

Item 5

Feedback from the CFTF

Item 6

CONSTRUCT HS&E Update

Item 7

Occupational Health – Noise, Dust, Vibration, Medicals (one topic to talk about at a time). A topic to cover - How do companies get the operatives to come forward to do the occy health assessment. Some say it is compulsory in accordance with the risk. Other methods of encouragement can also be used e.g. the outcome of the assessment may give a theoretical age based on health – the operatives were found to turn this into a bit of fun and see who had the lowest medical age.

Item 8

Sharing Good Practice

Item 9

Accidents and Near Misses.

Item 10

AOB

3. Item 3 – Terms of Reference:

Dave Campbell (CONSTRUCT) and Dave Armsworth (CONSTRUCT) ran through the proposed Terms of Reference (ToR) which can be found [here](#). The Committee had no comments on the ToR. The ToR will remain open for comment and be finalised at the next meeting.

4. Item 4 – Good contacts list:

Dave Armsworth (CONSTRUCT) introduced the idea to help with information gathering, sharing and also partnering up on any potential projects. An example given was that of the Temporary Works Forum which assisted in getting the message out around for tie system failures. Dave asked the attendees to give this some thought and email any ideas so that a database can be made.

5. Any other Business:

Dave Armsworth (CONSTRUCT) spoke about the Groundworks Committee having a contractor member as the Chairman which is the same approach which the Concrete Frame Training Forum use. It is hoped that someone will volunteer to take on this mantle.

A safety related question was posed, on the topic of void protection when groundworkers are bonding the iron works to manholes as this leaves an exposed opening. It was agreed that this is low risk works however it had been pointed out as a potential hazard by a visiting H&S Advisor. The usual practice is to place barriers around the manhole and display signage until the cover can be fitted. The use of stoppers or air bags were discussed. If anyone has a simple solution, please get in touch.

Dave thanked attendees for attending and the meeting was closed at 11:10.

Future Meetings

TBC