



**Minutes of a meeting of Thatcham Flood Forum Steering Group
held on Thursday 5th October 2017 at 7pm
in the Thatcham Town Council Chamber, Brownsfield Road**

Present: Iain Dunn (Chairman)
Stuart Clark (West Berkshire Council Officer)
Councillor Richard Crumly (Thatcham Town Council)
Ian Goodwin (local resident)
Nick Townsend (local resident)
Brian Woodham (SWMP Funding Group Chairman)

Denise Kinsella, Laurence Ralph and Dagmara Weatherall (Thames Water)

1. Welcome and apologies for absence

Iain opened the meeting and welcomed representatives from Thames Water. Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Steve Ardagh-Walter (Thatcham Town Council), Brian Barnes (local resident), Keith (Noddi) Hoddinott (local resident), Peter Lavarack (local resident) and Leo Pieri (local resident).

2. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

3. Minutes of the last meeting

The Minutes of the meeting held on 15th August 2017 were agreed to be an accurate record and were signed by the Chairman.

4. Matters arising from the last meeting

There were no matters arising.

5. Thames Water

Thanks to Noddi for instigating communication with Thames Water, resulting in representatives present at this meeting. A summary of discussion as follows:

- 5.1 Reporting - any information on non-residential properties can be reported to Denise. It was noted that not all items are mapped.
- 5.2 Grilles – inform Thames Water of issue and they will advise who is responsible. Stuart Clark to provide Thames Water with a map where known attention is needed.
- 5.3 Closure of Heath Lane for mains work – Denise to report back on extent of works.
- 5.4 Stoney Lane / Station Road syphon – not on Thames Water's maintenance cycle, not aware of any issues at this point.
- 5.5 Stoney Lane syphon (under A4) – Stuart requested that this be checked as understood to need clearing.
- 5.6 Denise advised that the Syphon along the canal was due to be routinely checked and the syphon under the railway due to be checked in 2018.

- 5.7 It is understood to be difficult to make a case on poor drainage design schemes, how can you ensure what goes forward for planning permission receives expert advice at the outline planning stage?
Damara advised that Thames Water has limited influence as not a statutory consultee. However, if consulted, they would raise concerns at outline stage. Drainage conditions can be attached to planning permission. Thames Water are able to request an Impact Study, funded by the developer. All Thames Water responses are on the planning portal. Assessments are conducted on larger developments.
- 5.8 Stuart enquired whether, as flood defence schemes tie in with, and can benefit, Thames Water infrastructure, could Thames Water contribute funding? Thames Water may be able to consider a contribution but would need to understand the benefits etc and modelling would be required. Reducing sewer flooding would be a main driver for Thames Water, currently limited funding available. Stuart to provide details to Thames Water then meet to discuss. Time would be needed to assess proposals, up to nine months if hydraulic modelling needed.

Thames Water keen to encourage publicity of telephone number for reporting issues: 0800 316 9800.

Stuart Clark, Leo Pieri and Ian Goodwin left the meeting

6. **Surface Water Management Plan for Thatcham**

The following updates on the Surface Water Management Plan for Thatcham were noted:

Tull Way Scheme – currently building bund on western side, expected completion end of October 2017, weather dependent. Aiming to be off site by end of 2017.

Dunstan Park Scheme and **South East Thatcham Flood Alleviation Scheme** – West Berkshire Council to receive funds from the Environment Agency this financial year, when contract signed. Cable diversion work to commence within next 3 months. Detailed designs complete and planning application to be submitted by 10th October 2017. Sport England's approval needed for school sports pitches (Kennet and Francis Baily). Due for construction in 2018. Tender documents to be drawn up.

Smaller Schemes – project mandates to be submitted, request for funding for business plans.

7. **Publicity**

Plans and flyers for Dunston Green and SETFAS schemes provided by Stuart for Thatcham Flood Forum stall at Thatcham Festival on 7th October 2017. West Berkshire Council have produced a flyer for distribution to houses around the Dunston Green and SETFAS schemes and to beneficiaries. To be distributed electronically by schools (Kennet and Francis Baily) to students.

8. **Fundraising**

It was estimated that a further £25,000 - £50,000 was still needed in local contributions for the flood alleviation scheme programme. Property Level Protection funding would be pursued in future years, 2020+.

9. **Any other business**

There was no other business.

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10. Date of next meeting

Date of next meeting Thursday 7th December 2017¹, at 7pm in the Thattham Town Council Chamber, Brownsfield Road.

There being no further business the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 8.36pm.

Signed: _____ Date: _____

¹ Date of next meeting subsequently changed to Thursday 14th December 2017