



**Minutes of a meeting of the Thatcham Flood Forum Steering Group  
held on Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2013  
in the Thatcham Town Council Chamber at 7.00 p.m.**

Present: Iain Dunn (Chairman), Brian Barnes, Cllr. Lee Dillon (Thatcham Town Council), Leo Pieri, Cllr. Martin Shemmans (Cold Ash Parish Council) and Brian Woodham

In attendance: Elaine Hare and Mel Alexander (Thatcham Town Council)

**1. Apologies**

Apologies for absence were received from Bob Hewitt, Peter Laverack, Gareth Simpson, Nick Townsend and Stuart Clark.

**2. Minutes**

The Minutes of the meeting held on 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2013 were agreed, subject to amendment of the date of the meeting to read 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2013.

**3. Rainsford Farm**

It was reported that Stuart Clark had received acknowledgment from Thames Water that a CCTV investigation had been carried out and the results were awaited.

Thames Water had also acknowledged that Rainsford Farm would be routinely inspected.

**4. Northfield Road**

Iain Dunn reported that Northfield Road had re-opened following sewer enhancement works.

**5. Surface Water Management Plan**

Brian Woodham confirmed the following:

- 5.1 Work on the first attenuation pond, east of Cold Ash Hill, above Southend, was expected to commence during this financial year, subject to weather conditions. Progress had been made on the revised layout.
- 5.2 Preliminary design work was underway on the Tull Way pond and should be ready in autumn. If successful it was anticipated that work would commence in 2014/15.
- 5.3 Funding was being sought for preliminary design work for a second pond on Cold Ash Hill and one on Dunston Park, next to Harts Hill Farm.
- 5.4 It was agreed that options for funding from non-public bodies should be explored.
- 5.5 Brian felt that good progress was being made and more would be known in two months.

**6. National Flood Forum**

Iain Dunn reported that he had spoken to Heather at the National Flood Forum regarding funding and she had recommended community involvement as this would be beneficial when seeking external funding. Heather advised that if Thatcham Flood Forum was to register for charitable status this could also be beneficial. Elaine agreed to provide papers on the various charitable options.

**Action:** Elaine to provide papers on charitable options.

The group discussed ways of getting the community involved and agreed that holding a brain storming session with interested parties would be useful. It was agreed to hold a brain storming session on Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> June 2013 from which a strategy and action plan would be developed.

**Action:** To arrange a brain storming session for 26<sup>th</sup> June 2013.

Brian Woodham advised that he was attending a conference on 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2013 and would report back to the group.

Iain Dunn had spoken to the Greening Group who had expressed an interest in leading a scheme to encourage residents to protect their homes.

**7. Website**

It was agreed that as the group became more active communication was vital. The possibility of out-sourcing maintenance of the website to ensure this was kept up-to-date was considered, as well as using social media such as Facebook and Twitter. This would be discussed at a future meeting.

**8. Flood Action Group**

The group was unsure whether the local Flood Action Group was still operational. It was an Officer lead group, chaired by Jon Winstanley of West Berkshire Council. It was agreed to email Jon for an update.

**Action:** Mel Alexander to email Jon Winstanley for an update on the status of the Flood Action Group.

**9. Any Other Business**

9.1 Leo Pieri enquired whether Brian Woodham had heard from the Thames Regional Flood and Coastal Committee and Brian confirmed he had not.

9.2 Brian Woodham agreed to speak to Stuart Clark regarding utility companies asset register, as discussed at a previous meeting.

**10. Date of Next Meeting**

Brain Storming session on Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> June 2013

Steering Group meeting on Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> July 2013

Both commencing 7 p.m. in the Thatcham Town Council Chamber.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 8.12 p.m.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_