



**Minutes of a meeting of Thatcham Flood Forum Steering Group
held on Tuesday 22nd September 2015, at 7pm
in the Thatcham Town Council Chamber, Brownsfield Road**

Present: Iain Dunn (Chairman)
 Brian Barnes (Local Resident)
 Ian Goodwin (Local Resident)
 Peter Lavarack (Local Resident)
 Leo Pieri (Local Resident)
 Nick Townsend (Local Resident)
 Brian Woodham (SWMP Funding Group Chairman)

In attendance: Mel Alexander (Thatcham Town Council Officer)

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Roger Croft (Thatcham Town Council), Stuart Clark (West Berkshire Council Officer), Cold Ash Parish Council and Councillor Garth Simpson (West Berkshire Council).

2. Minutes of the last meeting

The Minutes of the meeting held on 21st July 2015 were agreed to be a true record and were signed by the Chairman.

3. Matters arising from previous meeting

There were no matters arising.

4. Surface Water Management Plan for Thatcham

4.1 The following updates on the Surface Water Management Plan for Thatcham were noted:
Tull Way Scheme – Planning approval had been granted. Agreement had been reached with the land owner. West Berkshire Council was in discussions with the Environment Agency (EA) regarding incremental funding, due to the redesign required by the EA Panel Engineer. A response was expected in October 2015 with construction expected to commence spring 2016 and completion summer 2016.

Dunston Park Scheme – the final layout had been agreed with the land owner. Planning approval would be sought in approximately three to six months, once detailed designs had been completed. It was confirmed that the scheme was in the EA's programme and it was hoped funding could be brought forward to 2016/2017.

South East Thatcham Flood Alleviation Scheme – West Berkshire Council had submitted a request to the EA for funding to be brought into its six year programme. The EA locally had released £6,000 for ground water monitoring which would take place during October to December 2015, subject to land owner approval.

Heath Lane – it was agreed that, despite the increased capacity of Cold Ash Hill phase 1, a small basin of approximately 6,000m³ was still required at Heath Lane.

4.2 Brian reported that £122,000 had so far been raised from grant aid and local contributions. The Forum agreed to aim for total local contributions of £150,000. The recent mailshot to local businesses had generated 3 donations. Leo reported that Kuehne & Nagel were putting forward the donation request to its Board. Other suggestions were Supermarket community funds and a car boot / table top sale.

4.3 Iain agreed to contact Kennet School to pursue their offer for students to engage with the Flood Forum. Peter offered to attend meetings with Iain. Nick had previously advised of a similar scheme in Swindon and would find out more information. Ian suggested engaging with Trinity School too.

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5. Proposed Developments

The following updates were noted:

5.1 Henwick Park

Leo to finalise Thatcham Flood Forum's objection to the proposed development at Henwick Park and would send to Mel for submission.

5.2 Siegecross Farm

Iain and Leo to draw up Thatcham Flood Forum's objection to the proposed development at Siegecross Farm and send to Mel for submission.

6. Charitable Status

Iain reported that A-Plan Insurance was not able to offer fidelity insurance to non-charities but could to registered charities. As funds were likely to be held until at least 2018 it was agreed that Thatcham Flood Forum should register as a charity. A revised constitution would be presented to the next meeting for adoption.

7. Rainsford Farm Syphon

Nothing to report.

8. Any other business

A DVD entitled "Sustainable Flood Memories" had been received from the West of England University and was available for anyone to view.

It was agreed that regular articles should be submitted to the National Flood Forum for its newsletter. Mel to send press release and photos of Cold Ash Hill phase 1.

9. Date of next meeting

It was confirmed that the next meeting would be held on Wednesday 25th November 2015¹, commencing at 7pm in the Thatcham Town Council Chamber.

There being no further business the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 8.42pm.

Signed: _____ Date: _____

¹ Post meeting note: date of next meeting now Tuesday 24th November 2015 at 7pm