



**Minutes of a meeting of Thatcham Flood Forum Steering Group
held on Tuesday 25th November 2014, at 7.00 p.m.
in the Thatcham Town Council Chamber, Brownsfield Road**

Present: Iain Dunn (Chairman)
Councillor Brian Barnes (Thatcham Town Council Representative)
Peter Lavarack (Local Resident)
Leo Pieri (Local Resident)
Brian Woodham (SWMP Funding Group Chairman)

In attendance: Mel Alexander (Thatcham Town Council Officer) and Charlene Myers (West Berkshire Council Officer)

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Pete McDougall (Cold Ash Parish Council) and Nick Townsend (Local Resident).

2. Minutes

The Minutes of the meeting held on 24th September 2014 were agreed to be a true record and signed by the Chairman.

**3. Matters arising from previous meeting
Item 7**

Charlene advised that Thames Water had recently established a central reporting point for local councils and would provide contact details. The issues raised regarding the Rainsford Farm syphon should then be raised directly with Thames Water.

4. Thatcham Flood Warden Scheme

The project plan for introduction of Thatcham Flood Warden Scheme was with Carolyn Richardson, West Berkshire Council Civil Contingencies Manager, for feedback.

Charlene advised of the West Berkshire Flood Warden Scheme meeting scheduled for 10th December at the Council Offices in Market Street, Newbury. Mel and Leo were booked to attend.

5. Fundraising

5.1 To discuss the outcome of a recent meeting with Greenham Common Trust

Brian W, Iain, Leo and Stuart had met with Chris Boulton, CEO of Greenham Common Trust, on 11th November 2014 to discuss a potential funding opportunity to support the flood alleviation schemes planned for Dunston Park and Francis Baily. Community and partnership funding was key to unlocking funds from central government. Feedback would be provided following a meeting of the Distribution Board on 2nd December 2014.

It was agreed that Brian would put in a follow up call to Chris at Greenham Common Trust. Brian offered to draw up documentation to other potential funders but advised that he would rather not take the lead on fundraising. Leo offered to assist. It was agreed that recruitment of a volunteer fundraiser was a priority.

5.2 To consider registering for charitable status

Information on charitable status had been circulated. It was suggested that advice could be sought from colleagues such as: the Chairman of the Old Bluecoat School Trust and Councillor Sheila Ellison as a member of the Greenham Common Trust Distribution Committee. However, it was agreed in principle to pursue registration as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation.

Brian Barnes agreed to speak to the Manager of Waitrose, Thatcham regarding the possibility of funding, however, it was agreed that this should not be via the Green Token scheme as this offered relatively low fundraising potential for major flood alleviation schemes.

6. Action Plan

6.1 To discuss progress in the creation of a drainage asset register

It was agreed that a definition of what was considered to be a well maintained drainage asset was required and this should be requested from West Berkshire Council.

6.2 To discuss the proposed information booklet for residents

It was agreed that Thatcham Flood Forum should produce a document offering advice for residents, however, there was concern that the current proposed booklet might be too long. After discussion it was agreed to upload the booklet in its current format to the Thatcham Flood Forum and Thatcham Town Council websites and social media, also to have copies available in the library and at the forthcoming Christmas Lights switch-on event. A press release advising residents of the booklet should also be issued.

6.3 To consider samples of fridge magnets

There was uncertainty over what message the fridge magnet should convey and after discussion it was agreed not to pursue for the time being.

6.4 To review other progress and assign tasks as necessary

It was noted that many actions within the Action Plan were underway.

7. To receive any updates on the following items:

7.1 Surface Water Management Plan for Thatcham

No updates to report.

7.2 National Flood Forum

A response from Paul Cobbing of the National Flood Forum to Iain's letter of 12th November 2014 regarding implementation of SUDs was circulated and noted.

7.3 Water Bill

No updates to report.

7.4 West Berkshire Council's Local Flood Risk Management Strategy

No updates to report.

8. Any other business

There was no other business.

9. Date of next meeting

The next meeting would be held on Tuesday 27th January 2015, commencing at 7 p.m. in the Thatcham Town Council Chamber.

There being no further business the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 8.48 p.m.

Signed: _____ Date: _____