



**Minutes of the Steering Group Meeting  
Wednesday, 27<sup>th</sup> March 2013  
In meeting room at TTC Offices at 7.00pm**

Present: Iain Dunn (Chairman), Leo Pieri, Brian Woodham, Gareth Newton and Brian Barnes (TTC)

**1. Apologies**

Apologies for absence were received from John Boyd, Lee Dillon, Bob Hewitt, Nick Townsend, Shaun Yeo, Stuart Clark and Elaine Hare

**2. Minutes**

The Minutes of the meeting held on 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2013 were agreed.

**3. Rainsford Farm**

In the absence of SC no information on CCTV or Minutes from TW.

**4. Northfield Road**

ID noted that work on enhancement of sewer was scheduled to start on 2<sup>nd</sup> April for 6 weeks.

**5. SWMP**

BW confirmed:-

- (a) Letter confirming successful funding application for Cold Ash Alleviation Pond had been sent by EA/DEFRA to WBC.
- (b) However, negotiations with landowners were still ongoing although SC had asked that publicity be withheld Radio Berkshire had broadcast the details.

**RESOLVED** that LP and BW prepare a letter to NWN explaining the TFF involvement (to be sent from the Forum).

- (c) Noted that a TW water main passed through the proposed site – could give rise to further delay!
- (d) Funding had also been approved for the preliminary designs of both Tull Way and Dunstan Park ponds. It was noted that the proposed Tull Way site was in the ownership of 4 landowners.
- (e) Funding for Cold Ash Phase 2 was being applied for.
- (f) It was noted that SC now had Peter Moore to assist him in these endeavours.

ID asked for clarification on access under legislation (Land Drainage Act).

It was noted that lessons were being learnt and in particular earlier surveys and landowner contact would be desirable.

**6. NFF**

BW proposed that we should have a close relationship with the NFF and make use of our affiliation and fund delegate to TRFCC.

LP reported on meeting with Paul Cobbing:-

Suggested charitable status.

Closer ties with and within NFF.

Greater community involvement as funding application carried more weight with community backing.

Paul stated that most flooding was from surface water.

Members should be delegated to enhance public relations.

TFF should appoint a project officer to further these aims.

**BB favoured keeping charitable status on hold until we had the personnel resources to manage the legal requirements.**

**7. Website**

Shaun not available – to achieve objectives it needed strengthening.

**8. FAG**

No meetings to report. ID instanced reports of ditch and pooling problems being referred to FAG but no information on any action.

GN had reported poolings and blocked drains and had reference numbers – little action had resulted.

BW and LP proposed revisiting spreadsheets and consulting maintenance regimes detailed in SWMP and other documents with a view to sending a report to Jon Winstanley at regular intervals

BB left at 8.40pm

**9. Any Other Business**

BW (a) Acknowledged TFF's offer of help to attend I.C.E. conference on water and would report back.

(b) Reported on the formation of C.A.C.P. of a "Greening Group" being spearheaded by Mike Franks, which would explore the benefits of self-help housing adaptations.

It was proposed that Mike Franks be invited to our meetings.

It was also agreed that we should respond to a questionnaire from a Rotimi Joseph, a student at Bristol University researching costs and benefits of adapting homes to reduce flood damage and it was further proposed that he should be invited to use Thatcham as a model for his research. ID to copy questionnaire to relevant residents and liaise with Rotimi and the University.

BW had info from SC on a study of self-help at a row of houses in Midgham.

LP undertook to "road test" the 'Flooding – Be Prepared' hand-out from WBC as concerns were raised that contacts were not always easy to access.

LP As involvement of Sovereign Housing might be restricted to ponds likely to impact on protecting their houses. ID was asked to access figures.

BW asked for comments on issues arising on 15<sup>th</sup> March's heavy and continuous rain. ID undertook to get rainfall figures.

**10. Date of Next Meeting 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2013**

Meeting closed at 9.00 pm.