



**Minutes of a meeting of Thatcham Flood Forum Steering Group
held on Tuesday 5th April 2016, at 7pm
in the Thatcham Town Council Chamber, Brownsfield Road**

Present: Iain Dunn (Chairman)
Brian Barnes (Vice-Chairman)
Ian Goodwin (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 Councillors Roger Croft and Lee Dillon (Thatcham Town Council) and Peter Lavarack.

2. Minutes of the last meeting

The Minutes of the meeting held on 26th January 2016 were agreed to be a true record and were signed by the Chairman.

3. Surface Water Management Plan for Thatcham

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

Government Grant – West Berkshire Council announced today that it had received a grant of £4m to complete the Surface Water Management Plan for Thatcham by the end of 2018. The Chairman of the Surface Water Management Plan (SWMP) Funding Committee acknowledged that this was a great success following a collective effort. Minor projects would remain.

Tull Way Scheme – the tender process was underway with the contract expected to be awarded by the end of May 2016, construction due to commence in July 2016.

Dunston Park Scheme – plans for the scheme on track.

South East Thatcham Flood Alleviation Scheme – the Consultant Engineer would be invited to attend the next SWMP Funding Committee meeting to discuss the scheme. Still on target for construction in 2018.

Iain congratulated and thanked Brian W for all his efforts.

3.2 The SWMP Funding Committee had raised concern over the condition and maintenance of two existing flood alleviation ponds on the Dunston Park estate, off Harts Hill Road and Bradley Moore Square. The SWMP Committee would discuss this further at its next meeting, in the meantime it was agreed that Thatcham Flood Forum would write to Thames Water and West Berkshire Council requesting details of the maintenance regimes and results of latest inspections.

Thatcham Flood Forum
5th April 2016

4. SuDS (Sustainable Drainage Systems)

As agreed at the last meeting, the Chairman had written to Mr. Gary Lugg, Head of Planning & Countryside, West Berkshire Council, requesting a meeting to discuss concerns over the long-term ownership and maintenance of SuDS provision. A response had been received advising that, at this stage, West Berkshire Council was not proposing or supporting any further development to the north of Thatcham and therefore a meeting in the near future was a little premature. However, Mr. Lugg did invite the Flood Forum to be part of the preparation process for a new Local Plan which would look at potential housing sites across West Berkshire up to 2036.

With potential for development upstream (2 appeals had been submitted, Siege Cross Farm and Henwick Park), Thatcham was potentially at risk in the interim before development of the new Local Plan. It was agreed to respond to Mr. Lugg advising that a meeting was required soon to obtain answers to some essential questions, enabling the Flood Forum to respond to the Planning Inspector regarding the above Appeals.¹

5. Proposed Developments

The following updates were noted:

5.1 Tull Way (Bloor Homes) – 16/00625/OUTMAJ

Closing date for comments 4th April 2016.

5.2 Henwick Park – 15/01949/OUTMAJ

An Appeal had been made against WBC's refusal to grant planning permission. A draft response for submission to the Appeal would be circulated.

5.3 Siegecross Farm – 15/00296/OUTMAJ

No updates at this time.

It was agreed that comments would be submitted from the Flood Forum regarding the Tull Way application, and Henwick Park and Siegecross Farm Appeals.

6. Charitable Status

Following discussion at the last meeting no further progress had been made regarding registration for charitable status. It was agreed to request a quotation from Trisha Bennett for her assistance with preparation of a constitution and the registration process.

7. Fundraising

7.1 Despite news of the government grant for completion of the SWMP there was still work to be done. It was agreed that Iain and Leo would follow up their previous conversation with Sovereign Housing Association.

7.2 It was agreed to run a stall at Thatcham Family Fun Day at Henwick Sports Field on Sunday 26th June 2016, 11am – 4pm.

8. Community Engagement

There were no updates at this time regarding proposals to engage with Kennet School students.

9. Any other business

Nick enquired whether there was any feedback from local residents regarding their insurance premiums. Mel advised that data was not currently recorded as enquiries were directed to Stuart Clarke at West Berkshire Council.

¹ Post meeting note – meeting arranged for Monday 25th April 2016

10. Date of next meeting

It was confirmed that the next meeting would be held on Wednesday 8th June 2016², 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: _____

² Post meeting note – date of next meeting now Thursday 16th June 2016, 7pm in the Council Chamber