



**Minutes of a meeting of Thatcham Flood Forum Steering Group
held on Monday 5th December 2016, at 7.15pm (following the AGM)
in the Thatcham Town Council Chamber, Brownsfield Road**

Present: Iain Dunn (Chairman)
Councillor Steve Ardagh-Walter (Thatcham Town Council representative)
Brian Barnes (local resident)
Stuart Clark (West Berkshire Council Officer) (part meeting)
Councillor Richard Crumly (Thatcham Town Council representative)
Ian Goodwin (local resident)
Peter Lavarack (local resident)
Brendan Murphy (West Berkshire Council Officer) (part meeting)
Leo Pieri (local resident)
Brian Woodham (SWMP Funding Group Chairman)

In attendance: Mel Alexander (Thatcham Town Council Officer)

1. Welcome and apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Nick Townsend. It was noted that Councillor Steve Ardagh-Walter had replaced Councillor Lee Dillon as one of the two Thatcham Town Council representatives. Councillor Richard Crumly remained as representative.

2. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

It was agreed to bring forward agenda item number 6

3. SUDS

Stuart briefed the Forum on SUDS provision. The key points being that; SUDS are designed to slow down and reduce surface water runoff. Increased urbanization added to flood risk, due to a reduction in surfaces to absorb water, also a loss of habitats.

Ian Goodwin left the meeting

SUDS are designed to drain into a body of water and onto surface water sewers and are to ensure development does not impact existing flood risk. West Berkshire Council is producing a document to guide developers towards expected SUDS provision.

The Chairman thanked Stuart and Brendan for attending and for their input and they left the meeting.

It was agreed to resume the agenda at item number 3

4. Minutes of the last meeting

The Minutes of the meeting held on 13th October 2016 were agreed to be a true record and were signed by the Chairman.

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5. Matters arising from the last meeting

It was agreed to distribute the information flyer to residents the following week, along with displaying on notice boards and in the local media.

6. Surface Water Management Plan for Thatcham

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

Tull Way Scheme – the construction contract had now been signed and work was due to start on site in spring 2017, with completion scheduled for summer 2017.

Dunstan Park Scheme – final designs complete and a planning application had been submitted. Construction due to commence summer 2017.

South East Thatcham Flood Alleviation Scheme – the scheme had been redesigned and would now be a raised 2ft bund rather than sunken as first proposed. Target for construction, 2018.

Heath Lane – a mandate had been submitted to the Environment Agency for inclusion in its medium term plan and a response was awaited.

7. Proposed Developments

Brian W advised that he had attended the Appeal Hearing for Henwick Park and Siege Cross Farm and circulated a summary of the discussions and process. Acknowledgement of the amount of work put into the Appeal process by Brian W, Iain and Ian, on behalf of the Forum, was requested.

8. West Berkshire Council Sandbag Policy

West Berkshire Council's proposed Sandbag Policy was circulated. Discussion on the merits of sandbags ensued and it was agreed to invite a manufacturer/supplier of flood sax / flood barriers to a future meeting of the Forum.

Councillor Crumly left the meeting

It was agreed to respond to the consultation, advising that Thatcham Flood Forum did not consider sandbags to be the best solution in cases of flash flooding, for example, due to the long preparation time. However, there was a place for sandbags in incidents such as river flooding.

It was agreed to request an update from Stuart Clark on property level protection: what had been completed, what the options were etc.

9. Fundraising

No new updates to report.

10. Any other business

There was no other business.

11. Date of next meeting

Date of next meeting Wednesday 15th February 2017¹, 7pm in the Council Chamber, Brownsfield Road.

There being no further business the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 8.43pm.

Signed: _____ Date: _____

¹ Post meeting note: date of next meeting now **Tuesday 14th February 2017**