



**Minutes of a meeting of Thatcham Flood Forum Steering Group
held on Wednesday 20th May 2015, at 7pm
in the Thatcham Town Council Chamber, Brownsfield Road**

Present: Iain Dunn (Chairman)
 Peter Lavarack (Local Resident)
 Leo Pieri (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 Councillor), Brian Barnes and Nick Townsend (Local Residents) and Stuart Clark (West Berkshire Council Officer).

2. Appointees

It was noted that Councillors Roger Croft and Lee Dillon had been appointed as representatives of Thatcham Town Council for the year 2015/16.

3. Minutes of the last meeting

The Minutes of the meeting held on 18th March 2015 were agreed to be a true record and were signed by the Chairman.

4. Matters arising from previous meeting

There were no matters arising.

5. Surface Water Management Plan for Thatcham (SWMP)

Iain offered congratulations to Brian Woodham on being awarded a partnership badge from Thatcham Town Council.

5.1 Updates on the SWMP

5.1.1 Tull Way Flood Alleviation Scheme

Planning approval was still awaited. Some issues had arisen during the planning application process but these were being addressed by West Berkshire Council's Highways department. A contractor had been appointed and, subject to planning approval, work would commence in August 2015 and take approximately 10 months.

5.1.2 Dunston Park

Negotiations were ongoing with the landowner but appeared to be close to agreement. A revised plan was to be submitted to the Environment Agency in the next few weeks seeking Project Approval, along with a request that funds be released for production of Detailed Designs.

5.1.3 South East Thatcham

A request for funding to produce a Preliminary Design was to be submitted soon.

5.2 Fundraising

As at 20th May 2015 fundraising income stood at £100,830. Greenham Common Trust had confirmed that the £10,000 grant from the Berkshire Community Foundation was eligible for matched funding. A decision on the SSE grant application was expected after 21st May 2015. It was anticipated that capital expenditure support would be needed from local council's in 2016/17 and 2017/18. Roger Croft and Leo Pieri were continuing to gather details of local businesses. Brian Woodham agreed to pursue a grant application through BIFFA. It was agreed that organisations that had awarded grants should receive acknowledgement now and in the future and a press release would be issued after SSE's decision was known. Publicity would be arranged to coincide with work commencing on the Tull Way Scheme. Brian confirmed that funds were currently being held by Greenham Common Trust and he would arrange a progress meeting with them.

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5.2 Fundraising continued.

It was agreed that legal advice should be sought on the liability of Steering Group members with regard to funds held. Iain agreed to contact Gardener Leader to see if they could offer any advice. Thatcham Flood Forum was one of the Waitrose Community Matters organisations for May 2015 and collection of green tokens in the Thatcham store appeared to be going well.

6. Charitable Status

If Thatcham Flood Forum was to register as a charity a new constitution would have to be adopted. A draft Constitution was circulated for consideration along with information booklets on being a Charity Trustee. This item would be discussed again at the next meeting.

7. Action Plan

The Action Plan working spreadsheet recording progress to date was circulated and the content noted.

8. Updates

8.1 Rainsford Farm CCTV Survey

A response was awaited from Thames Water following recent correspondence.

8.2 Proposals for Henwick Park development

Brian had attended a recent exhibition. There was currently no indication of when an application for outline planning permission would be submitted.

8.3 Proposals for Siege Cross Farm development

No updates to report.

9. Any other business

There was no other business.

10. Date of next meeting

It was confirmed that the next meeting would be held on Tuesday 21st July 2015, commencing at 7pm in the Thatcham Town Council Chamber.

There being no further business the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 8.50pm.

Signed: _____ Date: _____