



**Minutes of a meeting of Thatcham Flood Forum Steering Group
held on Wednesday 24th September 2014, at 7.00 p.m.
in the Thatcham Town Council Chamber, Brownsfield Road**

Present: Iain Dunn (Chairman)
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 Brian Barnes, Steve Kelly and Nick Townsend. It was noted that Steve Kelly had advised that he would no longer attend regular meetings unless weather data information was required which he was happy to provide.

2. Minutes

The Minutes of the meeting held on 15th July 2014 were agreed and signed by the Chairman as a true record.

3. Matters arising from previous meeting

There were no matters arising.

4. Discussion with West Berkshire Council's Planning and Transport Policy Manager

The advice offered by Bryan Lyttle, Planning and Transport Policy Manager, West Berkshire Council, at the last meeting was reviewed and the following comments were made:

4.1 The Community Infrastructure Levy, due to be implemented from April 2015, was unlikely to raise sufficient funds for flood alleviation works.

4.2 It was agreed that Thatcham Flood Forum should adopt a statement for responding to proposed developments that it felt could impact on the risk of flooding in the town. It was agreed that the following draft statement should be circulated to all Members of the Flood Forum Steering Group for comment: "Thatcham Flood Forum will not support development of this nature until full implementation of the Surface Water Management Plan for Thatcham, or, unless it can be shown that the implementation and long-term maintenance of Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SUDS) is guaranteed and thereby assures no additional flood risk to existing properties."

5. Correspondence from Donnington New Homes

It was agreed that the Chairman would respond to Donnington New Homes correspondence dated 16th September 2014, regarding the proposed Dunstan Fields development, with the statement detailed in Minute number 4.2 and, potentially, as amended by the Steering Group feedback.

6. Action Plan

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

Leo presented a slideshow of photographs of drainage assets that he and Nick Townsend had taken to date. It was agreed that Mel would liaise with West Berkshire Council (as the local Drainage Authority) to establish who was responsible for maintaining the assets and what the maintenance regimes were. Leo and Nick were thanked for their considerable efforts.

6.2 To review the draft information booklet for residents

The latest draft of the information booklet for residents was presented. It was agreed to circulate to all Members of the Steering Group and request comments by Wednesday 1st October prior to official adoption. It was agreed that Cold Ash residents should be included in circulation/distribution of the booklet once adopted.

6.3 To discuss progress on the introduction of Thatcham Flood Warden Scheme

Mel presented a draft project plan for the Thatcham Flood Warden Scheme. It was agreed to circulate to all Members of the Steering Group and request comments by Wednesday 1st October and invite Carolyn Richardson, West Berkshire Council Civil Contingencies Manager, to the next meeting to discuss the proposed scheme in more detail.

6.4 To review other progress and assign tasks as necessary

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

7. Rainsford Farm CCTV footage

Bob Hewitt of Stuart Michael Associates Ltd had provided maps and corresponding photographs of defects and matters of interest in a stretch of pipe running from Pipers Lane to Rainsford Farm. It was agreed to pursue this matter with West Berkshire Council (as the local Drainage Authority) and Thames Water (as the local Water Authority). It was agreed that the Chairman would write to Bob expressing Thatcham Flood Forum's gratitude for his support and the work undertaken.

8. To receive any updates on the following items:

8.1 Surface Water Management Plan for Thatcham

Confirmation was awaited from the Environment Agency on whether permission had been granted to transfer funds that had been assigned to Cold Ash Phase 2 could be used for construction of the Tull Way bund instead as the need for Cold Ash Phase 2 had been reduced following the extra capacity offered by Cold Ash Phase 1.

The Environment Agency had agreed that funds for producing detailed designs for Dunstan Green pond could be used to produce detailed designs for Dunstan Park pond instead as Dunstan Park would offer a greater level of protection than Dunstan Green.

A Project Appraisal Report had been submitted to the Environment Agency for Dunstan Park pond.

8.2 National Flood Forum

No updates to report.

Thatcham Flood Forum
24th September 2014

8. To receive any updates on the following items continued:

8.3 Water Bill

No updates to report.

8.4 West Berkshire Council's Local Flood Risk Management Strategy

No updates to report.

9. Any other business

It had been reported at the Surface Water Management Plan Funding Meeting, prior to this meeting, that Eastbury Village Flood Prevention Association (EVFPA) had been very success in fundraising for flood alleviation works in the village and it was agreed to invite the Chairman of EVFPA to a future meeting to discuss their approach to fundraising.

It was agreed that Thatcham Flood Forum should seek the help of a volunteer fundraiser to help with fundraising for local flood alleviation works.

The possibility of seeking sponsors for ditch maintenance was discussed and it was agreed to enquire about how roundabout sponsorship scheme worked to see if this could be adapted to ditch sponsorship. Mel agreed to contact West Berkshire Council to enquire.

Mel circulated a possible design for a proposed fridge magnet to encourage reporting of ditches in need of maintenance and it was agreed this was a good idea and samples should be obtained for consideration at the next meeting.

10. Date of next meeting

The next meeting would be the Annual General Meeting and would be held on Tuesday 25th November 2014, commencing 7 p.m. in the Thatcham Town Council Chamber.

The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 9.10 p.m.

Signed: _____

Date: _____