



**Minutes of a meeting of Thatcham Flood Forum Steering Group
held on Tuesday 26th January 2016, at 7pm
in the Thatcham Town Council Chamber, Brownsfield Road**

Present: Iain Dunn (Chairman)
Brian Barnes (Vice-Chairman)
Ian Goodwin (local resident)
Peter Lavarack (local resident)
Brian Woodham (SWMP Funding Group Chairman)

In attendance: Trisha Bennet (TACCT – Community Development Consultancy & Training) and
Mel Alexander (Thatcham Town Council Officer)

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Roger Croft (Thatcham Town Council), Cold Ash Parish Council, Leo Pieri and Nick Townsend.

2. Charitable Status

Trisha had been invited to attend the meeting to offer professional advice on charitable status. Trisha had reviewed the draft constitution and answered various questions. Concern was raised over the proposed “objects” as it was felt that these were not entirely in line with the Flood Forum’s aims and objectives. It was agreed to hold a separate meeting to discuss the charitable “objects” and “charitable purposes”. Trisha offered to review the revised constitution before submission to the charity commission.

Those present thanked Trisha for her valuable advice and she left the meeting.

3. Minutes of the last meeting

The Minutes of the meeting held on 24th November 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

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

Tull Way Scheme – construction due to commence spring 2016. Stockpiling of spoil to create the flood defence was 50% complete. Site preparation work continued.

Dunston Park Scheme – plans for the scheme were on track. Detailed designs were due in the spring.

South East Thatcham Flood Alleviation Scheme – Ground water monitoring to continue until March 2016. Feedback was expected from the Environment Agency at the end of March 2016.

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- 5.2 Leo and Iain had met with Sovereign Housing Association regarding financial support. Additional information had been requested by Sovereign and this was being compiled.
- 5.3 There had been no feedback to date on Stuart Clarke's presentation to Kennet School sixth form on the flood alleviation schemes. Mel was asked to request an update from Stuart.

6. Proposed Developments

The following updates were noted:

6.1 Henwick Park – 15/01949/OUTMAJ

Planning permission had been refused.

6.2 Siegecross Farm – 15/00296/OUTMAJ

Refusal of planning permission had gone to appeal. Thatcham Flood Forum to review and, if required, submit comments.

7. Flood Warden Scheme

No further progress had been made on proposals to introduce a Flood Warden Scheme and it was agreed to defer this matter to the next meeting.

8. Any other business

8.1 At the last meeting Brian raised concern regarding the effectiveness of the Water Act with regard to SUDS provision in England. It was agreed to request a meeting with West Berkshire Council Planning Officers to discuss these concerns.

8.2 Details of a Flood Re event being held on Thursday 18th February 2016, 7pm – 8.30pm at Novotel Reading Centre were circulated. It was agreed that Iain would attend along with Peter, if available.

8.3 It was agreed that more news stories were required for the website. Mel requested that items be sent to her for uploading.

9. Date of next meeting

It was confirmed that the next meeting would be held on Tuesday 29th March 2016, commencing at 7pm in the Thatcham Town Council Chamber.

It was also agreed to convene a special meeting on Friday 26th February 2016 at 2pm in the Thatcham Town Council Chamber to discuss the charitable constitution.

There being no further business the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 8.47pm.

Signed: _____ Date: _____