



**Minutes of a meeting of Thatcham Flood Forum Steering Group  
held on Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> January 2015, at 7.00 p.m.  
in the Thatcham Town Council Chamber, Brownsfield Road**

Present:           Iain Dunn (Chairman)  
                      Councillor Brian Barnes (Thatcham Town Council Representative)  
                      Councillor Roger Croft (Thatcham Town Council Representative)  
                      Peter Lavarack (Local Resident)  
                      Councillor Pete McDougall (Cold Ash Parish Council)  
                      Leo Pieri (Local Resident)  
                      Nick Townsend (Local Resident)  
                      Brian Woodham (SWMP Funding Group Chairman)

In attendance:  Mel Alexander (Thatcham Town Council Officer), Carolyn Richardson (West Berkshire Council Officer) and 2 local residents (Ms. Walter and Mr. Powell)

**1. Apologies for absence**

An apology for absence was received from Stuart Clark (West Berkshire Council Officer).

**2. Thatcham Flood Warden Scheme**

Carolyn Richardson, West Berkshire Council Civil Contingencies Manager, provided feedback and advice on the Thatcham Flood Warden project plan. Carolyn had also sought advice on the document from the Environment Agency. Carolyn explained that she was working on a Community Resilience information pack and would share with the Flood Forum when completed as some elements could be incorporated into the project plan. Carolyn also agreed to provide information on best practice for communicating the information to the local community. Carolyn suggested that the Flood Forum might consider calling the scheme "Community Resilience Wardens" rather than "Flood Wardens" as volunteers could be used in other emergency situations, not just flooding.

*Members of the Flood Forum thanked Carolyn for her valued input and she left the meeting.*

**3. Minutes**

The Minutes of the meeting held on 25<sup>th</sup> November 2014 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. Fundraising**

**5.1 To discuss plans for a fundraising launch event on Friday 13<sup>th</sup> February 2014**

Iain advised that Richard Benyon MP had confirmed his availability for a publicity event planned for Friday 13<sup>th</sup> February. Following discussion it was agreed that, as there was a lot to be organised prior to the event, to delay this event until Friday 6<sup>th</sup> March 2015. Nick offered to draft a press release, based on information that Brian agreed to send him. Roger offered to liaise with Richard Benyon's press office. Mel was asked to obtain a quote from a Member of Thatcham Town Council and arrange for a representative to attend the event on 6<sup>th</sup> March. Pete McDougall offered to do the same for Cold Ash Parish Council. Brian W agreed to discuss the event with Chris Boulton, Greenham Common Trust. Leo hoped that the application to Find Me A Grant would be uploaded by Friday 30<sup>th</sup> January.

**5.2 To discuss fundraising for Dunstan Park and Francis Baily Schemes**

Roger reported that West Berkshire District Councillors Dominic Boeck and Sheila Ellison had agreed to submit "Member's Bids" for a contribution towards each scheme. A decision would be made on 5<sup>th</sup> March 2015.

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**5.3 To consider registering for charitable status**

An information sheet on Charitable Incorporated Organisations (CIO's) was circulated and noted. After discussion it was agreed that Thatcham Flood Forum should register for charitable status as a CIO.

**6. Correspondence**

The following correspondence was circulated:

**6.1** A response from Richard Benyon MP to Iain's letter regarding SUDs. It was agreed that Thatcham Flood Forum should write to West Berkshire Council Chief Executive, Mr. Nick Carter, to obtain the District Council's opinion on the SUDs situation in Thatcham and timescales for implementation etc.

**6.2** A response from Thames Water regarding the Pipers Way syphon CCTV footage, advising that it could not comment on third party footage and photographs. It was agreed that Thatcham Flood Forum should respond advising Thames Water that the CCTV footage had been commissioned by Thames Water and therefore the evidence was its own.

**7. Updates:**

There were no updates to report.

**8. Website**

There was a discussion on some updates that Dr. Nick Young had made to the Flood Forum website ([www.thatchamfloodforum.org](http://www.thatchamfloodforum.org)).

**9. Any other business**

Nick reported that he had experienced difficulty in obtaining reasonably priced insurance cover. Mel advised of a letter that Stuart Clark sends to residents with such issues and it was agreed to obtain a copy from Stuart for further discussion. Iain agreed to contact the National Flood Forum for an update on implementation of Re (insurance scheme).

**10. Date of next meeting**

The next meeting would be held on Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> March 2015, commencing at 7 p.m. in the Thatcham Town Council Chamber.

There being no further business the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 8.59 p.m.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_