



**Minutes of a meeting of Thatcham Flood Forum Steering Group
held on Thursday 28th February 2018 at 7pm (Following the AGM)
in the Thatcham Town Council Chamber, Brownsfield Road**

Present: Iain Dunn (Chairman)
Ian Goodwin (Cold Ash Flood Warden)
Councillor Richard Crumly (Thatcham Town Council)
Keith Hoddinott (Noddi) (local resident)
Peter Lavarack (local resident)
Leo Pieri (local resident)
Brian Woodham (SWMP Funding Group Chairman)
Denise Kinsella (Thames Water)
Laurence Ralph (Thames Water)

In attendance: Mel Alexander (Thatcham Town Council Officer)
Connie Davis (Thatcham Town Council Officer)

1. Welcome and apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Brian Barnes.

2. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

3. Minutes of the last meeting

The Minutes of the meeting held on 14th December 2017 were agreed to be an accurate record and were signed by the Chairman.

4. Matters arising from the last meeting

There were no matters arising.

5. Thames Water

- 5.7 Thames Water representatives addressed the query as to whether impact assessments are required at the outline or detailed planning stage. It was found that if detailed information is submitted by the developer at the outline planning stage a desk top assessment can be carried out. If this then indicated that there is not going to be sufficient capacity, there will need to be an impact study. Thames Water cannot assess the impact if not enough information is submitted, which would then be reported to the council. This would then often result in a condition being enforced on the application for the developer to provide a detailed drainage strategy.

Thames Water is not a statutory consultee on planning applications and unlikely to be due to the government and Ofwat focusing on water utility companies to facilitate development as opposed to preventing it.

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Brian asked if concerns can be raised with Thames Water as opposed to just planning departments (in regard to large applications). This was welcomed by Denise and Laurence.

Changes coming in April 2018 – developers will not pay for site specific network reinforcement will still have to pay a per dwelling infrastructure charge which goes in to a 'pot' which Thames Water will use to carry out network upgrades.

- 5.8 Thames Water are working with Stuart to get more information to model and see if Thames Water can make a contribution to flood defense schemes. Thames Water had a meeting with Stuart and Ardent (consultants). Stuart is chasing Ardent to provide more information which can then be passed on to Thames Water.

6. Surface Water Management Plan for Thatcham

Dunston Park- Fully funded and ready to go. Ecology survey revealed potential for crested newts, voles and bats. This could cause a delay to the project (with works may not be being able to start until May 2018).

SETFAS- Planning permission obtained and funding from government has been received by West Berkshire Council.

Two small schemes in the BowlingGreen/ Heath Lane area. These are the next priority. Stuart to start preliminary design work this year with anticipated approval in 2019/2020 for building.

Other projects being thought about at Seige Cross and at the Memorial Fields.

7. Thatcham Flood Forum Action Plan (2013-2018)

Working group to be created to evaluate the Flood Forum Action Plan.

Chart of progress to be brought to the next meeting. This can then be discussed at next meeting.

8. Fundraising

Held off active fundraising until it is established as to whether smaller flood defense schemes will make the EA programme/ how much these will cost.

Looking to start a new campaign through the Good Exchange.

Any contributions from Thames Water for the schemes will be considered as local contributions.

Will have to look for contributions from large organisations and local people for new smaller schemes.

9. Any other business

Flood and Coast Forum conference- it was asked as to whether the Flood Forum wished to appoint someone to attend.

Thames Water consultation period on their new Business Plan and Resource Water Management Plan (which looks ahead over the next 80 years). Feedback can be given on the Thames Water website and the consultation closes end of April/ beginning of May.

10. Date of next meeting

Date of next meeting Thursday 26th April 2018 at 7pm in the Thatcham Town Council Chamber, Brownsfield Road. It was decided that dates for further future meetings will be arranged in advance via email.

There being no further business the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 8.24pm.

Signed: _____

Date: _____