



**Minutes of a meeting of Thatcham Flood Forum Steering Group  
held on Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2014, at 7.00 p.m.  
in the Thatcham Town Council Chamber, Brownsfield Road**

Present: Iain Dunn (Chairman)  
Cllr. Geoff Findlay, Steve Kelly, Peter Lavarack, Leo Pieri, Nick Townsend and  
Brian Woodham

In attendance: Mel Alexander (Thatcham Town Council Officer) and 7 local residents

**1. Apologies for absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr. John Boyd.

**2. Minutes**

The Minutes of the meeting held on 27<sup>th</sup> November 2013 were agreed and signed as a true record.

**3. Matters Arising from last meeting**

Item 4 (4.1) Stuart Clarke had now provided the DVD and report from Thames Water relating to the Rainsford Farm outlet.

Item 4 (7.2) It was agreed to contact Bryan Lyttle, West Berkshire Council Planning Officer, to enquire whether he could attend the next meeting of the Flood Forum to discuss incorporation of flood alleviation works into developments; and the effects of implementation, in April 2014, of Schedule 3 of the Flood Water Management Act 2010 regarding Sustainable Drainage.

Item 5.4 The Forum agreed it was important that West Berkshire Council's PR department should be kept informed of progress regarding flood alleviation works to ensure the Officers were well advised.

**4. Updates:**

**4.1 Rainsford Farm**

No updates to report.

**4.2 Surface Water Management Plan**

Brian reported that the first attenuation pond, east of Cold Ash Hill, was still on target for work to commence in the first quarter of 2014. Tender documents were due to be considered on 29<sup>th</sup> January 2014 with work commencing on site before the end of March 2014. Ancillary works, such as access etc, would commence soon.

Notification should be received by the end of February 2014 from the Environment Agency as to whether the scheme planned for Tull Way had been awarded funding.

#### **4. Updates continued:**

##### **4.2 Surface Water Management Plan continued**

Three other designs (Cold Ash phase 2, Dunstan Green and Dunstan Park) were currently going through the preliminary design process and more information would be available in mid 2014.

##### **4.3 National Flood Forum**

Iain agreed to forward newsletters received from the NFF to Mel for circulation to the Forum.

##### **4.4 Water Bill**

The Forum was not aware on any further publications from central government since issuing its initial response to the home insurance consultation.

#### **5. Recent heavy rainfall**

The Forum had received reports from local residents of concerns during periods of heavy rainfall during December 2013 and January 2014. Information was reported as follows:

- The grill north off Tull Way, opposite Florence Gardens, had water to the top of the grill on 23<sup>rd</sup> December 2013
- The new drain under Tull Way is too small and other drains divert water to the wrong place
- Concern over the maintenance of ditches in farmers' fields
- The clearance of gullies and drains should coincide with leaves falling in the autumn
- Elmhurst Road – drain covers were lifted by a resident to clear water build-up in their garden
- Bourne Arch – small amount of water build-up in back garden
- Lower Way – flooding between Derwent Road and Thames Water depot
- Waterside Farm – property flooded
- Kennet Heath – drainage channel not feeding into balancing pond
- Drain not fully operational along Northfield Rd, outside no 26
- Drain blocked with leaves on Park Lane, outside no 68
- Park Avenue, at Park Lane end, pooling due to gutter level below gully grill

It was agreed that the Flood Forum would report these concerns to West Berkshire Council.

Steve Kelly, Thatcham Weather Station, offered to provide information and statistics to residents if desired. He could be contacted via his website:

<http://weather.kennetsignalling.com/home.html>

#### **6. Action Plan**

Action number 1.4 It was agreed to write to West Berkshire Council requesting prioritisation of gullies for clearance using data from computer generated maps.

Action number 1.4 Leo and Nick agreed to pursue implementation of drainage maintenance regimes. The first step would be to record where relevant drainage systems were located, identify the owners and request details of maintenance regimes. A local resident present at the meeting offered to assist with data collection using local knowledge.

**6. Action Plan continued**

Action number 3.3 Mel had started work on an information booklet for residents. A draft would be circulated at a future meeting for consideration.

**7. Any Other Business**

7.1 West Berkshire Council had issued a consultation of it's "Local Flood Risk Management Strategy". The consultation runs until 28<sup>th</sup> February 2014. More details available at:  
<http://www.westberks.gov.uk/index.aspx?articleid=28425>

It was agreed to enquire whether WBC intended to publicise the consultation via local media. Mel would request this information.

7.2 It was agreed to request copies of press releases issued by West Berkshire Council relating to Cold Ash phase 1 basin and recent heavy rainfall. Mel would contact WBC's PR department to request copies of these.

7.3 It was agreed to seek volunteers to help with the Flood Forum's Action Plan and this would be done via the Forum's website and social media, as well as through other forms of local media.

7.4 Nick reported that he had attended the Thatcham Vision Population and Development Topic Team meeting on 22<sup>nd</sup> January and gave a brief update to the Forum.

**8. Date of Next Meeting**

Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> March 2014, commencing 7 p.m. in the Thatcham Town Council Chamber.

There being no further matters the Chairman closed the meeting at 8.40 p.m.

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

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