

THE MORAY COUNCIL

MINUTE OF MEETING OF THE FLOOD ALLEVATION SUB-COMMITTEE

17 OCTOBER 2007

COUNCIL OFFICE, ELGIN

PRESENT

Councillors G McIntyre (Chair), L Bell, J Divers, J Hogg, I Ogilvie, J Russell,

IN ATTENDANCE

The Consultancy Manager, Peter Haslam, Senior Engineer (Flooding and Coastal Protection), Steve Trehwella Business Case Manager (Royal Haskoning), Barbara Hellett, Scheme Manager (Elgin) (Royal Haskoning), Paul Winfield, Scheme Manager (River Findhorn & Pilmuir)(Royal Haskoning), Ian Thomson, Morrison Construction, Bob Bryce Senior Engineer, Coastal & Rivers (Royal Haskoning), Deborah Halliday (Royal Haskoning), M Forrest, Senior Solicitor, the Public Relations Co-ordinator and the Principal Committee Services Officer, Clerk to the meeting.

APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were intimated on behalf of Councillors A Bisset, P Paul, M Shand and D Stewart

ALSO PRESENT

Councillors B Jarvis and G Leadbitter.

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE

Mr Henry Rowe, Divisional Director, Royal Haskoning, Steve Magenis Director (Coastal & Rivers) (Royal Haskoning).

1. DECLARATION OF GROUP DECISIONS

In terms of the relevant Standing Order 20 and the Councillor's Code of Conduct the meeting noted that there were no declarations from Group Leaders or spokespersons in regard to any prior decisions taken on how members will vote on any item on the agenda.

2. WRITTEN QUESTIONS

3. MORAY FLOOD ALLEVATION: STAFF RESOURCES

There was submitted a report by the Director of Environmental Services informing the Committee of changes introduced to the management structure of Moray Flood Alleviation so that the Council can best respond to future challenges.

Following consideration the Sub-Committee noted the changes to the team structure aimed at strengthening the team and adjusting the skills balance for challenges ahead.

On the invitation of the Chairman, Mr Henry Rowe, Royal Haskoning addressed the meeting in response to a letter received from the Council regarding seeking assurance as to the level of commitment by Royal Haskoning to the Moray Council's flood alleviation programme. He referred in particular to the Rothes Flood Alleviation Scheme and the slippage in the programme and assured the Sub-Committee of Royal Haskoning's commitment to all of the programmes. He further referred to the issues relating to contaminated land and suggested that all those involved should come together and form a strategy group to discuss the issues

on a site by site basis and that through informed discussion this should hopefully focus resources to resolve issues timeously.

In response the Chairman thanked Mr Rowe for his full and frank response and that Members were very anxious to keep things on track and were keen to ensure good communication.

The Consultancy Manager stated that he was in agreement with the formation of a 'strategy group' was a good way forward.

Thereafter the Meeting noted that Mrs Hellet would be leaving Moray but would still be involved with the Moray Flood Alleviation Schemes and joined the Chairman in thanking Mrs Hellet for her assistance during the past 2 years and wished her well in the future.

4. MORAY FLOOD ALLEVIATION SCHEMES: PROGRESS

There was submitted a report by the Director of Environmental Services updating the Sub-Committee on the progress of Moray Flood Alleviation Schemes.

The Sub-Committee considered the progress for the period ending 30 September 2007 as follows:-

- a Elgin Flood Alleviation Scheme - Noted
The Meeting further agreed to the proposal that planning for the next stages of the development of the Scheme should include an immediate start on detailed design;
- b Forres (Burn of Mosset) Flood Alleviation Scheme - Noted
- c Forres (River Findhorn & Pilmuir) Flood Alleviation Scheme - Noted
- d Roths Flood Alleviation Scheme - Noted
The Meeting also noted that an invitation would be issued to all Members by the Consultancy Manager to attend a walk around the Roths Scheme
- e Garmouth Flood Alleviation Scheme - Noted
- f Kingston Coast Protection Scheme - Noted
- g Tyock Burn Culvert Replacements - Noted

5. TYOCK BURN CULVERT AT THE WARDS, ELGIN

There was submitted a report by the Director of Environmental Services asking the Sub-Committee to agree to a course of action regarding Tyock Burn Culvert at The Wards.

Following consideration the Sub-Committee agreed to re-assess flood risk from the Tyock Burn based on the Elgin Scheme being in place together with three improved culverts downstream, cleaning of the ASDA culvert and ground level changes in the vicinity of The Wards Culvert. The outcome of these measures is to be reported at the next meeting of the Sub-Committee together with recommendations.

6. ROTHES FLOOD PREVENTION SCHEME: PROGRAMME REVISION

There was submitted a report by the Director of Environmental Services asking the Committee to approve a revised programme for the design and construction of the Roths Flood Alleviation Scheme based on a phased approach.

Following consideration the Sub-Committee approved the revised detailed programme, based a phased approach, for the Roths Flood Alleviation Scheme

7. FORRES (RIVER FINDHORN AND PILMUIR) FLOOD PREVENTION SCHEME:

PROGRAMME

There was submitted a report by the Director of Environmental Services asking the Sub-Committee to consider changes to the programme and Project Execution for Forres (River Findhorn & Pilmuir) Scheme.

Following consideration the Sub-Committee agreed:-

- (a) the changes to the programme and Project Execution Plan for Forres (River Findhorn & Pilmuir) Flood Alleviation Scheme;
- (b) that the Convener write to Network Rail in regard to the difficulties the Council has experienced in trying to communicate with them; and
- (c) the appointment of BGS to carry out specialist works.

Councillor Leadbitter left the meeting at this juncture.

8. FORRES (BURN OF MOSSET) FLOOD PREVENTION SCHEME: PROGRAMME AND COSTS

There was submitted a report by the Director of Environmental Services updating the Sub-Committee on the programme to start of construction and costs for the Forres (Burn of Mosset) Flood Prevention Scheme prior to the matter being reported to The Moray Council on 14 November 2007.

Following consideration the Sub-Committee noted the programme to start of construction and costs for the Forres (Burn of Mosset) Flood Prevention Scheme and that this will be reported to The Moray Council on 14 November 2007.

9. MORAY FLOOD ALLEVIATION SCHEMES: APPOINTMENT OF COST CONSULTANT

There was submitted a report by the Director of Environmental Services asking the Sub-Committee to approve procurement of a cost consultant.

Following consideration the Sub-Committee approved the appointment of a cost consultant to provide:

- (a) independent pre-construction cost estimates;
- (b) benchmarking of target price and programme;
- (c) manage financial aspects of construction contracts; and certify that the costs meet the Council's statutory duty in regard to Best Value, value for money and probity.

Councillor Leadbitter rejoined the meeting at this juncture.

10. MORAY FLOOD ALLEVIATION SCHEMES: MONITORING OF ESTIMATED COSTS TO BRING SCHEMES TO CONSTRUCTION START STAGE FOR FINANCIAL YEARS 2006-2009

There was submitted a report by the Director of Environmental Services updating the Committee on the development of Moray Flood Alleviation Schemes to construction start stage for the period 2006-2009 in respect of financial monitoring.

Following consideration the Sub-Committee noted the actual expenditure to 30 September 2007 for 2007-2008 against estimates and that Public Local Inquiry (PLI) and advance property acquisition costs are additional.

11. PROGRES OF SCOTTISH WATER'S DRAINAGE AREA STUDIES FOR ROTHES, FORRES AND ELGIN

There was submitted a report by the Director of Environmental Services updating the Sub-Committee on the progress of Scottish Water's Drainage Area Studies for Elgin, Rothes & Forres and Aberlour.

Following consideration the Sub-Committee considered progress for the periods ending 21 September 2007 (Elgin and Rothes & Forres) and October 2007 (Aberlour).

12. KINGSTON COASTAL PROTECTION SCHEME: ECONOMIC AND ENVIRONMENTAL APPRAISAL

There was submitted a report by the Direction of Environmental Services asking the Sub-Committee to recommend to the Environmental Services Committee that further investment in the Kingston Coastal Protection Scheme represents too great a financial risk to the Council, with a high risk that the scheme will not be deliverable, and that consequently it should proceed no further.

Following consideration the Sub-Committee agreed to recommend to the Environmental Services Committee that further investment in the Kingston Coastal Protection Scheme represents too great a financial risk to the Council, with a high risk that the scheme will not be deliverable, and that consequently it should proceed no further.

The Sub-Committee noted that monitoring will continue every three months and after significant storm events, and that any significant variations in the shingle bank will be reported.

13. QUESTION TIME

There were no questions from Members.