

THE MORAY COUNCIL

MINUTE OF MEETING OF THE FLOOD ALLEVIATION SUB-COMMITTEE

19 AUGUST 2009

COUNCIL OFFICE, ELGIN

PRESENT

Councillors J Russell (Chairman), L Bell, J Divers, J Hogg, P Paul, D Ross, M Shand and D Stewart

APOLOGY

An apology for absence was intimated on behalf of Councillor I Ogilvie.

IN ATTENDANCE

The Director of Environmental Services, the Consultancy Manager, Mr P Haslam (Senior Engineer), Mr B Strachan & Mr A Russell (Morrison Construction), Ms S Weir (EC Harris), Mr A McEachan, Principal Solicitor (Commercial & Conveyancing) and the Senior Committee Services Officer, Clerk to the meeting.

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

The meeting noted the terms of the written question from Councillor D Ross and the response thereto.

In response to a supplementary question from Councillor Ross in regard to what options the Council had initiated as possible solutions to the downstream problems the meeting noted as well as the proposal by Pitgaveney, which was not considered to be economically viable, 3/4 other options had been considered. However as they would have resulted in little or no significant improvement they were not progressed.

The Director of Environmental Services also referred to the terms of a letter from SEPA, received just prior to the commencement of the meeting, which intimated that whilst accepting that the flood risk to properties and land downstream will increase as a result of the Elgin Flood Alleviation Scheme they are considered to be small relative to the existing risk of flooding in the area. The correspondence from SEPA also intimated that it noted that the measures taken by way of new flood embankments to mitigate the increase in risk to the worst affected properties at

Pitgaveny and Kirkhill and accept the small change in risk as a result of a breach occurring and when balanced against the benefits of the scheme SEPA is satisfied and have withdrawn their objection to the proposed development.

3. MORAY FLOOD ALLEVIATION SCHEMES: FINANCIAL MONITORING SUMMARY

There was submitted a report by the Director of Environmental Services updating the Sub-Committee on the Moray Flood Alleviation Schemes in respect of financial monitoring and of key factors affecting costs of schemes, details of which were set out in the Appendix to the report

Following consideration the Sub-Committee agreed to note:-

- (i) corrections to the expenditure to the end of March 2009; and
- (ii) the estimated capital cost of schemes and the anticipated expenditure profile that accords with the approved Financial Plan as far as can be ascertained at this point.

4. ELGIN FLOOD ALLEVIATION SCHEME: PROGRESS

There was submitted a report by the Director of Environmental Services updating the Sub-Committee on the progress of Elgin Flood Alleviation Scheme. A copy of an Executive Summary detailing what has been carried out in the past three months and what is proposed over the next three months was appended to the report.

The Consultancy Manager spoke to the report and responded to Member's questions. The meeting noted that upon implementation of the Flood Alleviation Scheme it was understood that the increased risk of a breach occurring in the proposed new flood embankments is in the order of 2% which, is considered by SEPA, to be a relatively small increase given that the properties affected are already at quite a high risk.

Following consideration the Sub-Committee agreed:

- (i) to note the progress for Elgin Flood Alleviation Scheme for the period ending 31 July 2009;
- (ii) to amend the programme to take into account the effects of the Public Local Inquiry and the subsequent process as set out in Section 3.10 of the report;
- (iii) that the progress be reported to the Council;
- (iv) that, in welcoming the withdrawal of SEPA's objections, a copy of SEPA's letter be forwarded to all Members of the Council.

5. FORRES (BURN OF MOSSET) FLOOD PREVENTION SCHEME: PROGRESS

There was submitted a report by the Director of Environmental Services updating the Sub-Committee on the progress of Forres (Burn of Mosset) Flood Prevention Scheme. There was appended to the report a copy of the Monitoring Report No 10 covering the period May to the end of July 2009.

Ms S Weir (EC Harris) spoke to the report and thereafter responded to Members' questions. The meeting noted that the official opening of the Scheme by Richard Lockhead MSP, Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs and the Environment, will take place at 3.00 pm on Monday 24 August 2009.

Following consideration the Sub-Committee agreed:-

- (i) to note the content of the Monitoring Report No 10 for the Forres (Burn of Mosset) Flood Prevention Scheme 2005 for May to end of July 2009;
- (ii) that the progress be reported to the Council.

6. FORRES (RIVER FINDHORN & PILMUIR) FLOOD ALLEVIATION SCHEME: PROGRESS

There was submitted a report by the Director of Environmental Services updating the Sub-Committee on the progress of Forres (River Findhorn & Pilmuir) Flood Alleviation Scheme. A copy of an Executive Summary detailing what has been carried out in the past three months and what is proposed over the next three months was appended to the report.

Following consideration the Sub-Committee agreed:

- (i) to note the progress for Forres (River Findhorn & Pilmuir) Flood Alleviation Scheme for the period ending 31 July 2009; and
- (ii) that the progress be reported to the Council.

7. ROTHES FLOOD PREVENTION SCHEME: PROGRESS

There was submitted a report by the Director of Environmental Services updating the Sub-Committee on the progress of Rothes Flood Prevention Scheme. There was appended to the report a copy of the Monitoring Report No 5 covering the period May to the end of July 2009.

Mr B Strachan (Morrison Construction) spoke to the report and thereafter responded to Member's questions. In regard to excessive water lying at the top of Land Street during periods of heavy rainfall the meeting noted a CCTV investigation of the drainage in the area would be undertaken with a view to removing silting, as necessary. In regard to 'ponding' in New Street the meeting noted that this was not included in the Flood Alleviation Scheme and like many other similar problems throughout Moray, which have come to light during the development of the flood alleviation schemes, has been noted and will be included for consideration in the preparation of Local Flood Risk Management Plans.

Following consideration the Sub-Committee agreed:-

- (i) to note the progress report and the terms of Monitoring Report No 5 for the Rothes Flood Prevention Scheme 2006 for the period May to 31 July 2009; and
- (ii) that the progress be reported to the Council.

8. QUESTION TIME

Councillor Ross referred to the removal of the old red Bishopmill Bridge, as part of the Elgin Flood Alleviation Scheme, thus removing one of the main central river blockage points. In view of this proposal Councillor Ross asked if it would be possible to move the proposed bunding line to the north of Borough Briggs further north to facilitate a proposal by Elgin City FC to provide an all-weather pitch between the football stadium and the River Lossie.

In response the Sub-Committee noted that were the line to be moved north, as requested, this would impact on other areas upstream and therefore the proposed bunding line must remain as indicated in the Elgin Flood Alleviation Scheme.