

THE MORAY COUNCIL

MINUTE OF MEETING OF THE FLOOD ALLEVIATION SUB-COMMITTEE

25 JANUARY 2012

COUNCIL OFFICE, ELGIN

PRESENT

Councillors J Russell (Chair), J Divers, J Hogg, I Ogilvie, P Paul, D Ross, M Shand, D Stewart and A Wright (Deputy Convener) (Ex-Officio).

APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were intimated on behalf of Councillors L Bell and G McIntyre (Convener) (Ex-Officio).

IN ATTENDANCE

The Head of Direct Services, the Consultancy Manager, the Project Manager, Elgin Flood Alleviation Scheme, Ms S Weir & N MacKay (EC Harris), Ms B Hellett & Ms D Halliday (Royal Haskoning), Mr A Russell, Morrison Construction, the Community Planning & Development Manager, Mr A McEachan, Legal Services Manager (Property & Contracts) and the Senior Committee Services Officer, Clerk to the meeting.

1. DECLARATION OF GROUP DECISIONS

In terms of Standing Order 20 and the Councillor's Code of Conduct the meeting noted 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

There were no written questions

3. ELGIN FLOOD ALLEVIATION SCHEME: PROGRESS

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director (Environmental Services) updating the Sub-Committee on the progress of the Elgin Flood Alleviation Scheme. There was appended to the report a copy of the Monitoring Report No 05 covering the period October to the end of November 2011.

The report was augmented by an oral updates by A Russell, Morrison Construction, B Hellett, Project Design Manager, S Weir, EC Harris and the Project Manager, Elgin Flood Alleviation Scheme on progress since the end of November and programmed work over the next few months, actual cost incurred against planned work and utilities during which they responded to members questions. The meeting noted that the delay to works around Pansport Bridge/Kingsmills area had been caused by an uncharted BT fibre optic cable, which had now been resolved, the proposed alternative design for the water treatment feature on the new length of the Tyock Burn had been agreed, in principle, with SEPA and following the pre-application consultation event in respect of the contaminated land remediation works at Deanshaugh held on 20 December 2011 a planning application had now been submitted. The meeting also noted that the significant difference between actual costs incurred and planned works was due to a number of technical issues and whilst there was a slippage of 5.5 weeks the Project Manager and contractor were confident that this could be pulled back as work progresses and the completion date remained 6 May 2015. In regard to utilities the meeting noted the progress in regard to diverting the sewage pipe over the River Lossie at South Lesmurdie under the river. The meeting also noted the concerns raised in regard to public safety relating to the footway between the flood wall at Lesmurdie and the high boundary wall of the local authority houses and whilst there was no public access at present due to building works the matter would be given due consideration prior to completion of the works and appropriate action taken. In response to an earlier question relating to 'Undefined scope change' the meeting noted that this related to an allowance for unknown issues arising and that in future an additional column would be included in the register which will record any change as the programme progresses. It was also noted that, as with the other schemes, the allowance would diminish as the programme progresses. It was also noted that arrangements were being made for Councillors to visit the sites of the various works on Tuesday 21 February 2012.

Following consideration the Sub-Committee agreed:-

- (i) to note Monitoring Report No 05 for the Elgin Flood Alleviation Scheme 2007 for October to the end of November 2011; and
- (ii) to report progress to the Council.

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

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director (Environmental Services) updating the Sub-Committee on the progress of Forres (River Findhorn & Pilmuir) Flood Alleviation Scheme for the period ending 23 December 2011. There was appended to the report as Appendix A a copy of an Executive Summary Progress Report covering the period to 23 December 2011 from which it was noted that an application for General Capital Grant had been submitted to the Scottish Government on 22 December 2011 the outcome of which was anticipated towards the end of January 2012.

Following consideration the Sub-Committee agreed to:-

- (i) note the progress for Forres (River Findhorn & Pilmuir) Flood Alleviation Scheme for the period ending 23 December 2011; and
- (ii) report progress to the Council.

5. ROTHES FLOOD PREVENTION SCHEME: PROGRESS

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director (Environmental Services) updating the Sub-Committee on the progress of Rothes Flood Alleviation Scheme. There was appended to the report a copy of the Monitoring Report No 19 covering the period October to December 2011.

The Consultancy Manager spoke to the report and it was noted that it was proposed to hold a post completion meeting with appropriate bodies in Rothes to obtain feedback on the scheme.

Following consideration the Sub-Committee agreed to:-

- (i) note Monitoring Report No 19 for the Rothes Flood Alleviation Scheme for the period October to December 2011; and
- (ii) report progress to the Council

6. MORAY FLOOD ALLEVIATION SCHEMES: FINANCIAL MONITORING SUMMARY

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director (Environmental Services) providing the Sub-Committee with a financial monitoring summary in respect of Moray Flood Alleviation Schemes. There was appended to the report details of the actual costs and commitments to 30 September 2011.

Following consideration the Sub-Committee agreed to note:-

- (i) the estimated capital cost of schemes that accords with the approved Financial Plan as far as can be ascertained at this point, with the exception of the Forres (River Findhorn & Pilmuir) Scheme, the costs of which have been revised;
- (ii) the revised project cost estimate for the Forres (River Findhorn & Pilmuir) Flood Prevention Scheme that has been included in an application to Scottish Government for 80% General Capital Grant; and
- (iii) that compensation costs and the costs of preparing for the Lands Tribunal for the Forres (Burn of Mosset) Scheme remain a concern.

7. FORRES (RIVER FINDHORN AND PILMUIR) FLOOD ALLEVIATION SCHEME: PROJECT EXECUTION PLAN

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director (Environmental Services) seeking Sub-Committee approval of the pre-construction phase of the Project Execution Plan (PEP) for the Forres (River Findhorn & Pilmuir) Flood Alleviation Scheme, details of which were set out in Appendix A to the report.

During discussion the Consultancy Manager advised the meeting that once funding was confirmed and work on the scheme can proceed Ian Mackay, Morrisons will be taking over as Scheme Manager and Ms B Hellett will be the Project Manager.

Following consideration the Sub-Committee agreed to:-

- (i) approve the Project Execution Plan (PEP) for the pre-construction phase of the Forres (River Findhorn & Pilmuir) Flood Alleviation Scheme; and
- (ii) continue to monitor progress against the PEP and report to the Moray Council.

8. QUESTION TIME

There were no questions raised.