

THE MORAY COUNCIL

MINUTE OF MEETING OF THE FLOOD ALLEVIATION SUB-COMMITTEE

14 MARCH 2012

COUNCIL OFFICE, ELGIN

PRESENT

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

APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were intimated on behalf of Councillor D Stewart & G McIntyre (Convener) (Ex-Officio).

IN ATTENDANCE

The Consultancy Manager, the Project Manager, Elgin Flood Alleviation Scheme, Ms S Weir (EC Harris), Mr A Russell, Morrison Construction, 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

During consideration of this item Councillors Paul, Ogilvie, Shand & Sharp joined the meeting.

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 06 covering the period December 2011 to the end of February 2011.

There was also tabled at the meeting an amended copy of the graph relating to 'Total of Prices & Price for Work Done to Date' which includes the Rev 11 figures, which were not available at the time the report was prepared. Whilst the graph is still showing less spend than forecast which equates to the slippage of 5.5 weeks the Project Manager and contractor were confident that this will be pulled back as work progresses and the completion date remained 6 May 2015.

Following consideration the Sub-Committee agreed:-

- (i) to note Monitoring Report No 06 for the Elgin Flood Alleviation Scheme 2007 for the period December 2011 to the end of February 2012; 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 February 2012.

During discussion reference was made to future road diversions required during the closure of the A96 and whilst every effort will be made to minimise disruption it would be appreciated if groups such as Forres Actions Group and Forres in Bloom advise the Consultancy Manager of forthcoming events in the Forres area so that these can be taken into account in the programming of works.

Following consideration the Sub-Committee agreed to:-

- (i) note the progress for Forres (River Findhorn & Pilmuir) Flood Alleviation Scheme for the period ending February 2012; 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 20 covering the period December 2011 to February 2012.

Under reference to Paragraph 21 of the meeting of the Economic Development & Infrastructure Services Committee dated 13 March 2012 the

Consultancy Manager undertook to provide Councillor Paul with further information, outwith the meeting, in regard to pipe outfall repairs at the golf course road in Rothes which are included in the Flood Risk Management (Capital & Revenue) 2012/13 Budget.

Following consideration the Sub-Committee agreed to:-

- (i) note Monitoring Report No 20 for the Rothes Flood Alleviation Scheme for the period December 2011 to February 2012; 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 31 December 2011.

The report was supplemented by an oral update by the Consultancy Manager during which it was noted that the Contractors had declined a bonus payment due in respect of the Rothes Flood Alleviation Scheme which would be shown in future statements as a saving of £585,000.

Following consideration the Sub-Committee agreed to note:-

- (i) that the estimated capital cost of schemes that accords with the approved Financial Plan as far as can be ascertained at this point;
- (ii) note that compensation costs and the costs of preparing for the Lands Tribunal for the Forres (Burn of Mosset) Scheme remain a concern;
- (iii) note the projected out-turn cost for the Rothes Scheme; and
- (iv) note that the application for Capital Grant funding for the Forres (River Findhorn & Pilmuir) Scheme was successful.

7. QUESTION TIME

3. **Councillor Divers** enquired as to the current position relating to surface water problems in new Elgin. The meeting, in noting that this was a matter for the Economic Development & Infrastructure Services Committee and not within the remit of the Flood Sub-Committee, noted that Scottish Water had agreed to jointly fund work to study the problem in New Elgin and had since withdrawn the offer. In this regard the Consultancy Manager had raised the issue with the Flood Office within Scottish Water as opposed to the Scottish Water Asset Management in Aberdeen, and on receiving a positive response will be raising the issue again with Scottish Water's Asset Management in Aberdeen and undertook to keep Councillor Divers informed

as matters progress. The meeting also noted that under the Flood Risk Management (Scotland) Act 2009 the Council has a statutory duty to assess surface water flooding risk by the end of 2012 which will be guided by SEPA and the potentially vulnerable areas in the National Flood Risk Assessment which it was understood would include areas such as Elgin and Rothes. It was further noted that Scottish Water is responsible for sewers and any sewers carrying road water with the Council responsible for underground water courses in terms of flood risk and will require to work in partnership with Scottish Water.