

## **THE MORAY COUNCIL**

### **MINUTE OF MEETING OF THE FLOOD ALLEVIATION SUB-COMMITTEE**

**29 AUGUST 2012**

**COUNCIL OFFICE, ELGIN**

#### **PRESENT**

Councillors G Alexander (Chair), J Allan, L Creswell, J Divers, G Leadbitter, A McLean, P Paul, C Ralph, M Shand, A Skene, and A Wright (Ex-Officio).

#### **APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were intimated on behalf of Councillor R Shepherd and S Cree (Ex-Officio).

#### **IN ATTENDANCE**

The Corporate Director (Environmental Services), the Head of Direct Services, the Consultancy Manager, the Project Manager, Elgin Flood Alleviation Scheme, Ms S Weir (EC Harris), Mr M Newman (Royal Harkening DHV) Ms D Halliday, Senior Engineering, (Flood Risk Management), Mr A Russell and Mr S Higgins Morrison Construction, and Mrs S Kennedy, 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, 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. WELCOME**

The Chair on behalf of the Sub Committee welcomed Mr Stephen Cooper, Head of Direct Services to his first meeting of the Flood Alleviation Sub Committee.

#### **4. 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 contained within the progress report attached as Appendix A to the report .

The meeting noted the supporting oral updates from the Consultancy Manager, A Russell, Morrison Construction, S Weir, and the Project Manager, Elgin Flood Alleviation Scheme on the monitoring report No 09 for the period May 2012 to end July 2012 informing the sub committee of the progress of the Scheme to date covering the administration and management of the works including finance, programme, council risk, early warning and performance measurement during which they responded to members questions.

During discussion members expressed concern with regard to the 5 week delay and noted that this was due in the main to the Consultants not completing the design works in time. It was also noted that live ammunition had been found on the Chanonry site and that two members of staff from the Unexploded Ordinance Team had been employed as a result and would remain on site for approximately another month and the additional costs would be met from the project costs. It was further noted that there was a delay with surfacing works due to Street Lighting works at Lesmurdie.

Thereafter, the Sub-Committee agreed to:

- (i) note the Monitoring report No 09 for the Elgin flood Prevention Scheme 2007 for May to end of July 2012; and
- (ii) report progress to the Council.

#### **5. 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.

In response to a question from Councillor Skene seeking clarification as to when a full structural survey at the Broom of Moy would be carried out, the Consultancy Manager advised that a dilapidation survey had been arranged and that he would discuss this further with Councillor Skene following the meeting.

Clarification was also sought on jargon and acronyms used within the report and it was agreed that this would be rectified for future reports.

The Consultancy Manager agreed to advise members of the date, time and venue of the public exhibition.

Thereafter, the Sub Committee agreed to:

- (i) note the progress for Forres (River Findhorn & Pilmuir) Flood Alleviation Scheme for the period ending 31 July 2012 as detailed in Appendix A of the report; 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) updating the Sub Committee on the Moray Flood Alleviation Schemes in respect of financial monitoring and advising the Sub Committee of key factors affecting costs of schemes.

During discussion it was noted that the Rothes Flood Scheme would be giving a presentation and site visit to the judging panel from the Saltire Society in the Civil Engineering Awards Category – putting the Civil into Engineering.

During further discussion and In response to members concerns regarding insurance premiums the Consultancy Manager advised that there were big problems across Scotland with household insurance and companies not recognising flood schemes, however this was being dealt with at Government level. He advised that he would be happy to provide a letter and write to householders advising on the flood risk scheme.

During discussion in regard to the provisional grant agreement the Consultancy Manager agreed to circulate a copy of the Guidance to all members of the Sub-Committee.

Thereafter, the Sub-Committee agreed to note:

- (i) that the estimated capital cost of Schemes accords with the approved Financial Plan as far as can be ascertained at this point with the exception of Forres (Burn of Mosset);
- (ii) that the final cost of the Forres (Burn of Mosset) Scheme will exceed the budget, although not substantially, the value being dependent upon an audited assessment of legal fees following the Lands Tribunal; and
- (iii) the estimated cost of the Forres (River Findhorn & Pilmuir) Scheme and that a report will be submitted to the Moray Council (or a Special meeting thereof) to set the budget and authorise acceptance of the tender.

## **7. QUESTION TIME**

There were no questions at this meeting.