

THE MORAY COUNCIL

MINUTE OF MEETING OF THE FLOOD ALLEVIATION SUB-COMMITTEE

24 OCTOBER 2012

COUNCIL OFFICE, ELGIN

PRESENT

Councillors G. Alexander (Chairman), J. Allan, L. Creswell, J. Divers, G. Leadbitter, A. McLean, P. Paul, C. Ralph and M. Shand.

APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were intimated on behalf of Councillors R. Shepherd and A. Skene.

IN ATTENDANCE

The Corporate Director (Environmental Services), the Head of Direct Services, the Consultancy Manager, the Project Manager (Elgin Flood Alleviation Scheme), the Project Manager (Forres (River Findhorn and Pilmuir) Flood Alleviation Scheme), Ms S. Weir (EC Harris), Mr M. Newman (Royal Harkening DHV), Mr A. Russell and Mr I. Mackay (Morrison Construction), and Mr D. Westmacott, Committee Services Officer, Clerk to the meeting.

1. REPLACEMENT PAGES

The Sub-Committee noted replacements pages 12 and 13 for Item 5 “Forres (River Findhorn and Pilmuir) Flood Alleviation Scheme: Progress” and pages 16 and 17 for Item 6 “Elgin Flood Alleviation Scheme: Progress”.

2. DECLARATION OF GROUP DECISIONS

In terms of Standing Order 20 and the Councillor’s Code of Conduct, there were neither declarations from group leaders or spokespersons in regard to any prior decisions taken on how members will vote on any item on the Agenda nor any declarations of Members Interest in respect of any item on the Agenda.

3. WRITTEN QUESTIONS

There were no written questions.

4. FORRES (RIVER FINDHORN & PILMUIR) FAS – PROJECT EXECUTION PLAN

Under reference to paragraph 3 of the Minute of the Moray Council dated 30 August 2012, there was submitted a report by the Corporate Director (Environmental Services) asking the Sub-Committee to approve issue of the construction phase of

the Project Execution Plan (PEP) for the Forres (River Findhorn & Pilmuir) Flood Alleviation Scheme, provided as Appendix 1 to the report.

Following consideration, the Sub-Committee:-

- (i) approved issue of the Project Execution Plan (PEP) for the construction phase of the Forres (River Findhorn & Pilmuir) Flood Alleviation Scheme, as set out in Appendix 1 of the report; and
- (ii) agreed to continue monitoring progress against the PEP and report to the Moray 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.

Following consideration, the Sub-Committee:

- (i) noted Monitoring Report No 1 for the Forres (River Findhorn & Pilmuir) Flood Alleviation for August to end of September 2012, as detailed in Appendix 1 of the report; and
- (ii) agreed to report progress to the Moray Council.

6. ELGIN FLOOD ALLEVIATION SCHEME: PROGRESS

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director (Environmental Services) updating the Sub-Committee on the progress of Elgin Flood Alleviation Scheme.

Following consideration, the Sub-Committee:-

- (i) noted Monitoring Report No 10 for the Elgin Flood Prevention Scheme 2007 for August to end of September 2012, as set out in Appendix 1 of the report; and
- (ii) agreed to report progress to the Moray Council.

7. MORAY FLOOD ALLEVIATION SCHEMES: FINANCIAL MONITORING SUMMARY

There was submitted a report by the Head of Direct Services updating the Sub-Committee on the Moray Flood Alleviation Schemes in respect of financial monitoring, and advising of key factors affecting costs of schemes.

Following consideration, the Sub-Committee noted that the:-

- (i) estimated capital cost of Moray Flood Alleviation 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) 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) £45.125m budget for the Forres (River Findhorn & Pilmuir) Scheme was approved at a Special Meeting of The Moray Council on 30 August and that a formal Grant Offer is expected from CoSLA following a meeting of the Joint Review Panel.

8. QUESTION TIME

Councillor Paul queried as to why members of the public in former flood risk zones, such as Rothes, were still paying high insurance costs despite having a completed flood alleviation scheme in place.

The Consultancy Manager advised that he had raised the issue with the Association of British Insurers, but confirmed he would contact them again, along with raising the issue with Scottish Government colleagues.

Councillor Divers queried as to whether the Council Leader had brought the issue to COSLA, as requested at a previous meeting. The Chairman advised that he would raise the possibility with the Council Leader.

9. CONGRATULATIONS

The Sub-Committee joined the Chairman in congratulating all involved in the completion of the Rothes Flood Alleviation Scheme following the Scheme's nomination for an award at the Saltire Society in the Civil Engineering Awards.