

THE MORAY COUNCIL
MINUTE OF MEETING OF THE FLOOD ALLEVIATION SUB-COMMITTEE

26 JUNE 2013

COUNCIL OFFICE, ELGIN

Present

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

Apologies

Apologies for absence were intimated on behalf of G. Leadbitter and R. Shepherd.

In Attendance

The Head of Direct Services, the Consultancy Manager, the Project Manager (Elgin Flood Alleviation Scheme), the Project Manager (Forres (River Findhorn & Pilmuir) Flood Alleviation Scheme) and Mr D. Westmacott, 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 or any declarations of Members Interest in respect of 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. A copy of Monitoring Report No. 15 for the Elgin Flood Alleviation Scheme for April to end of May 2013 was provided as Appendix I to the report.

Following consideration, the Sub-Committee agreed to:-

- (i) note Monitoring Report No. 15 for the Elgin Flood Alleviation Scheme for April to end of May 2013, as set out in Appendix I of the report; and

- (ii) 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. A copy of Monitoring Report No. 5 for the Forres (River Findhorn & Pilmuir) Flood Alleviation Scheme for April to end of May 2013 was provided as Appendix I to the report.

Following consideration, the Sub-Committee agreed to:-

- (i) note Monitoring Report No 5 for the Forres (River Findhorn & Pilmuir) Flood Alleviation Scheme for April to end of May 2013, as set out in Appendix I of the report; and
- (ii) report progress to the Council.

5. MORAY FLOOD ALLEVIATION SCHEMES: FINANCIAL MONITORING SUMMARY

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director (Environmental Services) updating the Committee on the Moray Flood Alleviation Schemes in respect of financial monitoring and advise of key factors affecting the costs of schemes.

During discussions, the Committee expressed their disappointment with Scottish Water's lack of co-operation in gaining approvals for service diversions which resulted in the potential to save up to £1m in time management diminishing and agreed that the Chairman write to the Minister for Environment and Climate Change (Paul Wheelhouse MSP) and the Cabinet Secretary for Infrastructure, Investment and Cities (Nicola Sturgeon MSP) expressing the Council's disappointment.

Following consideration, the Sub-Committee agreed:-

- (i) to note that the estimated capital cost of Schemes, as detailed in Appendix 1 of the report, accords with the approved Financial Plan as far as can be ascertained at this point, with the exception of Forres (Burn of Mosset);
- (ii) to note that forecasted out-turn costs for the Rothes, Elgin and Forres (River Findhorn & Pilmuir) Schemes remain unchanged, as detailed in Section 3 of the report;
- (iii) to note that gaining approvals from Scottish Water for service diversions remains problematic and is having a serious impact on time and costs at Elgin and Forres (River Findhorn & Pilmuir) Schemes;

- (iv) that the Chairman write to the Minister for Environment and Climate Change (Paul Wheelhouse MSP) and the Cabinet Secretary for Infrastructure, Investment and Cities (Nicola Sturgeon MSP) expressing the Council's disappointment with Scottish Water's lack of co-operation in gaining approvals for service diversions, noting that the potential to save up to £1m in relation to time management have diminished as a result; and
- (v) to note that the process for reviewing Compensation Events and risk has been reviewed to provide better real-time forecasting for future reports, as detailed in paragraph 3.9 of the report.

6. QUESTION TIME

Councillor Skene, referring to traffic reports on the radio advising of road blocks due large vehicles carrying steel work, queried whether these were for flood alleviation schemes in Moray. The Project Manager (Forres (River Findhorn & Pilmuir) Flood Alleviation Scheme) advised that these vehicles were not on route to Moray flood alleviation schemes and that August was scheduled for the arrival of steel work to Moray.

The Chairman queried whether flood bunds would be available for public access on completion of flood alleviation schemes. In response, the Consultancy Manager confirmed that subject to restricted access to areas such as pump stations where there is a health and safety concern, he did not envisage this being a problem. Councillor Paul advised that this may not be the case as there had been issues in Rothes where access was restricted by private landowners.