

THE MORAY COUNCIL
MINUTE OF MEETING OF THE FLOOD ALLEVIATION SUB-COMMITTEE
4 SEPTEMBER 2013
COUNCIL OFFICE, ELGIN

Present

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

Apologies

Apologies for absence were intimated on behalf of Councillors J. Allan, P. Paul and R. Shepherd.

In Attendance

The Consultancy Manager, the Project Manager (Elgin Flood Alleviation Scheme), the Project Manager (Forres (River Findhorn & Pilmuir) Flood Alleviation Scheme), the Technical Support Officer (Consultancy) and Mr D. Westmacott, Committee Services Officer, Clerk to the meeting.

1. WELCOME

The Committee joined the Chairman in welcoming Jamie Fraser to this his first meeting of the Flood Alleviation Sub-Committee following his appointment as Technical Support Officer (Consultancy).

2. 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 Member's Interest in respect of any item on the Agenda.

3. WRITTEN QUESTIONS

There were no written questions.

4. SCOTTISH WATER UPDATE

The Chairman and Consultancy Manager updated the Committee on developments with Scottish Water following the Chairman's letter to the Minister for Environment

and Climate Change (Paul Wheelhouse MSP) and the Cabinet Secretary for Infrastructure, Investment and Cities (Nicola Sturgeon MSP) – who had forwarded the letter to Moray MSP Richard Lochhead – expressing the Council's disappointment with Scottish Water's lack of co-operation in gaining approvals for service diversions.

The Committee noted that relationships with Scottish Water were developing and that service diversions were now in place in Elgin and that discussions were ongoing for Forres.

5. 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. 16 for the Elgin Flood Alleviation Scheme for June to end of July 2013 was provided as Appendix I to the report.

Following consideration, the Sub-Committee agreed to:-

- (i) note Monitoring Report No. 16 for the Elgin Flood Prevention Scheme 2007 for June to end of July 2013, as set out in Appendix 1 to the report; and
- (ii) report progress to the Council.

6. 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. 6 for the Forres (River Findhorn & Pilmuir) Flood Alleviation Scheme for June to end of July 2013 was provided as Appendix I to the report.

Following consideration, the Sub-Committee agreed to:-

- (i) note Monitoring Report No. 6 for the Forres (River Findhorn & Pilmuir) Flood Alleviation for June to end of July 2013, as set out in Appendix 1 of the report; and
- (ii) report progress to the Council.

7. 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 advise of key factors affecting costs of Schemes. A summary

sheet of actual costs and commitments for all Schemes to end of July 2013 was provided as Appendix 1 to the report.

Following consideration, the Sub-Committee agreed to note that:-

- (i) the estimated capital costs 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), as set out in Appendix 1 of the report;
- (ii) forecast out-turn costs for the Rothes Scheme remain £2.4 million below budget;
- (iii) following a major review of risk the forecast out-turn for the Elgin Scheme is £953,000 below budget, as detailed in paragraph 3.9 of the report; and
- (iv) a number of clearly identified variations and efficiencies, together with favourable weather, have reduced the forecast out-turn cost of the Forres (River Findhorn & Pilmuir) Scheme to £1.893 million below budget, as summarised in Section 3 of the report.

8. QUESTION TIME

There were no questions raised.