

THE MORAY COUNCIL
MINUTE OF MEETING OF THE FLOOD ALLEVIATION SUB-COMMITTEE
16 JANUARY 2014
COUNCIL OFFICE, ELGIN

Present

Councillors G. Alexander (Chairman), L. Creswell, G. Leadbitter, A. McLean, M. Shand, R. Shepherd and A. Wright.

Apologies

Apologies for absence were intimated on behalf of Councillors J. Allan, J. Divers, P. Paul and A. Skene.

In Attendance

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 as 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 Member's 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 Acting Corporate Director (Environmental Services) updating the Sub-Committee on the progress of Elgin Flood Alleviation Scheme. A copy of Monitoring Report No. 18 for the Elgin Flood Alleviation Scheme for October to end of November 2013 was provided as Appendix 1 to the report

Following consideration, the Sub-Committee agreed to:-

- (i) note the Monitoring Report No 18 for the Elgin Flood Prevention Scheme 2007 for October to end of November 2013, as set out in Appendix 1 to the report; and
- (ii) report progress to Council.

4. FORRES (RIVER FINDHORN & PILMUIR) FLOOD ALLEVIATION SCHEME: PROGRESS

There was submitted a report by the Acting 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. 8 for the Forres (River Findhorn & Pilmuir) Flood Alleviation Scheme for October to end of November 2013 was provided as Appendix 1 to the report.

Following consideration, the Sub-Committee agreed to:-

- (i) note the Monitoring Report No. 8 for the Forres (River Findhorn & Pilmuir) Flood Alleviation for October to end of November 2013, as set out in Appendix 1 to the report; and
- (ii) report progress to Council.

5. MORAY FLOOD ALLEVIATION SCHEMES: FINANCIAL MONITORING SUMMARY

There was submitted a report by the Acting 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 November 2013 was provided as Appendix 1 to the report.

During discussion, the Chairman requested that the Meeting move into confidence to allow for information on compensation costs to be issued to the Sub-Committee due to the information resulting in identifying claimants.

The Meeting resolved therefore to take the information in confidence in terms of Section 50A (4) and (5) of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973, as amended, and that the public and media representatives be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the item of business so as to avoid disclosure of exempt information of the class described in paragraph 12 of Part 1 of Schedule 7A of the Act.

Thereafter, the Consultancy Manager advised the Sub-Committee of developments in relation to claims for compensation claims against a number of Schemes.

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

- (i) 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), as set out in Appendix 1 of the report;
- (ii) following further review of risk and forecast construction and other costs the out-turn for the Elgin Scheme is forecast to be £1,558,146 under budget;
- (iii) following further review of risk and forecast construction and other costs the out-turn for the Forres (River Findhorn & Pilmuir) Scheme is forecast to be £3,737,434 under budget; and
- (iv) forecast out-turn costs for the Rothes Scheme remains £2.4 million below budget.

6. QUESTION TIME

Councillor Shand, referring to the Council's Communication Strategy, advised that he had received a number of complaints from ward constituents regarding a recent photograph in a press release for the re-opening of Tyock Burn which did not feature any Elgin City North Ward Members, despite its constituents being particularly affected by flooding of the Burn. He requested that Ward Members be advised of press releases for their ward in future.

In response, the Chairman apologised for the oversight and confirmed that Ward Members would be advised of press releases for their ward in future.