

THE MORAY COUNCIL
MINUTE OF MEETING OF THE FLOOD ALLEVATION SUB-COMMITTEE
12 DECEMBER 2007
COUNCIL OFFICE, ELGIN

PRESENT

Councillors L Bell, J Divers, J Hogg, I Ogilvie, P B Paul, J Russell, M Shand and D C Stewart.

APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were intimated on behalf of Councillors G McIntyre (Chair) and A Bisset.

IN ATTENDANCE

The Director of Environmental Services, the Chief Legal Officer, the Consultancy Manager, P Haslam, Senior Engineer (Flooding and Coastal Protection), A Russell, Scheme Manager Forres (Burn of Mosset), Paul Winfield, Scheme Manager (River Findhorn & Pilmuir), M Newman, Scheme Manager Elgin and the Senior Committee Services Officer, Clerk to the meeting.

1. CHAIR

In the absence of the Chairman the Clerk, in terms of Section 6(i) of Standing Orders, invited the meeting to appoint a Chair for the meeting.

Councillor Bell, seconded by Councillor Hogg, moved that Councillor J Russell chair the meeting. There being no-one otherwise minded Councillor Russell took the Chair for the meeting.

2. COUNCILLOR BISSET

The meeting joined the Chairman in intimating that their thoughts and prayers were with Councillor Bisset and his family at this time following his sudden illness on Thursday 6 December 2007.

3. DECLARATION OF GROUP DECISIONS

In terms of the relevant Standing Order 20 and the Councillor's Code of Conduct the meeting noted that

4. MINISTERIAL VISIT

Prior to the commencement of business the Chairman referred to the presentation on flood alleviation given to the Scottish Government Environment Minister, M Russell on Tuesday 11 December 2007. The meeting noted that whilst assurances had been given that funding would be made available for the major flood alleviation schemes within Moray there should be no complacency and every effort made to progress the schemes timeously.

The Chairman also advised that it was proposed to show the presentation given to the Minister at the conclusion of the meeting for members of the public present and anyone else present who had not seen the presentation.

5. MORAY FLOOD ALLEVIATION SCHEMES: PROGRESS

There was submitted a report by the Director of Environmental Services updating the Sub-Committee on the progress of Moray Flood Alleviation Schemes for the period ending 15 November 2007. Progress reports by the Scheme Managers on the individual schemes were appended to the report.

(a) Forres (Burn of Mosset) Flood Alleviation Scheme – Noted

The meeting also noted that during the Rafford culvert works a traffic convoy system will be operational and that it was proposed to widen parts of the road to allow for larger vehicles.

It was also agreed that site visits for Members be arranged as appropriate by the Director of Environmental Services.

(b) Roths Flood Alleviation Scheme – Noted

The meeting also noted that the Director of Environmental Services had received written confirmation from SNH that they were satisfied with the conditions to be applied to the planning consent and therefore were no longer considered as an objector to the application. The Director also advised that discussions with the other two objectors were progressing and it was anticipated that a positive outcome may be forthcoming by the end of the week.

The meeting also noted and congratulated the Consultancy Manager on his recent appointment as one of two local government officials to the Scottish Government's Flood Bill Advisory Group which will prepare the new Flooding Bill which, it is anticipated, will speed up the process of making Flood Prevention Orders.

(c) Forres (River Findhorn & Pilmuir) Flood Alleviation Scheme - Noted

(d) Elgin Flood Alleviation Scheme – Noted

The Director of Environmental Services advised the meeting that the Business Plan for the scheme had been accepted by the Scottish Government as being robust and that, to date, one objection had been received to the Elgin Flood Prevention Order, which is currently out for public consultation. The closing date for responses being 21 January 2008.

The meeting also noted that the submission of the planning application had slipped due to a requirement for further information on the environmental assessment and another 15 contaminated land sites having been identified which will require investigation and, if appropriate, remedial works to be carried out. Whilst the slippage is regrettable detailed design work on the scheme had commenced in order to curtail any delays to a minimum.

(e) Tyock Burn Culvert Replacements – Noted

The meeting also noted that once the review of the culverts had been completed and costs ascertained it would be the intention for a recommendation to be made requesting additional funding be made available to complete the works.

Whilst also noting that Scottish Water had advised that, to their knowledge, the drains in the area were in good working order, the Director undertook to try and arrange a meeting between Ward Members and Scottish Water to discuss their concerns.

6. ELGIN FLOOD ALLEVIATION SCHEME: PROGRAMME

There was submitted a report by the Director of Environmental Services seeking Sub-Committee approval of changes to the programme and Project Execution Plan for the Elgin Flood Alleviation Scheme.

Following consideration the Sub-Committee agreed to approve the changes to the programme and Project Execution Plan for Elgin Flood Alleviation Scheme, as detailed in Section 3 of the report.

7. GARMOUTH FLOOD ALLEVIATION SCHEME: PRE-FEASIBILITY STUDY

There was submitted a report by the Director of Environmental Services inviting the Sub-Committee to consider recommending to the Environmental Services Committee that there is no economic justification for a flood alleviation scheme for Garmouth that would attract funding under current rules, and that it should not be progressed at this time.

Following consideration the Sub-Committee agreed:-

- (i) to note the Pre-feasibility report recommendations and, at this time, no further studies be progressed;
- (ii) to recommend to Environmental Services Committee that there is no economic justification for a flood alleviation scheme for Garmouth that would attract grant funding under current rules, and that it should not be progressed at this time; and
- (iii) that the position be reviewed in the context of proposed new flooding legislation and any changes in funding arrangements.

8. MORAY FLOOD ALLEVIATION SCHEMES: MONITORING OF ESTIMATED COSTS TO BRING SCHEMES TO CONSTRUCTION START STAGE FOR FINANCIAL YEARS 2006-2009

There was submitted and noted a report by the Director of Environmental Services updating the Sub-Committee on the development of Moray Flood Alleviation Schemes to construction start stage for the period 2006-2009 in respect of financial monitoring. A copy of the proposed style of monitoring report was appended to the report. The meeting also noted that a copy of the Project Management Plan will be made available on the Members Portal.

9. FORRES (BURN OF MOSSET) FLOOD PREVENTION SCHEME – MONITORING COST AND TIME FOR THE CONSTRUCTION PHASE

There was submitted a report by the Director of Environmental Services asking the Sub-Committee to approve a format for future cost and time monitoring reports for the construction phase of the Forres (Burn of Mosset) Flood Prevention Scheme.

During discussion it was noted that it was also proposed that once the construction site had been established a viewing area with information for the public would be established.

Following consideration the Sub-Committee agreed to approve the format for future cost and time monitoring reports for the construction phase of the Forres (Burn of Mosset) Flood prevention Scheme, as detailed in the Appendix to the report.

10. PROGRESS OF SCOTTISH WATER'S DRAINAGE AREA STUDIES FOR ELGIN, ROTHES & FORRES AND ABERLOUR

There was submitted a report by the Director of Environmental Services updating the Sub-Committee on the progress of Scottish Water's Drainage Area Studies for Elgin, Rothes & Forres and Aberlour, details of which were appended to the report.

Mr Haslam, Senior Engineer (Flooding and Coastal Protection), advised the meeting that Mr Lister of Scottish Water was unable to attend this meeting and that the Stage 3 – FPS Analysis paragraph in the Rothes and Forres progress report should be deleted. The meeting also noted that given that it was considered that the historical flooding in the catchment area of Aberlour is associated with summer rainfall the flow survey has been suspended until the summer of 2008.

Following consideration the Sub-Committee agreed:-

- (i) to note the progress of Scottish Water's Drainage Area Studies for Elgin, Rothes & Forres and Aberlour, as detailed in the Appendices to the report; and
- (ii) that a representative of Scottish Water be invited to the next meeting of the Sub-Committee to respond to Members questions/concerns on the studies.

13. LHANBRYDE FLOOD ALLEVIATION SCHEME

On the invitation of the Chairman, G Dunlop, Technician in the Consultancy Section, gave a brief presentation on the operation of the Lhanbryde Flood Alleviation Scheme during the recent period of significant rainfall. The meeting noted that during the period there 45mm was recorded resulting in 10,000m³ of water, at the height of the rainfall, being stored in the earth dam, which was 7% of the dam's capacity. The meeting also noted that quarterly inspections are carried out and the information obtained during periods of significant rainfall is used in the remodelling and re-calibration of the scheme so as to ensure it is always operating at optimal performance.