

THE MORAY COUNCIL

MINUTE OF MEETING OF THE FLOOD ALLEVIATION SUB-COMMITTEE

2 APRIL 2008

COUNCIL OFFICE, ELGIN

PRESENT

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

IN ATTENDANCE

The Director of Environmental Services, the Consultancy Manager, P Haslam, Senior Engineer (Flooding and Coastal Protection), M Newman, Scheme Manager Elgin, Bob Bryce Senior Engineer, Coastal & Rivers (Royal Haskoning), Deborah Halliday (Royal Haskoning), Shona Weir, EC Harris, A Russell, Morrison Construction, A McEachan, Principal Solicitor (Commercial & Conveyancing) and the Senior Committee Services Officer, Clerk to the meeting.

IN ATTENDANCE BY INVITATION IN RESPECT OF ITEM 4

Jim Lister, Scottish Water Asset Planner for Moray & Aberdeenshire.

1. DECLARATION OF GROUP DECISIONS

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

2. 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. Progress reports by the Scheme Managers on the individual schemes were appended to the report as Appendix 1.

The report also sought approval of an amendment to the Rothes Flood Alleviation Scheme Programme. The meeting noted that due to the statutory processes associated with the Flood Prevention Order it had been necessary to change the start date from April to July 2008.

There was also appended to the report as Appendix 2 to the report a copy of the monitoring report in respect of the Forres (Burn of Mosset) Flood Prevention Scheme 2005 for the period January – February 2008.

- (a) Elgin Flood Alleviation Scheme – Noted
- (b) Forres (River Findhorn & Pilmuir) Flood Alleviation Scheme - Noted

In regard to the design of the proposed new roundabout on the A96 it was noted that details would be included within the planning application. It was agreed that, given the level of public interest, when more detailed designs were available appropriate arrangements be made for the design to be made available for consultation, as required.

(c) Rothes Flood Alleviation Scheme

Agreed to note the progress report and approve the proposed amendment to the Scheme Programme and change the start date from April to July 2008.

During discussion reference was made to the Scottish Government consultation meeting on the Flooding Bill being held in the Grant Hall, Rothes on Friday 11 April 2008. The meeting noted that, following a request, Councillor Russell will Chair the meeting and the main speaker will be R Lochhead MSP. Whilst the flyer for the meeting indicated that the meeting was to be held in the Grant Hall there was no indication as to where the Hall was and it was agreed that an appropriate information note be placed on the Council's website.

Concerns were expressed in regard to the potential implications obtaining CAR licences has on flood alleviation scheme programmes. It was agreed that these concerns should be included in the Council's response to the Scottish Government's consultation paper on the Flooding Bill which will be considered at the meeting of the Environmental Services Committee on 16 April 2008.

(d) Tyock Burn Culvert Replacements – Noted

The meeting noted that whilst the project remains on budget, in respect of work committed to date, unless costs can be significantly reduced the current budget will be insufficient to complete the culverts. The meeting also noted that in regard to the hydraulic review of the culverts the modelling resource issue within Royal Haskoning had now been resolved and it was anticipated that work would be completed within two weeks and the outcome reported to the next meeting of the Sub-Committee. It was also noted the in the event of the need to enlarge the culverts the cost will be higher than anticipated. It was further noted that in order to progress the Elgin Flood Alleviation Scheme the proposed Tyock Burn culvert replacements had been removed and progressed separately and that this should be born in mind when consideration is given to the requirement for any additional funding.

In response to a question in regard to any proposed programme of Scottish Water drainage works in the area Mr Lister, the Scottish Water representative, advised the meeting that whilst the area was included on Scottish Water's flooding register he was unaware of any proposed works. He would however pursue the matter and advise of the outcome. Mr Lister also advised that the problem did not just relate to drainage assets, there was also roads' issues, which were a local authority matter.

(e) Forres (Burn of Mosset) Flood Alleviation Scheme : Monitoring Report No 2 – Noted

The meeting also agreed that it be remitted to the Consultancy Manager, in consultation with the Chair, to arrange a site visit.

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

There was submitted 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

Following consideration the Sub-Committee agreed to note:-

- (i) the actual expenditure to 14 March 2008 for 2007 – 2008 against estimates and that Public Local Inquiry (PLI) and advance property costs are additional;

- (ii) that costs for a Public Local Inquiry for the Elgin scheme will be identified separately in future;
- (iii) that current financial year cost projection for the Forres (River Findhorn and Pilmuir) Scheme has increased but the overall scheme cost estimate is unchanged; and
- (iv) that end of financial year figures and projections for future years will be reported to the next meeting of the Sub-Committee.

4. 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.

On the invitation of the Chairman, Jim Lister, Scottish Water Asset Planner for Moray & Aberdeenshire gave a brief presentation on the studies being undertaken by Scottish Water drainage area studies for Moray. The meeting noted that the final reports for Rothes, Forres and Elgin had been forwarded to the Council and Scottish Water's Central Flood Team. A meeting had been held on 26 March 2008 with Council officials to discuss the findings and implications for the Council's Flood Alleviation Schemes. This information would be fed into models, which will assist in predicting and identifying potential flooding areas within the drainage network. Information on the areas identified as at risk will be passed to the Central Flood Team which will investigate and prepare projects to alleviate the risk which would then be prioritised and proceed when appropriate funding was available. Scottish Water has also been looking at the impact the proposed flood alleviation schemes will have on the current drainage network within Moray, highlighting potential problems for Scottish Water assets which will require to be taken into account in the overall project costs. Mr Lister also advised that further studies will be carried out in Aberlour to capture summer storm data before a final report is submitted.

Thereafter Mr Lister responded to Members' questions during which reference was made to the public meeting held in Aberlour in August 2007 in regard to drainage and flooding problems in the area, which was attended by Richard Lohead MSP. It was understood that a Multi Agency Task Force involving the Council, SEPA, Scottish Water and Transport Scotland/BEAR Scotland was to be established but to date the Council was unaware of any meetings having taken place. It was also noted that this Task Force was separate from and not to be confused with the Flood Liaison Advisory Group, (FLAG) which meets regularly to discuss issues such as future land allocations of land affected by flooding.

Following consideration the Sub-Committee agreed:-

- (i) to note that Scottish Water's Drainage Area Studies for Rothes, Forres and Elgin are completed and the final reports have been submitted for consideration;
- (ii) to note that a report will be submitted to the next meeting of the Sub-Committee explaining the implications of these final reports along with any necessary recommendations;
- (ii) to note that further progress reports for the Aberlour Drainage Area Study will not be submitted until later in the year when activities commence to capture summer storm data; and
- (iii) that Moray Council should take the lead in progressing the Multi Agency Task Force to into the drainage and flooding problems in Aberlour.