

## **THE MORAY COUNCIL**

### **MINUTE OF MEETING OF THE FLOOD ALLEVIATION SUB-COMMITTEE**

**14 OCTOBER 2009**

**COUNCIL OFFICE, ELGIN**

#### **PRESENT**

Councillors J Russell (Chairman), L Bell, J Divers, J Hogg, I Ogilvie, D Ross, M Shand and D Stewart. Councillor A Wright (ex-officio)

#### **IN ATTENDANCE**

The Director of Environmental Services, the Consultancy Manager, Mr P Haslam (Senior Engineer, Consultancy), Mr B Strachan & Mr A Russell (Morrison Construction), Ms S Weir (EC Harris), Ms B Hellett (Royal Haskoning), Mr A McEachan, Principal Solicitor (Commercial & Conveyancing) and Mrs C Carswell, Committee Services Officer, Clerk to the meeting.

#### **APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were intimated on behalf of Councillors P. Paul and G. McIntyre (ex-officio).

### **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. WRITTEN QUESTIONS**

The Sub-Committee noted that there were no written questions.

### **3. MORAY FLOOD ALLEVIATION SCHEMES: FINANCIAL MONITORING SUMMARY**

There was submitted a report by the Director of Environmental Services updating the Sub-Committee on the Moray Flood Alleviation Schemes in respect of financial monitoring and of key factors affecting costs of schemes, details of which were set out in the Appendix to the report

The Consultancy Manager spoke to the report and responded to Members questions. The meeting noted that Rothes was currently behind programme but that the Consultancy Manager was confident that the work would be done within budget. It

was also noted that Findhorn/Pilmuir was currently over budget but that there would be a complete review on costs based on the detailed design and this would be done in February. In regard to the Elgin Scheme it was noted that the detailed design was nearly complete. Pansport Bridge would be independently checked by Halcrow.

Thereafter the Sub-Committee agreed to note:-

- (i) the estimated capital cost of schemes that accords with the approved Financial Plan as far as can be ascertained at this point;
- (ii) the anticipated expenditure profile accords with the approved Capital Plan with the exception of the Rothes Scheme, where £4.6 million has been deferred until financial year 2010/11; and
- (iii) the preliminary indicative cost of the Elgin Public Local Inquiry and that more detailed costs would be reported in due course.

#### **4. ELGIN FLOOD ALLEVIATION SCHEME: PROGRESS**

There was submitted a report by the Director of Environmental Services updating the Sub-Committee on the progress of Elgin Flood Alleviation Scheme. A copy of an Executive Summary detailing what has been carried out in the past three months and what is proposed over the next three months was appended to the report.

Ms Hellett spoke to the report and responded to Members questions. The meeting noted that discussions were taking place with the Council's Contaminated Land Team along with Scottish Water and Morrison's would now prepare a budget estimate which would be completed by Christmas. A phasing of works report would also be prepared and reported to the next meeting.

Further to a question from Councillor Hogg regarding his concerns that stakeholders were to be no worse off but there seemed to be conflicting opinions on downstream works, the Consultancy Manager advised that areas to the left downstream was agricultural ground and, where they would have been flooded five times in a century previously, this would be increased to six or seven times. However, compensation could be claimed for any losses incurred.

Following a lengthy discussion regarding whether the monies would be forthcoming from the Scottish Government for flood works, Councillor Russell stated that the Council would not be reducing their efforts to remedy the effects of the flood and until a written response was received from the Scottish Government the Council should not give up.

Following consideration, the Sub-Committee:

- (i) noted the progress for Elgin Flood Alleviation Scheme for the period ending 30 September 2009; and
- (ii) agreed that progress be reported to the Council.

## **5. FORRES (BURN OF MOSSET) FLOOD PREVENTION SCHEME: PROGRESS**

There was submitted a report by the Director of Environmental Services updating the Sub-Committee on the progress of Forres (Burn of Mosset) Flood Prevention Scheme. There was appended to the report a copy of the Monitoring Report No 11 covering the period August to the end of September 2009.

Ms Weir and Mr Russell spoke to the report and responded to Members questions. Councillor Russell commended Morrisons on the work which, had been carried out and thanked Mr Russell for his informative updates. Staff were also commended for their work on the scheme.

The meeting noted the following answers from the Consultancy Manager and Mr Haslam, Senior Engineer, in response to members questions:-

- a) there was still a residual risk with regard to the Mosset Tavern remediation works but until the results of the investigation regarding contaminated land were received the extent of the risk could not be confirmed; and
- b) should another flood occur, there would be no need for site attendance as the system was designed to operate without human intervention and Mr Haslam was arranging to monitor water levels in the office without having to go on site.

Thereafter, the Sub-Committee agreed:-

- (i) to note the content of the Monitoring Report No 11 for the Forres (Burn of Mosset) Flood Prevention Scheme 2005 for August to end of September 2009; and
- (ii) that the progress be reported to the Council.

## **6. FORRES (RIVER FINDHORN & PILMUIR) FLOOD ALLEVIATION SCHEME: PROGRESS**

There was submitted a report by the Director of Environmental Services updating the Sub-Committee on the progress of Forres (River Findhorn & Pilmuir) Flood Alleviation Scheme. A copy of an Executive Summary detailing what has been carried out in the past three months and what is proposed over the next three months was appended to the report.

The Consultancy Manager spoke to the report and responded to Member's questions. He advised that the detailed design was complete and the statement of case was to be submitted by the 4 December 2009 and there was a pre-inquiry meeting on the 8 December which would be a public meeting. He further advised that at present appraisals were taking place on information gained from the Elgin Public Local Inquiry and improvements were taking place.

Following consideration the Sub-Committee agreed:

- (i) to note the progress for Forres (River Findhorn & Pilmuir) Flood Alleviation Scheme for the period ending 30 September 2009; and
- (ii) that the progress be reported to the Council.

## **7. ROTHES FLOOD PREVENTION SCHEME: PROGRESS**

There was submitted a report by the Director of Environmental Services updating the Sub-Committee on the progress of Rothes Flood Prevention Scheme. There was appended to the report a copy of the Monitoring Report No 6 covering the period for August and September 2009.

Ms Weir and Mr Strachan spoke to the report and responded to Member's questions. The meeting noted that there was a new programme in place and work was being undertaken to look at decreasing costs. It was also noted that there had been 3 minor floods as well as the September flood and the work which had been completed had coped well.

Following consideration the Sub-Committee agreed:-

- (i) to note the progress report and the terms of Monitoring Report No 6 for the Rothes Flood Prevention Scheme 2006 for the period August to September 2009; and
- (ii) that the progress be reported to the Council.

## **8. FLOOD EVENT SEPTEMBER 2009**

Mr Haslam, Senior Engineer, gave a presentation to the Flood Alleviation Sub-Committee on how Moray had been effected by the floods from 3 – 5 September 2009 and responded to Member's questions.

The Director of Environmental Services advised that it was estimated that £1.4 million had been saved with regard to flood prevention works already in place in Lhanbryde thereby showing the economic viability of having flood prevention works in place. He further advised that a report would be submitted to the next meeting on small schemes within Moray ie Keith.

## **9. QUESTION TIME**

The Flood Alleviation Sub-Committee noted that no questions were raised.