

THE MORAY COUNCIL

MINUTE OF MEETING OF THE FLOOD ALLEVIATION SUB-COMMITTEE

16 JUNE 2010

COUNCIL OFFICE, ELGIN

PRESENT

Councillors J Russell (Chairman), L Bell, J Divers, J Hogg, P Paul, I Ogilvie, M Shand and D Stewart.

ALSO PRESENT

Councillor A Wright (Depute Convener) Ex-Officio member of the Sub-Committee.

APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were intimated on behalf of Councillors D Ross and G McIntyre (Convener) Ex-Officio member of the Sub-Committee

IN ATTENDANCE

The Director of Environmental Services, Mr P Haslam (Senior Engineer, Consultancy), Ms S Weir (EC Harris), Ms B Hellett and Ms D Halliday (Royal Haskoning), Mr B Strachan (Morrison Construction), Mr R Ritchie, Senior Committee Services Officer and Mr D Westmacott, Apprentice Committee Services Officer, Clerk to the meeting.

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. EXEMPT INFORMATION

The meeting resolved that in terms of Section 50A (4) and (5) of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973, as amended, the public and media representatives be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the items of business appearing at the relevant paragraphs of this minute as specified below, so as to avoid disclosure of exempt information of the class described in the appropriate paragraphs of Part 1 of Schedule 7A of the Act.

Para No of Minute**Para No of Schedule 7A**

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3. WRITTEN QUESTIONS

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

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.

In regard to the future meeting with Scottish Government officials to discuss the council's programme and planned expenditure profile, referred to in Executive summary, the meeting noted that this would likely to be with Mr S Irvine, who had been involved throughout the statutory process and was also involved in previous Moray Flood Alleviation Schemes.

Following consideration, the Sub Committee agreed to:

- (i) note the progress of the Elgin Flood Alleviation Scheme for the period ending 2 June 2010; and
- (ii) report the progress to the Council.

5. 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 meeting noted that the last sentence in Section 3.3 of the report had been included in error and should be deleted.

During discussion the meeting noted that it was proposed to delay the start of the River Findhorn & Pilmuir Scheme until September 2011 to allow complete focus and full staff resources to concentrate on the Elgin Scheme before starting on the River Findhorn & Pilmuir Scheme rather than attempt to undertake them both at the same time. The meeting also noted that a revised project programme would be submitted to the Sub-Committee following the Public Local Inquiry.

Following consideration, the Sub Committee agreed to:

- (i) note the progress for Forres (River Findhorn & Pilmuir) Flood Alleviation Scheme for the period ending 1 June; and
- (ii) report the progress to the Council.

6. 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 15 covering the period April and May 2010.

Councillor Bell enquired as to the possibility of erecting a pedestrian access gate off St Leonard's Road and the meeting noted other complaints had been received regarding vehicles accessing at this point and that officials were considering various options to hopefully resolve the concerns/complaints however there could be no guarantees.

During discussion the meeting also noted that the 'Compensation Events still to be agreed' referred to in the post completion report section of the monitoring report related to work still to be completed and that the estimated compensation costs relative to the whole scheme were set out in the Financial Monitoring Summary (Item 9 on the Agenda).

In noting that the actual costs relative to the scheme indicated a saving of approximately £900,000 the meeting joined the Chairman in congratulating the team on their hard work.

Following consideration, the Sub Committee agreed to:

- (i) note Monitoring Report No 15 Post Completion Report for the Forres (Burn of Mosset) Flood Prevention Scheme 2005 for April and May 2010; and
- (ii) report the progress 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 the Rothes Flood Prevention Scheme. There was appended to the report a copy of the Monitoring Report No 15 covering the period April and May 2010.

During discussion the meeting noted the concerns expressed by Mr Strachan, Morrison Construction, and Councillor Paul in regard to HGVs and buses ignoring advance warning weight limit notices relating to the temporary bridge over the Rothes Burn. Councillor Paul also expressed concerns in regard to

vehicles jumping red lights and entering the A941 at Seafield Square despite new signage. In noting that this was an enforcement matter the Director of Environmental Services undertook to ensure that the matter would be raised with Grampian Police including a request that consideration be given to the use of CCTV.

The meeting also noted that engineers check the bridge immediately after any heavy vehicles pass over the bridge and that unauthorised vehicles passing over the bridge are being photographed and the evidence passed to Grampian Police.

In noting that the loss of the Station Street Bridge. had resulted in some local school pupils losing their link to "Safer Route to School" Mr Strachan, Morrison Construction, undertook to investigate this matter and advise Councillor Paul of the outcome..

Following consideration, it was agreed to:

- (i) note Monitoring Report No 10 for the Rothes Flood Prevention Scheme 2006 for April and May 2010; and
- (ii) report the progress to the Council.

8. 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

During discussion the meeting noted that 3rd Party Compensation Costs was now being dealt at a tribunal and final costs were unknown at this time. The meeting also noted that the timescale for determining Public Local Inquiries was outwith the control of the Council.

Following consideration, 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; and
- (ii) that compensation costs for the Forres (Burn of Mosset) Scheme remain a concern at this time and will be decided by the Lands Tribunal for Scotland.

9. QUESTION TIME

There were no questions raised at the meeting.

10. ELGIN FLOOD ALLEVIATION SCHEME BUSINESS PREMISES IN GRAMPYAN ROAD AREA [Para 9]

There was submitted a report by the Head of Estates Services asking the Sub Committee to note the current position regarding the acquisition of properties “severely affected” by the Elgin Flood Alleviation Scheme proposals and the relocation of businesses from the Grampian Road area in advance of confirmation of the Flood Prevention Order.

Following consideration, the Sub-Committee agreed to note the position regarding the acquisition of properties “severely affected” by the Elgin Flood Alleviation Scheme proposals in advance of confirmation of the Flood Prevention Order and the voluntary relocation of business from affected properties in the Grampian Road area.