

## EXMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL: FLOODING & LAND DRAINAGE WORKING PARTY

### Notes of a meeting held on Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2019 at 2.00 pm in the Committee Room, Exmouth Town Council

#### **ACTION POINTS IN YELLOW**

#### **PRESENT**

Bruce de Saram	BdS	Exmouth Town & EDDC Councillor, Chair
Tim Dumper	TD	Exmouth Town Councillor, Vice Chair
Steve Gazzard	SG	Exmouth Town & EDDC Councillor, Mayor
Maddy Chapman	MC	Exmouth Town & EDDC Councillor
Jeff Trail	JT	DCC Councillor
Richard Brown	RBr	DCC Highways
Rob Butler	RB	Environment Agency
Tim Clatworthy	TC	Exmouth Town Council

#### **1. ELECTION OF CHAIR & VICE-CHAIR**

BdS was elected as Chair, proposed by MC and seconded by TD.

TD was elected as Vice-Chair, proposed by MC and seconded by BdS.

#### **2. TERMS OF REFERENCE**

TD explained that the changes to the ToR reflected relevant Action Points in Exmouth's new Neighbourhood Plan.

**TC to précis the Action Points and distribute to the group.**

#### **3. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES**

Lisa Bowman		ETC Town Clerk
Chetna Jones		ETC Deputy Clerk
Pauline Stott	PS	Exmouth Town Councillor
Richard Elliott	RE	DCC, Neighbourhood Highways Officer
Hock Lee	HL	DCC, Flood & Coastal Risk Officer (in lieu of Jessica Bishop)
Dave Turner	DT	EDDC, Engineering Projects Manager
Dave Hancock		Environment Agency, Project Manager
Kate Pearson	KP	Environment Agency, Flood Resilience Team
Thom Buxton-Smith	TBS	Environment Agency, Advisor on Flooding and Coastal Risk Management
Nicki Hill	NH	South West Water, Customer Services Delivery Manager
Jess Luggier		South West Water
Richard Behan		South West Water
Jayne Johnson	JJ	Kier/TVO

#### **4. NOTES OF MEETING OF 4<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2018**

These were agreed by TD and SG.

#### **5. MATTERS ARISING FROM/SINCE LAST MEETING**

##### **a) COACH PARKING:**

There was confusion over whether the estuary-side coach park was open for use. RB pointed out that coach parking was still possible there as that area was not impacted by the tidal defence works. Clearer signage was suggested; RB to approach Andrew Hancock on this issue.

##### **b) SEA CADETS/SEA SCOUTS:**

RB said that the issues with the Sea Cadets had been resolved, but that the Sea Scouts requests were still being examined. **TC to circulate notes from the 2 Sea Cadets meetings.**

#### **6. EA/EDDC: EXMOUTH TIDAL DEFENCE WORKS & WITHYCOMBE BROOK ISSUES**

1. **WITHYCOMBE BROOK:** RB reported that although material is building up there and weeds and shrubs are coming up, the capacity is huge and there is no current flood risk, and EA will step in when necessary anyway.

2. JT reported that between Bassetts Farm School and Bradham Lane, foliage is not being cut back and it is the residents' responsibility to do so and that EDDC should write to them. To add to the problems, people throw rubbish into the river and a broken fence is in danger of falling into the river. **RB to pass on these reports to his flood defence team. RE to talk with Martin Hutchings.**
3. **BOLD BROOK:** A visit by JT and RE revealed that whatever work had been done to remedy the problem here had not been effective, and a trash screen is needed. RB explained that as it is an ordinary watercourse it is DCC's responsibility to clear it.
4. **TIDAL DEFENCE UPDATE:**
  - a) The estuary trees have been removed and the foundation concrete poured.
  - b) Camperdown: the plan for this area has been approved.
  - c) Morton Crescent: application had been submitted, but rejected by ETC pending some clarifications, e.g. the Alston Terrace gate was felt to be too far back, and there were issues re. emergency services' access and the sliding/swinging gates.
  - d) Alexandra Terrace: the application has just been submitted to EDDC; not yet seen by ETC.
  - e) Walls along Morton Crescent and Imperial Hotel: These will be buttressed. Morton Crescent residents are happy with the new design. **RB will notify us with details of the next exhibition on the Morton Crescent and Alexandra Terrace designs when they are ready.**
  - f) Works still to come: Camperdown gabions; pile driving; below the Smeaton sea wall; pre-cast walls to be inserted in July along the river.
  - g) Lavis' Boatyard: JT asked if a gate could be erected rather than getting a larger crane, which would probably prove more expensive. RB thought the matter had been concluded with EDDC, but JT, having seen that local residents and businesses felt their opinions had been ignored, thought not and **would raise the matter with EDDC. RB will talk with DT.**
  - h) MC felt that Exmouth was being short-changed considering the £millions being spent on Dawlish, and **would raise this with EDDC.**

#### 7. DCC: UPDATES

- a) RBr said that DCC, in the shadow of yet more cuts, would have to be increasingly selective in the new financial year regarding services they provided. Re. gully cleaning, the basic schedule was to clear major roads once a year and minor roads every 3 years. **RBr to email TC the current schedule.**
- b) TD thanked RBr and DCC for their good work on the Colony and was hopeful that similar work could be done in the vicinity despite the cutbacks. RBr explained that their budget was quite reactive and they would see what the situation was in December-January.

#### 8. ETC COUNCILLORS: REVIEW OF FLOODING EVENTS SINCE LAST MEETING

- a) JT reminded the meeting that SWW had agreed to hold a public meeting to explain the situation to Colony residents, which he had offered to chair. This had been delayed while Nicki Hill – a Colony resident herself – was on maternity leave, but it was thought that SWW could surely provide another member of staff in her place so as not to delay things further: the situation has already been going on for 10 years. Unfortunately there was no-one present from SWW to respond to this.
- b) TD was concerned that the pumping station was another long-term ongoing problem and could need major investment.

#### 7. AOB

- a) KP has invited Parish Councils, Community Emergency Response Teams and Flood Wardens to participate in a national survey to assist in creating a flood and coastal erosion risk management strategy for England. The strategy aims to create a nation resilient to flooding and coastal change up till 2100. Please follow this link: <https://consult.environment-agency.gov.uk/fcrm/national-strategy-public>  
The consultation runs until 4<sup>th</sup> July and BdS will invite councillors present at this meeting to meet again shortly to form a response to be delivered by then.
- b) BdS suggested we ask Jayne Johnson, Public Liaison Officer for Kier/Team van Oord to our next meeting.
- c) BdS suggested that F&LD create a periodical newsletter to inform Councillors of what F&LD does.

#### 8. NEXT MEETINGS

**September 30<sup>th</sup>**

**December 2<sup>nd</sup>.**

**Please let me know asap if you know already that you cannot make any of these dates.**

**Please also let me know in good time if you need hard copies of any of the documents, so as not to delay the start of the meeting.**

**Thank you, Tim**

The meeting finished at 2.50pm.