

## **Kingsbridge Town Council**

### **MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE FLOOD & WINTER RESILIENCE COMMITTEE HELD AT 7.00 P.M. ON TUESDAY 18 SEPTEMBER 2018 IN QUAY HOUSE**

**Present:** Cllr Barrie Fishman (Chairman)  
Cllr Anne Balkwill  
Cllr Robin Griffin  
Cllr Mike Jennings

**In Attendance:** Martin Johnson (Town Clerk)

#### **18/01 ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN**

Cllr Fishman was elected as Chairman of the Flood & Winter Resilience Committee for mayoral year 2018/19.

#### **18/02 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received from Cllrs David Baisie and Graham Price.

#### **Public Open Forum**

There were no members of public present.

#### **18/03 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no Declarations of Interest.

#### **18/04 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

Members were in receipt of the minutes of the last meeting held on 10 April 2018 which were approved as a correct record.

#### **18/05 KINGSBRIDGE CATCHMENT STUDY**

Further to the last meeting, Pell Frischmann reported that the Kingsbridge Integrated Urban Drainage Management project was still at Phase 3 i.e. options appraisal. The project had been delayed due to agreeing the hydrology of the catchment which relates to the flows in watercourses. The hydrology was currently being assessed independently and once agreed it was anticipated to complete Phase 3. The timeline was unknown at present. A final Phase 4 was actual intervention should any solutions be approved following demonstration of whole life cost and benefit. Pell Frischmann's hydraulic modeller hoped to attend the next committee meeting to provide an update in person.

**06.1 Kingsbridge Community Emergency Plan (adopted October 2014; last review April 2018).** The CEP had been checked and information was current. The Environment Agency had recently updated on-line links within the Community Flood Forecasting Tool (Annex H – Community Flood Plan). New members for the Community Emergency Response Team were required.

**06.2 Flood Wardens.** It had proved difficult to recruit volunteer Flood Wardens during the hot summer but with autumn/winter on the horizon another recruitment drive for local residents would be actioned.

**06.3 Spring tides 2018.** The Town Council's (KTC) Facebook page continued to promote all tides above 5m during 2018 to alert the community in advance of potential flood events. The messages usually gained many hits and comments.

**06.4 Highway flood signs.** The previous meeting had reported that the company which had supplied and maintained the 2 in number flood signs had gone into liquidation and therefore the signs could not be operated in Ilbert Road and The Promenade. The company's assets had been purchased by a third party but it could not support previous arrangements.

The signs used to operate via logging into a secure website and entering start and stop times online. Discussion with a local IT company had realised that it may be simpler to do away with an online system and switching the signs on and off at source. Members queried an out-of-working hours flood event e.g. at 3.00 a.m. which would require a member of the Community Emergency Response Team to be available on the ground however, the online system would also require an operator at such times as it would be unwise to pre-programme a flood incident, notwithstanding adverse weather alerts, in case it did not occur. It was **RECOMMENDED** to progress a new and different operating system for the highways flood signs.

**06.5 Community resilience store.** Planning permission (1565/18/FUL) had been granted on 14 September to supply and erect a galvanised container to the rear of the current Garage/Store in Quay House grounds to store sand, rock salt and cold lay asphalt. Approval was conditional upon the agreement of the Local Planning Authority to 2 matters prior to its build:

- the colour of the unit to ensure it blended with the setting, and
- the unit being sited upon sleepers to avoid unnecessary digging.

The Town Clerk would progress matters.

**06.6 River and rain gauges.** The gauges located at Kingsbridge Community College (on the rooftop) and at Dodbrooke Stream (next to the trash screen off Duncombe Street) continued to work correctly. Cllrs Balkwill and Fishman agreed to be added to the recipient listing for alerts alongside District Cllr Wingate and the Town Clerk.

The gauges had been installed via the Defra Pathfinder project with a maintenance contract supplied by Hydro-Logic Services until 31 March 2018 however, Devon County Council (DCC) had agreed to fund for a further year. It was **RECOMMENDED** for KTC to manage the river and rain gauges from 1 April 2019 via a maintenance contract with a third party.

## **8/07 WINTER RESILIENCE**

### **07.1 Grit bins & grit supply.** KTC managed 9 grit bins in town:

- Junction Buckwell/Fosse Roads
- Saffron Park
- Coronation Road
- Junction Veales Road/West Alvington Hill
- Junction Linhey Close/Highfield Drive
- Warren Road
- Duncombe Park
- Piggy Lane off Stentiford Hill
- Washabrook Way

All would be checked shortly and filled with bags of rock salt in readiness for cold weather conditions over the winter months. Subsequently, the grit bins would require checking and refilling as required. The grit supply stored at Quay House was sufficient at present. The Town Clerk was due to meet with the DCC Neighbourhood Officer the following day to review potential new grit bins for the Redford estate.

**07.2 Winter Weather Incidents 2017/18.** Most of the country was hit by severe cold weather from late February to early March with much snow and ice in the South Hams. However, there were no significant winter weather incidents in Kingsbridge.

**07.3 Winter Weather Wardens.** There were approximately 20 local residents signed up as Winter Weather Wardens who stored bags for rock salt at their homes for use in their local neighbourhoods. All would be contacted shortly to confirm they wished to sustain their roles. It was unlikely that a further recruitment drive would be required.

## **18/08 IMMEDIATE MATTERS**

KTC had a small budget for gully cleaning for the current financial year. It was agreed to contact Devon County Council (DCC) to glean its own local contractor for drain clearance and to liaise with the same.

## **18/09 DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING**

Tuesday 28 February 2019 at 7.00 p.m.

*The meeting closed at 8.00 p.m.*