

## **Kingsbridge Town Council**

### **MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE FLOOD & WINTER RESILIENCE COMMITTEE HELD AT 7.00 P.M. ON THURSDAY 19 SEPTEMBER 2019 IN QUAY HOUSE**

**Present:** Cllr Barrie Fishman (Chairman)  
Cllr Anne Balkwill  
Cllr Mike Jennings  
Cllr Philip Cole  
Cllr Chris Povey

**In Attendance:** One Member of Public  
Martin Johnson (Secretary)

#### **19/01 ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN**

Cllr Fishman was elected as the Chairman of the Flood & Winter Resilience Committee for mayoral year 2019/20.

#### **19/02 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received from Cllr Graham Price.

#### **Public Open Forum**

There were no statements from Members of Public.

#### **19/03 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no Declarations of Interest.

#### **19/04 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

Members were in receipt of the minutes of the last meeting held on 26 February 2019 which were approved as a correct record.

#### **19/05 KINGSBRIDGE CATCHMENT STUDY**

Pell Frischmann provided an update on the Kingsbridge Integrated Urban Drainage Management project:

- A meeting had been held on 10 September between Devon County Council, Environment Agency, Pell Frischmann and South West Water which discussed the construction of concept flood solutions within the urban area of Kingsbridge.
- In principle, the solutions (previously presented to the Committee) were accepted with additional solutions suggested.

- The next phase would assess the cost benefit of each solution and the collective solutions which could be undertaken.
- It was anticipated of the outcome of the above phase to be completed by early 2020; parties would then seek the required funding to construct the solutions.

It was noted that South West Water's business plan 2020-2025 reported significant investment to reduce sewer flooding risk including £700k for Kingsbridge over the period 2020/21 to 2022/23 for an IUDM collaborative scheme.

It was **RECOMMENDED** to note the Kingsbridge Catchment Study update and to request a further report in early January 2020.

## **19/06 FLOOD RESILIENCE**

### **06.1 Kingsbridge Community Emergency Plan (last updated June 2019).**

Following the last meeting the emergency plan (CEP) had been updated. The revision would be forwarded to all committee Members.

**06.2 Flood incidents since last meeting.** None however, there had been occasional minor flooding of the A379 opposite the Bus Station during high tides with tidal water arising from surface water drains.

**06.3 Spring tides diary 2019.** The Town Council's (KTC) website identified all high tides over 5m and if heavy rain was forecast simultaneously alert notices were placed on the Facebook page to warn the community of potential flooding incidents. If the threat of flooding was significant then 'door-knocking' and lamp post notices were also actioned.

**06.4 Highways flashing flood warning signs.** The signs in Ilbert Road (junction with Ropewalk) and The Promenade (east side) had been re-positioned, were operational and tested quarterly. 'TV remote' style operating keys were held in the Community Resilience Store.

**06.5 Community resilience store.** The build had been completed but subjected to recent vandalism on its roof which had led to internal water seepage. Repairs and strengthening were anticipated to be completed by the end of that week when the store could be stocked. Various new equipment was required but the priority was to make up of a stock of sandbags. Keys to access the store (and Quay House rear Courtyard) were held in the adjacent Garage on a new board. Therefore, only the code for the Garage combination lock was needed by Members, staff and volunteers to gain access to all resilience kit.

**06.6 Flood Wardens.** The number of Flood Wardens originally nominated in the CEP at various locations had dwindled and there were currently only a handful. It was **RECOMMENDED** to hold a recruitment drive for new Flood Wardens and host a resilience store 'show & tell' meeting by the end of November.

This action could dovetail with promotion of the resilience forum newsletter (agenda item 19/08) and the promotion of Environment Agency flood alerts.

**06.7 River and rain gauges.** Following the expiry of a Devon County Council (DCC) funded contract, a quotation had been received for KTC to retain maintenance and telemetry of the rain and river gauges however, it was deemed to be too costly. A re-quotation for the river gauge only was received at the council meeting held on 10 September but again was considered too expensive and Members had agreed to rely on Environment Agency and Met Office flood alerts only. Devon County Council's Flood Risk Team had been informed.

**06.8 Highways surface water gullies.** About 50 surface water drains had been cleaned out in March 2019. The budget for the current financial year was £1,000 but this could be enhanced given nil spend on river and rain gauges, and potentially nil spend on salt and grit bins, and/or use of Reserves. It was **RECOMMENDED** for Members/Staff to identify surface water drains which required cleaning and for further clearance to be actioned before the end of the year.

**06.9 Budget financial year 2019/20.** The budget of £2,000 had circa £1,300 remaining for anticipated expenditure on gully cleaning and resilience store equipment (agenda items 06.5 & 06.8 above).

**06.10 Access to flood alleviation area to south Plymouth Road/east Cookworthy Road.** It was reported that the area was vastly overgrown which inhibited inspection however, SHDC only actioned an annual vegetation cutback. It was **RECOMMENDED** to make the Environment Agency aware of flood alleviation area overgrowth.

## **19/07 WINTER RESILIENCE**

**07.1 Grit bins & grit supply.** There was potential for extra grit from DCC; to be confirmed. Storage was a potential issue. Ten grit bins managed by KTC would be checked before winter and re-stocked.

**07.2 Winter Weather Incidents 2018/19.** No significant incidents.

**07.3 Winter Weather Wardens.** Circa 20 Winter Weather Wardens at various locations around town; all have grit stored at their homes in readiness for use in their neighbourhoods. All would be contacted around late October to identify their willingness to continue in this role and indeed, explore whether they wished to become Flood Wardens too.

**19/08           DEVON COMMUNITY RESILIENCE FORUM**

The latest DCRF newsletter would be promoted via Facebook and website. It was noted that Community Reserve Volunteers was a new initiative being led by the British Red Cross.

**19/09           IMMEDIATE MATTERS**

**Rain water gutters in Fore Street.** It was reported that several had silted up again following previous clearance by KTC. The gutters would be inspected again.

**19/10           DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING**

Tuesday 25 February 2020 at 7.00 p.m.

*The meeting closed at 7.50 p.m.*