

SWT Flood & Coastal Board Meeting Thursday 16th June @10.00 until 12.00

Council Chambers - West Somerset House

Present:

Cllr Dixie Darch (Cllr DD), Brenda Maitland Walker (BM-W), Cllr Ian Aldridge (IA), Niels McCartney (NM), Michele Boobyer (MB), Steve Hughes (SH).

Agenda Item	Item detail/ Action	Owner	Achieve by
	<p>Agenda</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Apologies 2. Agree minutes & review actions of last meeting 3. Updates 4. Matters Arising 5. AOB 6. Date & Time of next meeting 		
Item 1	V Farwig, R King, Cllr L Whetlor. Caroline Dunn	MB	
Item 2	<p>Previous meeting minutes were agreed</p> <p>Review of previous actions:</p> <p>Cllr Darch to write a letter to the LFRA expressing flood board members concern about current staffing levels and who the interim contact details are. <i>complete</i></p> <p>Steve Hughes, to liaise with Vicky Farwig from Wessex Water, of the exact location of the Blue Anchor projects as they have assets in that area. <i>complete</i></p> <p>Arrange a site visit in Williton to discuss flood alleviation. <i>complete</i></p> <p>Cllr Darch will send a copy to Flood Board members for approval before sending to the LFRA. <i>complete</i></p>		

<p>Item 3</p>	<p>Updates</p> <p><u>Williton Site visit</u></p> <p>Cllr DD and Cllr IA thanked everyone (Niels McCartney, Richard Bull, Steve Hughes and Brenda Maitland-Walker) for attending the Walkabout in Williton to discuss flood risk, which they felt was very fruitful. The main area of concern raised by Cllr IA was that, should development commence following the outline planning permission for 350 houses that has been granted, the combination of water runoff from new housing and heavy rain could create a flood risk given the state of the West Williton Ditch. This watercourse also features in a longer-term flood scheme proposed by the EA.</p> <p>There was discussion around the challenges and possible solutions to this. These included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A flood episode would impact on a key transport route to West Somerset. Williton is a larger than usual village and businesses serve a much wider population (IA) • Highways gives “Standing advice” only on outline planning applications (BM-W) • Planning committees which refuse applications on which the statutory consultees have made no comment run the risk of losing at appeal (IA) • The EA Flood scheme is a long way off, but the ditch could be refurbished. There are updated funding formulae which may make EA action more possible. However, the designation as Flood Zone 1 limits EA’s powers. The riparian owner is the developer. Surface water definitions must come from the LLFA (NM) • Concern raised about the lack of staffing in LLFA and need for representation from LLFA, Planning and Highways within this group. • Concern raised about lack of surface water mapping taking place (BM-W) • There was a bid to SRA to fund an Officer to look at riparian ownership. Concern that this post was terminated (BMW) • Staffing levels in some areas at both SW&T and SCC are potentially being affected by Unitary and recruitment is very difficult (DD) 	<p>Cllr D/Cllr A</p> <p>All</p>	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DD asked if a “quick and dirty” repair to the ditch could be achieved as amelioration, given the EA scheme is a long way off. There was discussion as to who would fund this (EA or SRA?) and who would sponsor and/or propose it (SW&T?; Williton Parish Council?) • Is the SRA still funding enforcement? (BM-W) <p>The group went through the answers (in blue) to Cllr IA’s questionnaire given to members at site meeting.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Which organisation/landowner is responsible for the sluice gate on the Monksilver Stream? <i>ACTION Steve Hughes to check with SWT Assets.</i> 2. Which organisation is responsible for the upkeep of the West Williton Ditch at its junction with Monksilver Stream? <i>LLFA-falls to the individual riparian ownership.</i> 3. There is a site that has outline planning approval for a new housing development, concerns on how will the surface water drainage will it be accommodated if an EA flood relief channel is built? This is complicated. <i>No plans at present due to funding and cost but NM believe they are revisiting this</i> 4. Are there any unsurmountable difficulties with constructing the flood relief channel between the locations 4&5? <i>NM/RB: Not as far as the EA are concerned: it comes down to cost.</i> 5. What can be done to restore the existing flood relief system including the West Williton Ditch? <i>Investigate riparian contribution responsibilities and all organisations & authorities should work together to find solutions.</i> 6. What is needed to promote the EA scheme beyond being “aspirational” to a high level of expectation of implementation? <i>It all comes down to resource & cost.</i> 7. Which organisation should take the lead with moving the EA project forward and seeking funding such as the levelling up grants provided from central government, S106 etc? <i>Collaboration from all authorities should work together.</i> <p><i>Invite Mike Rigby head of Transport in County to attend the next meeting ACTION MB</i></p> <p>Is there funding available for the inspection maintenance of the ditch possibly look at SRA grants. <i>ACTION MB to contact SRA about the potential to submit a bid for funding & invite SRA as a member of the Flood Board</i></p>	<p>All</p> <p>DD</p>	
--	--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	------------------------------------	--

	<p>The way forward</p> <p>It was decided to pursue the possibility of refurbishing the West Williton Ditch and to invite representatives to this group from Highways (a replacement for David Peake), SRA (Caroline Dunn is keen to be involved but offered apologies for this meeting), Planning (could be difficult but Cllr Mike Rigby is Exec Member at SCC for Transport and PH for Planning at SW&T). (See Actions below)</p> <p>Other updates</p> <p>Steve Hughes gave a brief update on the Blue Anchor Project.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Licences have been granted from the MMO • Rock armour has been ordered and will be delivered by barges. • Contractor in place. • Starting date to be confirmed. <p>Brenda expressed her concerns as there has been more landslip.</p> <p>Steve reiterated this work is to protect the road only, although we are the Lead Authority on this part of the project it is up to County to decide a permanent solution.</p> <p>Cllr A asked if he could have an update regarding riparian responsibilities in Sampford Brett, possibly a detailed map of who owns what. It was agreed that this had already been provided</p> <p>Niels updated on Minehead strategic plan: SCC have a grant bid from the SRA supported by other partners (SWT, EA, WW, DB) to complete strategic flood work plan for Minehead.</p> <p>Actions: EA progress update on the bid appraisal in Williton</p> <p>Request representation from Planning, LLFA and Highways to next meeting. Contact John Doyle for SCC LLFA, Highways for a replacement for David Peake and if no Planning officer available, Cllr. Mike Rigby.</p> <p>Investigate if the Parish Councils could put together a clearance proposal for West Somerset Ditch? Identify owner of sluice gate on Monksilver Stream</p>	<p>SH</p> <p>BM-W</p> <p>SH</p> <p>Cllr A</p> <p>NM</p> <p>NM</p> <p>BM-W</p> <p>NM</p>	
--	------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	--

	<p>Contact Parish Councils in other areas regarding flooding issues.</p> <p>Contact Caroline Dunn (SRA) about a bid proposal for West Williton Ditch</p> <p>Find out from Alison Blom-Cooper where we are with SFRA level 2</p> <p>Matters Arising:</p> <p>Item 2 Future of Flood Board: Due to time we will include this onto the next meeting's agenda.</p> <p>Any Other Business: NM updated us on Wessex Water's progress on gravels.</p> <p>Date & Time of next meeting –</p> <p>It was suggested that our next meeting should be face to face and we work around the invitee's calendar. Michele suggested Deane House as more central and have use of a screen so members could join via Teams, though would prefer if all parties could attend in person.</p> <p>Date and Time to be confirmed.</p>	<p>MB</p> <p>DD</p> <p>MB</p> <p>NM</p> <p>MB</p>	
--	--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	--