Oldbury on Severn Parish Council

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Minutes of the meeting of the Flooding and Planning Committee Held on Friday 18th October 2019 at 09:30am At the Memorial Hall

Present: *Keith Sullivan, Dylan Griffiths, John Cornock, Barry Turner, Matthew Riddle*

Clerk: Emma Pattullo

1. Apologies

Apologies were accepted from Andrew McGrath (work commitment) and Glynn Poole (health reasons).

Not present without apologies: Jimmy Nichols, Alan Coles.

2. Minutes of last meeting

The minutes of the last meeting held on 16th August were agreed by all as an accurate record. The minutes were signed by the Chair.

3. Review of actions not otherwise on this agenda

No relevant actions identified.

4. To determine priorities for this committee's future work

KS gave a presentation outlining the anticipated effects of predicted increase in tidal heights. At the moment, a high spring tide coupled with a low pressure, SW gale scenario could lead to tidal heights overtopping the height of the current defences. It is understood this was the reason for the recent flood warnings issued for Oldbury and Shepperdine.

In the future, with current predicted height increases due to global warming, it is expected that such scenarios will occur more often. It is reasonable to assume that such low pressure scenarios are likely to also lead to periods of heavy rain, meaning greater volumes of fresh water coming down the rhine into the Pill. These will be trapped for a longer time as the tidal flaps will close earlier in the cycle and will remain closed for longer. Hence, it seems that overtopping of the Pill becomes more likely.

In layman's terms, it appears there are four possible solutions:

- Reduce the volume of fresh water flowing down Oldbury Rhine;
- Increase the carrying capacity of the rhine;
- Pumping of fresh water over the Pill Head into the estuary;
- Increase the period over which fresh water can exit through the Pill by including a 'dual height' flap structure such that the higher flaps will close later and open sooner in the tidal cycle.

This committee does not have the technical expertise to comment on which of these solutions would work best or how they should be implemented. However, the committee's priorities should be to ensure that those who do have the responsibility and technical capacity to make such decisions are actively working on doing so, and that suitable funding for solutions is made available.

It is therefore imperative that discussions with the LLFA (who have overall responsibility for flooding issues) continue. LSIDB and EA should also be involved.

In the future it might be advisable to assign particular committee members / sub groups to take the lead on following up issues, but it was agreed that at this stage this would not be helpful.

The priority is therefore to engage the LLFA in this process.

5. To receive Flood warden report

The Flood Warden was actively monitoring the situation during the recent flood warning event; thankfully no flooding actually occurred.

AMcG was not present to give a report but had commented by email that it would be useful to have detailed information on tidal bank heights to increase understanding of our flood resilience / vulnerability and to give us a clear understanding of what tide levels are likely to cause overtopping and flooding.

6. SGC Liaison

6.1 Proposed meeting 6th December – to determine agenda items & other invitees

Mark Parry & Nigel Riglar have agreed to meet with this committee on Friday 6th December @ 09:30.

It was agreed that Colin Taylor (or other EA representative) and LSIDB should also be asked to attend. The Clerk was asked to issue invitations.

Action: Clerk to invite EA and LSIDB.

KS will present a short version of the presentation made earlier in this meeting, to outline why this committee believes that the LLFA need to prioritise both fluvial and tidal flooding issues within Oldbury parish.

6.2 To discuss any other SGC matters

Works on Church Hill continue and are now expected to go on until late November.

7. Church Road north of the Pill – to receive update, if any

This matter to be included on the agenda for the meeting of 6th December.

8. SUDs monitoring – to receive update, if any

This will need to be raised during the next round of Local Plan consultation. It was agreed that this no longer needs to be a separate standing item on this committee's agendas as it is covered on the priorities spreadsheet along with other ongoing issues.

9. Any other items of report

BT gave an update on site selection in the Neighbourhood Development Plan:

- Church Hill site. The NDP has proposed a modest development at Church Hill, but SGC have indicated that they do not believe the site is suitable for development. If it is kept in the NDP, it is likely that a full Strategic Environmental Assessment would be required. The NDP committee have therefore decided to remove this site from the Plan.

- Westmarsh Lane. The NDP currently proposes a linear development of around 8 or 9 dwellings along the southern side of Westmarsh Lane. The SGC officer has suggested a more clustered development on the eastern part of the proposed site, on the grounds that this would be less visible from the church. The NDP committee's plan echoes the linear development pattern of most of the village and they believe that views from the church will not be adversely affected. The committee are therefore intending to continue to propose the linear development.

The NDP is still with SGC awaiting a decision on the requirement for Strategic Environmental Assessment; it is hoped that matters can move on more swiftly once this decision has been received.

10. Date and time of next meeting

The meeting closed at 11:00am.

The next meeting will be held on **Friday 6th December 2019 at 9:30am** in the Memorial Hall.