



# Oldbury on Severn Parish Council

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## Minutes of the meeting of the Flooding and Planning Committee Held on Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> March at 1:00pm At the Memorial Hall

### Present

Keith Sullivan (Chair), John Cornock, Glynn Poole, Barry Turner, Jimmy Nichols, Matthew Riddle.

In attendance: Mark Parry (SGC), Scott Jones (SGC), Kieran Warren (LSIDB), plus one parishioner.

Clerk: Emma Pattullo

### 1 Apologies

Apologies were accepted from Dylan Griffiths & Andrew McGrath.

### 2 Minutes of last meeting

The minutes of the meetings held on 18<sup>th</sup> October & 12<sup>th</sup> December 2019 were approved as an accurate record & signed by the Chair.

### 3 To receive Flood warden report

AMcG had sent a report on minor road flooding in the area of Kington Road during the recent periods of heavy rain.

MP reported that SGC have recently engaged a consultant to look into areas where minor roads are frequently flooded, including the area around Kington Road. This will try to identify the source of the flooding. SGC will then carry out small scale capital works and work with others (e.g. landowners) to reduce road flooding. MP requested a copy of AMcG's report & stated that SGC will report on progress to the next meeting.

**Actions: Clerk to forward report to MP.  
SJ to report progress to next meeting.**

### 4 To receive update on SGC works:

#### 4.1 Church Hill – diversion of flows to Cowhill Wharf Rhine

The main areas of work are now complete. Some work is still required around the cricket club to prevent bank erosion and grass over disturbed areas.

LSIDB are putting in a connecting ditch to divert flows to the new main ditch; this will be maintained by LSIDB in the future.

#### 4.2 Church Road north of the Pill – consideration of works required

SGC were asked some time ago to consider installing a relief ditch from the end of Featherbed Lane to the Pill, to remove some flows from entering the ditch which runs behind various Church Road properties. MP confirmed that this hasn't yet been looked at.

MR offered to send a map of the proposal to MP.

SJ to provide an update at next meeting.

**Actions: MR to forward map of proposed ditch to MP.  
SJ to consider & provide update at next meeting.**

#### 4.3 Chapel Road & surrounding areas – flap maintenance & replacement programme

Recent inspections have shown that promised works to repair/replace flaps in Chapel Road and surrounding areas have not been done.

MP & KW stated that SGC & LSIDB will discuss to see when these works can be scheduled.

MP reported that SGC are also intending to carry out repair works to the low wall along Chapel Road.

JC noted that there used to be poles indicating the position of flap valves, so they were less likely to be damaged during vegetation clearance works, however many poles have now been broken or lost. These should be reinstated.

**Action: MP/KW to agree timescale for repair or replacement of flaps & consider installing new marker poles.**

#### 4.4 Other works in the parish

SGC are planning further minor works within the parish including works to reduce road flooding at Kington Road (discussed earlier) and repairing damaged gullies.

A parishioner had contacted the committee regarding flooding around Camp Road / West End junction. It is thought this is due to lack of maintenance of the adjacent ditch. Nick Blanchard of SGC is looking into this issue.

The pipe under Chapel Road at the post box is under capacity leading to localised pooling of water which can at times get into the post box. MP promised that SGC will look at works to improve drainage at this location e.g. installation of a proper drainage gully. MR will provide a map to MP.

**Actions: MR to provide map showing location of problem in Chapel Road.  
SJ to provide updates at next meeting.**

#### 5 To discuss bank heights in upper Pickedmoor catchment

Discussions have been held several times around the actual height of the banks in the upper Pickedmoor Brook and whether they are low enough to allow flood waters to overspill in the upper catchment rather than in the village. However no agreement has been reached.

BT believes that the LIDAR survey taken a couple of years ago shows a thin line of higher levels along the banks, such that such overspill flows would not happen. The only way to be sure would be to resurvey with finer detail around the banks.

MP suggested that a formal request from this committee for such a detailed survey may be considered but is not guaranteed to happen.

**Action: Clerk to draft request to SGC for survey.**

## 6 To note provision of level monitoring upstream of Oldbury Pill Head

The Environment Agency have recently installed a new level gauge immediately upstream of the Pill Head. However their website only shows the last five days data. It would be useful to correlate a longer term data set of levels against rainfall. BT agreed to approach the EA to request longer term data whilst MP will look into what rainfall data might be publicly available.

**Action: BT to approach Environment Agency**

A wider discussion took place about what relevant sources of data may be useful to this committee. It was agreed that a list will be compiled of what data sources have been identified, who is responsible for them and what data is publicly available. The Clerk agreed to write to EA, LSIDB and SGC to request such information.

**Action: Clerk to write to external organisations to request information on and access to data sources.**

*At this point KW left the meeting.*

## 7 To receive report on inconsistency of planning decisions & determine required action

BT presented a report showing inconsistent decisions which have been made over recent years regarding provision of flood refuge areas and/or flood mitigation measures for new developments in the Oldbury area, particularly conversion of farm buildings to residential. It was agreed that this issue would be raised in the response to the planning delegation review (item 8).

## 8 To discuss SGC review of planning delegation changes & recommend response

Following changes to the way in which SGC organise their delegation of planning decision making, they are carrying out a review of how the changes have gone and have requested input from parish councils to this review process.

As part of this change, any decision made by the Development Management committee which is contrary to the officer recommendation is automatically sent on to the Spatial Planning committee, which has the power to overturn Development Management committee decisions. There is no access to appeal other than the full Planning Inspectorate appeal process. This requirement for an application to be approved in two different committees seems excessive for an application for a single dwelling.

This committee recommends to full council that a response should be submitted to that effect. The response will be considered at the council meeting of 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2020.

## 9 To review the work priorities list

The current work priorities list was reviewed. The Clerk agreed to update the list to reflect discussions in this meeting.

The Clerk was asked to write to the Environment Agency to request a meeting re: options for improving egress of fluvial flow through the Pill Head & an update on plans for tidal defence maintenance/improvements from Aust to Sharpness.

MR agreed to get an update on LSIDB work on Hill Pill.

**Actions: Clerk & MR as noted**

## 10 Review of actions (not otherwise covered)

All ongoing actions have been covered above.

## 11 Any other items of report

Attenuation ponds at Park Farm – JN reported that despite recent wet weather, the large attenuation pond at Park Farm has not been holding any water. MP agreed that SGC will follow this up with the developer. MP agreed to arrange a visit for this committee to view the attenuation features at Park Farm.

**Action: MP to arrange to discuss performance of attenuation pond with developer.**

**MP to arrange site visit to Park Farm for this committee.**

SJ reported that a surface water management plan for Thornbury is currently being developed; this will include modelling of the effects of attenuation features and existing watercourses.

KS noted that during the recent period of heavy rain on February 18<sup>th</sup>/19<sup>th</sup> the LSIDB pumps were operating continuously. He had understood that the pumps should be switched off when the Oldbury Naite rhine was full but others believed this is not the case. LSIDB to be asked to clarify.

MP reported that Nigel Riglar (Director of SGC Environment & Community Services) will speak to EA contacts to ask them to prioritise attendance at this committee.

MP also reported that he is soon to move to a new role in SGC and thus will no longer be involved with this committee. Members expressed thanks to MP for all his help over the past years.

## 12 Meeting closure

The meeting closed at 3:15pm.

No date has yet been set for the next meeting; a date in w/c 11<sup>th</sup> May will be sought.