

UNCONFIRMED MINUTES  
FLOODING MEETING HELD WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF THE  
PARISHES WITHIN SOUTH DERBYSHIRE

29th March 2012

**PRESENT:-**

**South Derbyshire District Council Representatives**

Councillors Mrs. Brown, Ford, Lemmon, Roberts, Shepherd, Stanton, Mrs. Watson and Watson, M. Alflat (Director of Operations (Chairman)), C. Payne (Engineer) and P. Spencer (Democratic Services).

**Derbyshire County Council Representative**

Councillor M. Ford, N. Elliott and S. Mead.

**Environment Agency Representatives**

V. Candlish, L. Glover, M. Swain and D. Pearce (Halcrow).

**Severn Trent Water**

M. Burrup.

**Parish Council Representatives**

A. Heathcote and K. Slater (Barrow-on-Trent Parish Council), J. Bates and T. Beresford (Foston and Scropton Parish Council), B. Walton-Knight (Hilton Parish Council), A Mitchell (Shardlow and Great Wilne Parish Council), K. Gibbs (Willington Parish Council) and R. Brooks.

**APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence from the Meeting were received from District Councillors Harrison, Mrs. Heath and Mrs. Hood and D. Taylor (Hatton Parish Council).

1. **MINUTES**

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 22nd March 2011 were received. It was requested that in future, the unconfirmed Minutes be circulated as soon as possible and it was agreed that they would be placed on the Council's website.

2. **REPORTS FROM AGENCIES**

(a) **South Derbyshire District Council**

The Council's Engineer gave a report on watercourse maintenance works completed throughout the District, since the last Meeting. He confirmed the other works that were taking place and reported on the recommendations given to planning officers with regard to the placing of planning conditions on development control applications, with the aim to safeguarding watercourses and implementing flood prevention measures where necessary. The report also covered the Flood and Water

Management Act, particularly in terms of sustainable urban drainage schemes (SUDS). Questions were invited, the first concerning the former Calder site at Willington and arrangements for maintenance of nearby watercourses until this site was redeveloped. It was noted that the Salt Brook had been enmained by the Environment Agency, which was now responsible for its maintenance. It was agreed to discuss this matter with the Environment Agency outside the Meeting.

**(b) Environment Agency**

A presentation was made by Mark Swain on the Lower Dove Flood Alleviation Scheme. Initially, a project progress report was given it being noted that the detailed design stage would shortly be finalised. There was ongoing liaison with land owners and the Environment Agency (EA) was assessing mitigation for unprotected properties. A planning application had been submitted and subject to its approval, the EA would seek to award a contract for the works in June. The presentation included a number of plans showing the location of works on which details were provided. This included improved flood protection and plans for a diversion of the Salt Brook to create a holding lagoon. A further plan showed proposed works at Egginton and the officer explained the partnership work undertaken for various elements of the scheme. The presentation concluded with a slide showing issues still to be resolved. The Chairman recognised the work undertaken by Mark Swain and he was thanked for this assistance. In response to a question, it was confirmed that these works would have a secondary benefit in alleviating flooding from the River Dove, towards the south side of Hilton.

A question was submitted on the Derwent Strategy and the measures to safeguard the City of Derby, together with the potential impact for South Derbyshire villages downstream. V. Candlish responded about the flood modelling that had taken place, the difficulty in knowing exactly how the works would impact downstream and confirming that the EA would mitigate against any increases in water levels. Reference was also made to a recent Elvaston Parish Council Meeting, at which representatives of the EA had not been able to attend.

Mr. Swain then spoke about plans at Monks Bridge to address the build up of gravel beds near to an aqueduct on the River Dove. In July/August of this year, works would take place to remove the gravel and place it further downstream. He also referred to a major restructure of the EA which would result in better partnership working. It would also link better with the development control process, seeking to address flood risks as part of new development.

In response to a further question, details were given about the establishment of regional flood and costal committees, including one for the Trent area. It was confirmed that Derbyshire County Council would have elected member representation on the regional committee.

V. Candlish and L. Glover addressed those present with regard to the watercourses in the east of the District. Whilst there were no new

schemes planned, an outline was given of the scheduled maintenance works, mainly to de-silt watercourses. Other issues discussed were the pumping station at Shardlow and the flood defences at Ambaston, which were in need of repair and details were given of the planned repairs to these defences.

**(c) Derbyshire County Council**

Steve Mead addressed those present on improved flood mapping for surface water issues. This would help to identify the risks of surface water flooding, the routes that surface water travelled and it would enable a prioritised approach to improvement works. He reminded of the former investment criteria and the partnership approach being taken now to seek local funding where possible to deliver improvements. The officer also reported on the County Council's responsibilities for ordinary watercourses and added to the earlier discussion on SUDS. In future, this would require a lot more thought as part of the design process and the County Council was raising awareness with planners at district councils.

Reference was made to Watery Lane, Scropton, the historic problems with flooding in this area and a request was made for the level of the road surface to be raised and a footway provided. It was confirmed that a Meeting was being arranged within the next few weeks and this positive response was welcomed. It was noted that one local commercial operator had offered to re-route heavy goods vehicles away from this road and the County Council also had signage plans to try and divert such vehicles away from this area.

In Coton-in-the-Elms, there was surface water flooding at Mill Street and Mill Green Close. New development in this area was exacerbating the problem. It was noted that some maintenance work had been undertaken, but this was incomplete and officers were asked to investigate it further. A context was provided on the move to SUDS, when this was likely to start and that it would probably be phased, looking at major developments initially. In the meantime, there would be a reliance on the planning process being more proactive. A District Member welcomed this contribution and hoped the Council could consider this aspect further.

With regard to emergency planning, there had been no significant flooding issues since the last Meeting. Information was provided on the County Council's duties under the Flood and Water Management Act. The Officer spoke about the criteria that had been established regarding the investigation of reported problems. Mr. Elliott offered to circulate a copy of this document. The County Council was producing a local flood risk strategy, which was likely to be based on four principles of partnership, prevention, protection and preparedness. It was expected that the strategy would be completed within the next twelve months.

**(d) Severn Trent Water**

It was explained that Severn Trent Water had also just completed a structural review and in future it would be Bob McCullum that would attend this forum. One objective of the review was to have representatives with more detailed local knowledge. She also explained how Severn Trent Water had appointed a contractor to undertake most of its maintenance work including sewer blockages. The primary cause of problems was misuse of the sewerage system through fat and oil deposits causing blockages. Severn Trent was willing to attend any Parish Council, to give a presentation on the problems this caused and a further suggestion made was attendance at summer events such as the Hatton Carnival. It was questioned whether the District Council had a system for recycling fats and oils and the implications for commercial organisations were also discussed, but it was understood that there was a demand for recycling cooking oils. A parish representative offered to include this information on their website. It was suggested that the Clerk provide details to Mrs. Burrup of all parish council email addresses in order that this could be pursued. Thanks were recorded to Mrs. Burrup for her support to this forum.

**3. REPORTS FROM PARISH COUNCILS**

Concerns were raised about surface water flooding problems along Repton Road in Willington. It was questioned whether the current surfacing levels and gullies would be examined as part of the planned development in the Village. This length of road was currently not adopted but might be as part of the development. Another reported problem was Beech Avenue at Willington, primarily due to insufficient gullies and this matter was referred to Derbyshire County Council to pursue. A question was also submitted with regard to Woodyard Lane at Foston relating to a recent planning application and a watercourse flowing through the site. The Council's Engineer confirmed that information had been passed to colleagues in Planning and he agreed to pursue this matter.

**4. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

There was a discussion about the frequency of future Flood Liaison Meetings, and a consensus that the Meeting should happen on a 12-monthly basis, with the proviso for additional Meetings when required. A request was made for updated contact details for the agencies to be provided to parish councils.

M. ALFLAT

CHAIRMAN

The Meeting terminated at 11.35 a.m.