

EXMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL
Flooding & Land Drainage Working Party
Special Meeting to Discuss Exmouth Flood Gates

Notes of the Zoom meeting held at 10am on Tuesday 22nd September 2020

Present

Flooding & Land Drainage

Bruce de Saram	BdS	ETC & EDDC Councillor, Chair
Pauline Stott	PS	ETC Councillor
Tim Dumper	TD	ETC Councillor
Frank Cullis	FC	ETC Councillor
Cherry Nicholas	CN	ETC Councillor
Jeff Trail	JT	DCC Councillor, Exmouth Rural
Cameron Robison	CR	DCC Highways
Jim Faux	JF	Environment Agency (EA) Area Officer
Kate Pearson	KP	Environment Agency, Flood Resilience Team
Chetna Jones	CJ	ETC Deputy Town Clerk
Tim Clatworthy	TC	ETC, notes

Community Resilience

Tony Woodward	TW	ETC & EDDC Councillor
Steve Gazzard	SG	ETC & EDDC Councillor
Maddy Chapman	MC	ETC Councillor
David Poor	DP	ETC Councillor

Apologies

Richard Elliott	RE	DCC Highways
Jessica Bishop	JB	DCC, Senior Flood Risk Officer
Jayne Johnson	JJ	Kier
Ben Harman	BH	SWW

1. Welcome and apologies

2. To review the Tri-Party Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) as prepared by the Environment Agency in consultation with East Devon District Council and Exmouth Town Council and discuss the role and responsibility of Exmouth Town Council

With EA delivering Exmouth's Tidal defence Scheme, an extra 30 gates are being installed which will need closing at flood-risk events. The focus of the meeting was to review the tri-party arrangement between EA, EDDC and ETC to close the flood gates installed as part of the Tidal Defence Scheme, including any operational and training aspects.

The arrangements were explored and are noted below enabling ETC councillors to make an informed recommendation to the Town Council for approval.

- A. Flood gates are to be installed early next year and approving to commit to a tri-party agreement now will give sufficient time for volunteers to be sought and trained.
- B. KP will assist in seeking and training volunteers and training manuals will be provided to volunteers and councillors towards the end of construction works, and 'dry runs' will be practised during this training.

- C. EA/ETC hoping to recruit more volunteers local to the gates, e.g. at Camperdown Terrace and Morton Crescent, and also from some local businesses, e.g. Rockfish, The Grove, the Sailing Club, and maybe the Imperial Hotel. To begin with these local volunteers will comprise a separate group from the Community Resilience volunteers, but the two groups may integrate in time.
 - D. ETC will be the Data Controller for the volunteers' details, and responsible for informing EA who they are, & keeping the list up-to-date.
 - E. There will be further back-up in the event of an emergency and this is likely to be provided by Streetscene, the Police, and DSFRS, the local station having specialist training in flood rescue issues. The meeting advised that DSFRS and the Police are kept up-to-date with the progress and details of the resilience schemes. A meeting with DSFRS was recommended which JT requested to attend.
 - F. EA advises that volunteers muster and then work at least in pairs.
 - G. EA will provide the trigger to close the gates, and it is usual to provide 6 hours' warning of high tides.
 - H. EDDC will be responsible for closing highway gates; ETC for the non-highway gates.
 - I. EDDC will be responsible for ensuring all gates are shut, and confirming this with EA.
 - J. The gates that ETC will be responsible for are lightweight (aluminium) and easily closed. The gates that EDDC will be responsible for are heavier, sliding gates but have a built-in lifting system as part of the design.
 - K. DCC are not involved in the above processes except for advising on and instituting road closures, and alerting all other agencies on these details.
 - L. Operational aspects within the MOU agreement will be finalised closer to time of completion and prior to signing by all three parties.
 - M. In the event that a gate is not closed in time, no insurance is forfeited and no party is held responsible. It will be accepted that all concerned acted to the standards of 'best endeavour', and that in the case of flooding, those affected will be no worse off than they were before the tidal defences were installed.
- 3. To agree to recommend that the Town Council proceeds in principle with the tri-party agreement and seeks delegated authority for the Town Clerk to sign the Memorandum of Understanding with any amendments including those identified in item 2 above.**

BdS proposed, seconded by TD, and it was agreed that the Town Council approves to proceed in principle with the tri-party agreement (subject to all parties agreeing) and seeks delegated authority for the Town Clerk to sign the Memorandum of Understanding with any amendments including those identified above,.

4. Confirmation of date of next meeting: 13th October 2020 at 2pm

5. To close the meeting

The meeting closed at 10.50am.