

# EXMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL

## Flooding & Land Drainage Working Party

Notes of the Zoom meeting held at 4pm on Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> November 2022

### Present

Bruce de Saram	BdS	Chair, ETC & EDDC Councillor, Littleham Ward
Steve Gazzard	SG	ETC & EDDC Councillor, Withycombe Raleigh Ward
Tim Dumper	TD	ETC councillor, Town Ward
Chetna Jones	CJ	ETC Deputy Town Clerk
Kate Pearson	KP	EA, Flood Resilience Advisor
Tom Buxton-Smith	TBS	EDDC, Engineering Projects Manager
Thomas Aldridge	TA	DCC, Flood & Coastal Risk Management
Rob Butler	RB	EA, Exmouth Tidal Defence Project Manager
David Seaber	DS	SWW, Customer Services and Networks Assets Manager
Lisa Greenway	LG	ETC, Notes

### Apologies

Pauline Stott	PS	ETC Councillor, Halsdon Ward
Frank Cullis	FCu	ETC Councillor, Withycombe Raleigh Ward
Kris Inch	KI	EA, Flood and Coastal Risk Management Advisor

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### 1. Welcome, introductions and apologies (BdS)

BdS welcomed members to the meeting and apologies were noted.

### 2. To approve the notes from the meeting on the 12<sup>th</sup> July 2022

TD proposed and BdS seconded, and it was agreed the notes were an accurate record of the meeting.

### 3. Matters arising from previous meeting

No matters arose from the previous meeting.

### 4. An update following the Town Council meeting held on 17<sup>th</sup> of October with SWW on concerns of pollution and warnings

DS apologised on behalf of SWW for representatives not attending previous meetings and confirmed with members that he is part of operations in charge of the maintenance to pipes in the ground. DS confirmed that he requested a statement from the asset management team to answer the concerns raised by ETC about work proposed by SWW to combat the pollution concerns in the sea and the Maer Rocks area.

The asset management team provided the following statement:

An AMP7 project is going ahead to achieve 10 spills at Phear Park and Maer Lane combined sewer overflows as it cannot be achieved through extra storage as it would not drain away before the next storm event. It also cannot be achieved by any infiltration or surface water separation, so the proposed solution is to pump more to Maer Lane sewer treatment works.

The sewer treatment works at Maer Lane will be upsized and provide ultraviolet on the storm water.

The following AMP in 2025 – 2030 will include plans to upgrade the treatment works so it can take double the flow. DS is aware that the AMP7 plans for 2020 – 2025 are going through and discussions are taking place about upgrades to the pumping station and rising main leading to the Maer Lane sewer treatment works which should stop a lot of the issues.

Dye testing will also take place from the storm overflow which has been planned out and taken to the Environment Agency. This is in the planning stage, subject to the findings of a full survey we are about to carry out in the next 2 weeks.

Phear Park is a pump upgrade, no change to the tanks or storage. DS confirmed that discussions are still taking place and once EA give the go ahead, water will be put in the system to dye test.

DS updated members that work is being done on surface water separation and scope for 164K of re-hab work in Maer Road and 57K in Phear Park which is being processed by the delivery group.

DS confirmed that he would request that someone from the Asset Team attend one of the meetings as they oversee all future works that are carried out so would be better at answering any questions put to them by members. CJ queried if there was any update on the questions put to Ian Vosper when he visited ETC, DS confirmed that any reply would need to come from Ian Vosper personally, ETC look forward to hearing from him.

TD asked if any update was available on the Hartopp and Halsdon Road pumping station, DS confirmed that there is room for infiltration removal and the Asset Team have had a concept to deliver surface water separation rather than work on the pumping station. DS confirmed that the full pump upgrade work has completed in Phear Park. TD was concerned that surface water separation would not help in Hartopp Road as when there is a high spring tide in the area this results in tidal feedback, DS will investigate this.

SG queried if the tanks in Phear Park have been upgraded, DS checked the feedback which mentioned the pumps but not the tanks so will request more details on the completed work. SG was keen for a date when the Phear Park footpaths would be re-opened, DS will look into this and send a response.

CJ advised that during the meeting with IV concerns were raised about whether SWW could cope with future developments, BdS stated that this was brought up in an EDDC meeting 2 weeks ago and it was confirmed that Goodmores would not be a SWW customer as they cannot guarantee they have the resources to cope. DS confirmed that this is for tap/mains water, but sewerage will be supplied by SWW.

Bds asked CJ to share the recorded second EDDC Scrutiny meeting presentation with members.

## **5. EA: Tidal Defence and General Updates**

RB updated members that the scheme is nearly finished apart from putting in some sheds around the flood gates. RB confirmed that complaints have been received through EDDC about the poor landscaping around the car park on the estuary, the contractor has agreed to

weed pull, replace trees, and clean up the area. TD agreed that the landscaping was not acceptable and stated that 4 trees have died, RB confirmed that they would be replaced. TD queried who was responsible for the watering and maintenance and RB stated that he would make sure that additional regular watering takes place in the future.

KP thanked RB for the update and confirmed that the scheme is not completely finished as the memorandum of understanding between ETC, EDDC and EA needs to be updated and signed off.

KP confirmed that flood gate volunteer training will take place on the 7<sup>th</sup> of December with Exe Sailing Club and thanked CJ and SG for helping to organise the training and recruitment of volunteers.

CT asked KP to update members on flood alerts and warnings, KP advised that a few weeks ago there was a flood alert, but this did not warrant the gates being closed. KP is working with CJ to put together an article to share with members to raise awareness of the alert statuses and what they mean. RB thanked everyone who attended the opening ceremony in October and took part in the scheme.

## **6. EDDC: General updates including Exmouth Beach Management Plan (TBS)**

TBS confirmed that the next Beach Management meeting will be on the 14<sup>th</sup> of December at 4pm and invites will go out soon with his reports.

Work has been slow on the Beach Management Plan due to staff shortages and lack of central government funding but most of the beach has come back.

## **7. DCC: General updates (TA)**

TA updated members that DCC have commissioned ACON to undertake an investigation into the surface water in the town and ACON now have a draft model which gives DCC the potential to run certain options to see the effectiveness at reducing flooding through that model. TA hopes to meet CJ in the New Year to arrange a meeting so that ETC can have some input on potential options.

CJ queried which area this related too, TA confirmed that St Andrews and Victoria Road were included in the problem areas and is aware that this long-term problem is flagged on the surface water and flood maps. DCC will use the property count within the model as at a national level regarding funding implementing any potential options comes under the cost benefit element. Funding will depend on the number of residential properties that can be protected, this will be in partnership with SWW and EA in some cases where there will be dual benefit.

TA confirmed that if the model does not show property flooding it will not be high risk. SG stated that he took some photo's in September around the problem areas when Exmouth had a severe downpour which have been circulated. The garage on the corner was flooded which is a regular occurrence during thunderstorms, SG understands that this arises as there is a fault with the drain outside the garage which causes water to come up from the drain inside the garage.

SG was concerned that the properties on the verge of being flooded at the top of Imperial Road, St Andrews Road and Victoria Road will not show up on the model as they have not flooded, but they have a high risk of flooding if the weather gets worse. SG advised that he

has received constant calls from the garage over the last 4 to 6 years when severe downpour take place and was advised that the drain would be fixed, but this has not happened. TA suspects that the model will show flooding in those roads and asked SG to send over information from the garage so he can follow this up with highways as they should address the highway drain issue. TA confirmed that he would find out if any work is planned for the drain and get back to SG so that he can contact the garage. TD updated members that highways like issues reported via their website, however this does not always result in immediate action. TD advised TA that the problem area is densely populated with many flats and houses of multiple occupation therefore there are lots of residential properties to protect.

TA requested that ETC gather any additional information including flood history as this would really help them build a case for future works. CJ forwarded emails which included photos taken of flooding in Exmouth to TA.

#### **8. SWW: General updates (DS)**

As discussed in item 4.

#### **9. ETC Councillors reports and questions to representatives of external organisations**

No reports or questions.

#### **10. AOB**

No other business.

#### **11. 2023 meetings**

24<sup>th</sup> January  
18<sup>th</sup> April  
18<sup>th</sup> July  
17<sup>th</sup> October

The meeting ended at 17:07