

EXMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL

Flooding & Land Drainage Working Party

Notes of the Zoom meeting held at 2pm on Tuesday 24th January 2023

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
Cherry Nicholas	CN	ETC councillor, Brixington Ward
Frank Cullis	FCu	ETC councillor, Withycombe Raleigh Ward
Pauline Stott	PS	ETC councillor, Halsdon Ward
Chetna Jones	CJ	ETC Deputy Town Clerk
Tom Buxton-Smith	TBS	EDDC, Engineering Projects Manager
Thomas Aldridge	TA	DCC, Flood & Coastal Risk Management
Francesca Lloyd	FL	SWW, Customer Service & Networks Team Manager
David Seaber	DS	SWW, Customer Services and Networks Assets Manager
Philip Morgan	PM	DCC, Neighbourhood Highway Engineer
Stuart Coles	SC	DCC Highways
Lisa Greenway	LG	ETC, Notes

Apologies

Kate Pearson	KP	EA, Flood Resilience Advisor
Rob Butler	RB	EA, Exmouth Tidal Defence Project Manager
Kris Inch	KI	EA, Flood and Coastal Risk Management Advisor

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 29th November 2022

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

3. Matters arising from previous meeting

FC was unable to attend the previous meeting and queried if the dye testing mentioned in item 4 had been carried out by SWW, DS confirmed that dye testing has been delayed as they discovered that the mapping was incorrect. DS updated members that a full CCTV and survey of the whole of the outfall has been completed which involved taking photos of every chamber from inside, this resulted in finding out that the mapping was slightly out due to a chamber being different. DS confirmed that they now have the correct mapping to proceed with the next steps which will be discussed in a meeting with contractors and the asset team on Thursday, EA have agreed that dye testing can continue. FC queried if the work carried out would show the capacity, DS advised that CCTV looks at asset condition and mapping not capacity.

SG raised concerns over the length of time that the Phear Park footpath has been closed while SWW carry out pump upgrades as traffic on the corner is extremely fast and

hazardous to pedestrians. FL confirmed that underground work is still ongoing which has an estimated completion date of mid-February, once completed the footpath will be re-opened.

4. EA: Tidal Defence and General updates

BdS confirmed that no EA representatives were present but read out the following reports on their behalf:

RB: There is not much to add regarding the Exmouth Tidal Defence Scheme for this meeting although I remain hopeful that all the loose ends will be tied up soon. I will attend/report back when this has happened, hopefully at the next meeting if not the one after which at that point the scheme can probably be removed from the agenda entirely.

KI: Kier were on site last week to work on the outstanding snags on the scheme. These are seemingly complete, pending a site visit by the EA to review. Property Flood Resilience (PFR) are on the last remaining property which was installed last week, and wet testing was also undertaken successfully, so this part of the project is also complete as far as works on the ground go. The Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between EA, EDDC and ETC is still outstanding whilst the EA discuss internally some aspects of the procedures. EA will be in touch to finalise and get this signed off as soon as they can.

CJ added that the Tidal Defence Scheme will finish shortly, and RB has asked for this item to be removed at this point. This would mean RB, KI and KP will no longer attend these meetings. However EA should be asked to continue sending a representative to these meetings to give general updates even after the scheme is completed.

5. EDDC: General updates including Exmouth Beach Management Plan

TBS updated members that a meeting took place on the 14th of December to sign off the draft scope for the Beach Management Plan. The scope was developed after listening to locals and experts. TBS will now tender this on the open market to get a consultant on board to start delivering the BMP.

SG queried why sand has been moved between the old first aid post and the new slipway near the water sports centre as this has exposed the tops of steel groins. TBS said sand movement has occurred naturally from stormy weather which has exposed relics from previous beach uses. EDDC have been completing the beach pull back prior to that to help keep sand back from the highway to be re-distributed onto the beach.

CJ arranged the scoping document to be circulated at the last Town Council meeting and queried if the tender was to draft a BMP strategy or to do the work, TBS confirmed it was to do the strategy as they do not know what funding is available. CJ queried the timescale for tendering before work starts on the strategy, TBS stated that they hope to have it tendered and work to start in summer 2023 and anticipate that it will be a one year programme.

TBS updated members that the pointing on the steps at RNLI has come out so a specialist stone mason will re-point using marine mortar.

TBS informed members that Manor Gardens flooded a while back and this has been investigated using CCTV to survey underground issues. It is likely that major damage has occurred to the main drainage network mostly likely caused by tree roots.

PS thanked TBS for the work that will be completed at the RNLI steps as the Waterfront WP, at the last inspection walkabout, were advised that this work would not be completed as it was cosmetic, TBS confirmed that although cosmetic, work will be completed to alleviate future issues.

TBS advised that the temporary fencing where the beach has dropped on the other side of the RNLI has been made permanent.

6. DCC: General updates

TA confirmed that ACORD were commissioned to undertake an investigation into the surface water in the town. They have devised a model and are currently continuing to work on the model and make updates through testing. A meeting will be arranged with ETC once they have a better understanding of the model to receive local input on flooding issues.

SC updated members that jetting orders are in for cleaning the curbs at Imperial and Victoria Road as a lot of them are not working. The contractor is currently completing work at night to reduce traffic and pedestrian issues.

SG requested an update on the ongoing flooding issue outside Express Autos on the junction of Imperial and St Andrews Road as historically a problem arose with the pipe, but no work was undertaken. SC was concerned that highways were being asked to resolve this issue as they would not be responsible for pipes going into buildings, this would be a SWW matter. DS stated that SWW should be contacted with any internal flooding so that they can investigate the issue and advised SG to ask the garage to call SWW when flooding happens so that they can come out (usually within 4 hours) and raise a case with a reference number. PM confirmed that the business should phone SWW when the flooding is happening so that they can assess the issue and test whether it is contaminated, chlorine or salt water.

TD requested the telephone number that should be used to report flooding in homes/business, FL provided the Case Management telephone number.

TD queried overlaps between DCC and SWW as previously this happened in the colony's where issues arose that were joint responsibility. SC confirmed that DCC have a highway enforcement officer who contacts SWW and other agencies on a regular basis to resolve joint issues. PM advised that when investigations happen it can be a joint drain issue between highways and SWW but they work together to resolve the issue.

BdS requested if the SWW telephone number provided by SWW could be published on the ETC website and DS confirmed he will send an email with correct wording and numbers to publish.

CJ advised that smaller parishes have wardens to manage roads but wanted to make DCC aware that ETC employ a town maintenance team of 4 who work on delivering services DCC are no longer able to provide, and this includes clearing and weeding the roads and drains. PM added that DCC are in conjunction promoting and educating people to clean their own roads and take on smaller jobs in their community that the council are not able to provide due to government cutbacks. PM hopes this will make people more proactive in keeping their residential areas clean which historically happened before councils took on the work. BdS requested that ETC promote this, CJ advised that if ETC is provided with this information from DCC Highways it would be published on the website and social media.

TD confirmed that ETC carried out a big initiative 2-3 years ago when DCC were encouraging ETC to recruit wardens, this resulted in certain categories of volunteers coming forward but not for snow wardens and other categories which was disappointing.

PS raised concerns over the number of dangerous potholes which have already been logged on the DCC report a problem page. PM is aware that currently there are 500 reported potholes across Devon which have arisen from the recent poor weather, they are struggling to fill the potholes with the size of their workforce but continue to carry on this work as quickly as possible.

7. SWW: General updates

DS confirmed that he had no further updates apart from what was discussed previously. CJ stated that ETC has still not received a response from Ian Vosper and queried when the Asset Team would join the meeting. DS confirmed that he would chase for a response and arrange for the Asset Team to attend a meeting in the future.

CJ asked if there was the possibility of arranging a site visit of the Maer treatment plant and a member of the Asset Team being present to provide additional knowledge about the expansion/upgrade plans to the treatment plant. DS will request a visit and ask a member of the Asset Team to attend. CJ asked any members to let her know if they wanted to attend.

8. ETC Councillors reports and questions to representatives of external organisations

No reports or questions.

9. AOB

No other business.

10. 2023 meetings

18th April

18th July

17th October

The meeting ended at 15:11