

# EXMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL

## Flooding & Land Drainage Working Party

Notes of the Zoom meeting held at 2pm on Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> July 2023

### Present

Tim Dumper	TD	ETC Councillor, Halsdon Ward
Pauline Stott	PS	ETC Councillor, Halsdon Ward
Graham Deasy	GD	ETC Councillor, Littleham Ward
Mark Williamson	MW	ETC Councillor, Littleham Ward
Cherry Nicholas	CN	ETC Councillor, Brixington Ward
Russell Craig	RC	EA, Flood and Coastal Risk Management
Jay Harris	JH	SWW, Regional Operations Manager
Vicky Garner	VG	SWW, Community and Partnerships Manager
Chetna Jones	CJ	ETC Deputy Town Clerk
Tom Buxton-Smith	TBS	EDDC, Engineering Projects Manager
Stuart Coles	SC	DCC Neighbourhood Highways Officer
Lisa Greenway	LG	ETC, Notes

### Apologies

Steve Gazzard	SG	ETC & EDDC Councillor, Withycombe Raleigh Ward
Ian Kirvan	IK	ETC Councillor, Brixington Ward
Jeff Trail	JT	DCC Councillor
Thomas Aldridge	TA	DCC, Flood & Coastal Risk Management
Francesca Lloyd	FL	SWW, Customer Service & Networks Team Manager

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### 1. To elect a chair

CJ requested nominations for the Chair of this working party. PS nominated MW, however, MW declined. PS suggested TD as he was the one of the longest serving members. TD declined but said he wanted to nominate SG. However SG had sent apologies, so members agreed to postpone the election of the Chair until the next meeting.

In the meantime nominations to chair today's meeting were needed. GD nominated TD and MW seconded and members agreed that TD would stand as chair for this meeting.

### 2. Welcome, introduction and apologies

TD welcomed members and noted apologies.

### 3. To approve the notes from the meeting on the 18<sup>th</sup> of April 2023

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

### 4. Matters arising

No matters arising.

### 5. To review and discuss further the responses from SWW to the questions raised after the dye testing

CJ circulated an extra item with the agenda to members prior to the meeting that contained a summary of questions put to SWW and the responses received, CJ asked JH to clarify the answers and reply to any additional questions from members.

**Question 1: What are the plans for another dye testing and when will this take place**

CJ read out the following reply received from SWW which was circulated prior to the meeting:

*Divers have been scheduled to dive the location at the end of the Maer Road outfall to determine whether there is a blockage present. This is now scheduled for the 26th July.*

*The findings of the dive will inform our next steps. Our conclusion following the non-appearance of the dye during the recent test was that despite pumping water from the Littleham Brook (as agreed with the EA) there was still not enough water within the local network to create the necessary pressure to expel the dye in a flow. This is not a process we would use drinking water for and as flows in the Brook are lower during the summer months, our recommendation is that we wait until September time, when there will be more water available to pump.*

*We have explored alternative ways to complete the test, but these are logistically more difficult to deliver and do not give us the confidence of success that re-running the test using an increased volume of water, does.*

GD queried if the sand movement would have any effect on the outflow pipes and the dye getting through if the pipes were blocked, JH confirmed that the divers will check the end of the outfall pipe next week which will provide a view as to what effect the sand movement has had on the pipe. GD raised concerns that the tests were taking place during peak season when more swimmers are in the sea and visitors may not be aware of testing taking place, JH was confident that any dye would not be seen as it dissipates very quickly.

JH wanted to clarify with members that September would be a suitable time for a dye test. CJ confirmed that members and ESCAPE had agreed, and it would make sense to proceed in September.

**Question 2: What are the upgrade proposals and when will they be carried out**

TD urged members to read the questions and answers that were circulated with the agenda and now attached at the end of these notes.

JH confirmed that lots of capital work has been lined up in Exmouth to reduce the risk of environmental impact from their network, and that 38 million in funding has been earmarked to 2030.

JH updated members that they are currently working on a project in Maer Road and Phear Park pumping stations to improve their outflow performance. JH provided members with a brief outline of planned schemes in Exmouth that would be taking place up to 2030. TD queried why the work in Phear Park was still ongoing, JH confirmed that data feed issues delayed the completion.

CJ wanted to seek clarification if SWW had installed sewer level monitors to several locations feeding to Maer Road CSO and pumping station, specifically along Douglas Avenue, Maer Road and across Maer Nature Reserve, and if so, what has been established

from these monitors. JH confirmed that several monitors have been installed in Exmouth and in total 20,000 over the southwest region but will double check the locations. JH informed members that the monitors will provide intelligence of how the sewer network is operating, acting as an early warning system so when the sewer level reaches a certain depth it triggers an alarm. This should help with early investigations.

CJ queried why the upgrade to the pumps in Phear Park is still showing as under maintenance. JH advised that specialists are currently investigating as the monitor is not providing accurate data, but he hopes it will be up and running soon.

**Question 3: Can SWW confirm if the Imperial CSO tank main pump has failed and remained so for some time leading to uncontrolled overflows. The tank required emptying to change the pump which took 100 tanker journeys across Exmouth throughout the day and regularly into the night. The failed pump was replaced, and the tank was cleared of sediment and debris. Can SWW confirm in full what work was undertaken, when this tank was last cleaned and what work is outstanding**

JH confirmed that one of the two pumps located at Imperial Road failed so they lifted and replaced the failed pump. This involved emptying the tank, and why multiple tankers had to be used.

JH advised that the last tank clean (partial due to rainfall) was on the 13<sup>th</sup> of March 2023. CJ queried how often tanks are cleaned. JH updated members that cleaning depends on condition, data is used so that cleaning takes place when required rather than a set time. CJ was keen to know when the Maer Road CSO would be emptied and cleared of debris, JH clarified that the CSO is a chamber rather than a storage tank and was last cleaned in March.

**Question 4: Can SWW confirm that several upgrade works are to be completed across the Exmouth main sewer network to maximise sewer efficiency and minimise CSO/sewer overflows. Can SWW provide a full report of the works and when they will be completed**

JH stated that this would be part of the capital investment up to 2030 but would discuss the map of the main network system in more detail during the meeting prior to the site visit on 21<sup>st</sup> of September. CJ confirmed that councillors from both Flooding and Land Drainage and waterfront working parties would be attending the meeting at the Town Hall and the site visit.

**Question 5: A repeat of the number of concerns raised to date about the excessive number of sewage sludge import Gregorys and local sewage ClearFlow tanker movements in and out of Exmouth. What is the exact number, where are they coming from, why do SWW need to do this and how long will this continue**

SWW provided monthly tanker figures in the additional information that was circulated with the agenda, CJ requested clarification if the figures included the ClearFlow tanker movements and whether the figures include inbound journeys. JH advised that the figures provided were for sewage sludge tankers and not the ClearFlow tankers, VG confirmed that the figures included in and outbound journeys. CJ queried the ClearFlow tanker number as ESCAPE had requested this data, JH advised that these are temporary tankers used for specific work usually emergency repairs and did not have the figures to hand but will provide them later.

**Question 6: Has an environmental and public health and safety impact study been completed with regards to these excessive high volumes of HGVs in the Exmouth area specifically**

JH did not know the answer at the time of the meeting so will investigate it further to see if this is a requirement.

**Question 7: With development proposals a developer is expected to produce and adhere to a Construction Management Plan including the management of traffic in consultation with Devon County and East Devon District Councils. Although not specifically construction, will the upgrade proposals require planning permission and will SWW be working with DCC and EDDC in preparing a traffic management plan**

CJ received clarification that upgrade proposals do not come under permitted development, but SWW would need to apply for planning permission which in turn would mean that they would need a traffic management plan. JH understands that traffic movement will cause concern, but it is essential to complete the work, SWW will work with both councils on the traffic management plan.

## **6. SWW: General updates**

VG wanted to make members aware of WaterFit Live which is available through the SWW website and provides real time information such as when storm overflows are operating.

## **7. EA: Tidal Defence and general updates**

RC had to leave the meeting early due to an incident call but left the following report:

*No updates to report from EA on the Tidal Defence Scheme other than we have now recruited a replacement for KP. I will ensure they're introduced when fully up to speed with our programme. KI will remain your main point of contact for project updates.*

CJ was hoping to have an EA representative from the coastal side to provide a report on water quality and the alert system but had not received a response prior to the meeting.

TD lost connection, it was agreed that PS replaced TD as acting chair.

## **8. EDDC: General updates including Exmouth Beach Management Plan**

TBS updated members that they are still waiting for CCTV results to come back from the Manor Gardens work, the company had to remove roots from the drainage network so that the camera could be used and since then there have been no reports of flooding so this may be the interim solution.

TBS confirmed that the consultation work for the Beach Management Plan is awaiting tenders. The tenders are due back early August and EDDC and EA will be reviewing them mid-August and a decision made in early September. They would recruit soon after.

## **9. DCC: Flood risk general update**

TA sent apologies prior to the meeting and no report was received.

## **10. DCC: Highways general update**

SC advised that one of their contractors is working in New North Road on the 25<sup>th</sup> of July to replace an old Victorian trap gully chamber which cannot be jet cleared due to the design. They will also be investigating a sink hole report in the road that a local business reported whilst the road is closed. SC confirmed that all works are shown on the one.network website.

PS queried when the road lines would be re-painted as they are faded in certain areas, SC confirmed that the DCC Traffic Team would deal with this and have completed all the machine lining so any additional lining would need to be done by hand. SC will raise the issue with the traffic team and provide an answer at the next Exmouth Transport Partnership meeting.

#### **11. ETC Councillors: Reports and questions to representatives of external organisations**

No reports.

#### **12. AOB**

CJ received an email from a magazine reporter who is drafting an article on the councils' views on whether sewage spills will put off holidaymakers from visiting. The reporter has asked for ETC to share its views. CJ shared a draft reply with, and everyone was satisfied with the reply including VG and JH, who added that from SWW point of view they thought it was a well-balanced reply. CJ queried, and VG agreed, that it would be worth mentioning WaterFit Live in the reply.

#### **13. 2023 meetings:**

17<sup>th</sup> October

The meeting ended at 14:59