

# minutes



Meeting FLOODING SELECT COMMITTEE

Date Monday, 15 January 2007 (commencing at 10.00 am)

## Membership

Persons absent are marked with 'A'

## COUNCILLORS

Councillor Yvonne Davidson (Chair)  
Councillor Brian Wombwell (Vice-Chair)

John Carter  
John Clarke  
Sybil Fielding  
Pat Lally

Tom Pettengell  
A Peter D Prebble  
Sue Saddington

## ALSO IN ATTENDANCE

Councillor Martin Brandon-Bravo  
“ V H Dobson  
“ Andy Stewart

## MINUTES

The minutes of the last meeting held on 11 December 2006, having been circulated, were confirmed and signed by the Chair.

## APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

An apology for absence was received from Councillor Peter D Prebble.

## DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST BY MEMBERS AND OFFICERS

None.

## PRESENTATION FROM THE ENVIRONMENT AGENCY

Morgan Wray from the Environment Agency had been invited to the meeting to talk to the Select Committee on the effects of the Defra cuts and provide an update on progress made on the Nottingham Trent flood alleviation schemes. In terms of the left bank this was programmed to start spring 2008 and finish autumn 2011. The scheme which will protect a distance of 27km had been delayed by one year due to internal budget reprioritisation. In terms of planning applications, Mr Wray said that

these were due to be submitted in February for those works requiring it. They anticipated possible problems with the Attenborough section due to residents being opposed to the route of the proposed defences.

In terms of the West Bridgford area, Mr Wray said that the Wilford Lane embankment work was 2 to 3 weeks behind programme due to recent bad weather. Trentside was progressing well.

With regard to the Defra cuts, he said that although there had been no reduction in their capital programme for this year, work had had to be reprioritised. This meant postponing plans for detailed floodplain modelling and mapping on 3 rivers and concentrating on improvements to model misalignments on the flood map. The amount of money given to the Environment Agency by the government next year would remain the same as the reduced level for this year.

Councillor Saddington wondered if any money left over from the Rushcliffe schemes might be diverted to look at villages further north. Mr Wray said that they would be looking at the local levy and that this was not affected by the cuts. The Environment Agency was to look at an alleviation scheme for Barton-in-Fabis and Burton Joyce and individual house protection in Gunthorpe.

In response to a question from Councillor Dobson, it was explained that Collingham and Girton areas were not affected by the scheme.

Councillor Pettengell wondered what effect Attenborough would have on the left bank scheme if it didn't go through due to public objection. It was explained that if resident's objections lead to a public enquiry then it would delay things for the Attenborough section.

## **PRESENTATION FROM THE NATIONAL FLOOD DEFENCE FORUM**

Mary Dhanau from the National Flood Forum gave a presentation to the Select Committee on the work of the Forum. They heard how the Forum had evolved and about its aim to give communities and individuals who have been flooded or at risk the support, knowledge and help they need to organise themselves, to manage the effects of flooding, to promote self help and to campaign for flood alleviation. A key area of support was in providing advice and information on where to source flood protection products, specialist help and advice on insurance issues. It had worked hard to create a rapport at a high level with those and other organisations, such as the Association of British Insurers and Government to be able to represent the views of those in a flood risk area.

In response to a question from Councillor Brandon-Bravo, Ms Dhanau explained that their annual budget was £55,000. The start up grant from the Environment Agency was being significantly cut back to £30,000 in April and would cease in 2008. They urgently needed to find alternative sources of funding to enable their work to continue.

In response to a question from Councillor Davidson, Ms Dhanau explained that in terms of development control, the introduction of PPS25 (planning policy guidance) had sought to ensure that greater weight was put on flooding and sewerage issues by local authority planners and for them to provide an assessment of flood risk. She

added that the Association of British Insurers would not insure properties outside of a 1 in 200 floodplain.

### **WORK PROGRAMME**

Chris Gilbert, Scrutiny Officer updated the Select Committee on the latest developments in terms of the work programme. He explained that it was proving difficult in getting a member from the planning officers group to attend. It was suggested to invite a planning officer from Broxtowe, if this wasn't possible. He also said that the City Council update would need to be deferred to the meeting on 12<sup>th</sup> March 2007.

Councillor Davidson suggested that a draft report be compiled for the additional meeting of Select Committee proposed to take place on 26<sup>th</sup> March 2007 to allow for a discussion on the key findings of its study to date.

### **FAREWELL**

Councillor Davidson informed the Select Committee that it was Chris Gilbert, Scrutiny Officer and Rob Crowther's last meeting and thanked them for their support and input during recent months. The Select Committee passed on their best wishes to them both.

The meeting closed at 11.45am.

### **CHAIR**

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