Minutes of the Multi Agency Flood Defence Meeting held on Tuesday 11th November 2014 in Lydney Town Council Chambers at 2.00 pm

PRESENT: Cllr Bob Berryman, Lydney Town Council (BB)

Cllr Brian Thomas, Lydney NDP (BT)
Cllr Brian Pearman, Lydney NDP (BP)
Cllr Alan Preest, Lydney Town Council (AP)

Dave Street, Lydney NDP (DS)

David Graham, Gloucestershire County Council (**DG**) Dawn Worgan, Gloucestershire County Council (**DW**) Chris Johns, Forest of Dean District Council (**CJ**)

Martin Young, Environment Agency (MY)

Jason Westmoreland, Forest of Dean District Council (JW)

Daniel Howell, Forestry Commission (DH)

Brian Watkins, Gloucestershire County Council Highways (BW) Rose Christodoulides, Lakeside Resident Representative (RC)

Colin Legge, Lakeside Resident (CL)

One Member of the Public

IN ATTENDANCE: Jayne Smailes, CEO Lydney Town Council (JS)

Kate Hammond, Admin Assistant, Lydney Town Council (Minute

Taker)

APOLOGIES: District Cllr Martin Quaile (Forest of Dean District Council)

Dr Jerry Burch (Glatfelter Lydney Ltd) Chris Bull (Dean Forest Railway) Ben Gray (Dean Forest Railway)

Cllr James Bevan (Lydney Town Council) Robert Frankton (Lydney Park Estate) Richard Price (Lydney Park Estate)

John Thurston (Watts Group) Stewart Charters (Watts Group)

ITEM		ACTION
1.	WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS Cllr Bob Berryman chaired the meeting and welcomed everyone. Introductions were made around the table.	
2.	NOTES OF LAST MEETING (2 October 2014) Four amendments were proposed: the correction of the word 'Penstop' should have read 'Penstock'. The other three corrections were in the second to last paragraph on page 4 which stated: 'residents were consultees' should have read 'FODDC were consultees', and 'negligence by FODDC' and 'disregarded by FODDC' should both have read 'negligence by GCC' and 'disregarded by GCC'.	
	The notes were then accepted as a true record.	

3. RIVER LYD/WATERCOURSE CLEARING

BB requested an update from Dean Forest Railway and FODDC as to whether the Contractor had commenced work south of Albany Bridge.

CJ advised that both FODDC and GCC had part funded the works at a cost of £1500 each therefore £3000 between them had been given to DFR to assist with the commissioning of the contract. It was advised that DFR had not yet been able to engage a Contractor however as they were not present at the meeting they were unable to provide an update.

JS advised that DFR had been in contact with LTC to gain permission from Lydney Recreation Trust for the tree works to be carried out as soon as possible.

BB then requested an update from FODDC to the cost of monitoring two areas of Plummers Brook. CJ advised that no costings had been made as the walk of Plummers Brook was yet to take place.

DS advised of his walk of Plummers Brook; that there was an area south of the railway that had burst its banks causing the footpath to flood, possibly due to the culvert, but as the area was flooded this could not be confirmed. DS further advised that it may be beneficial for FODDC to arrange a meeting with Dean Forest Railway to get permission to go on their land, as it would be possible to then get above the culvert and gain a better perspective.

4. SEWAGE

Severn Trent were not present at the meeting therefore no verbal update could be received.

5. FLOODING TO LAKESIDE

CL advised that he had been in contact with the previous owners of number 115 Lakeside Avenue, Lydney, and furthermore indicated that the previous owners moved out of the property in early to mid 1970s after having many problems with the open pipe at the rear of their garden 'in the field' with objects blocking water flow. FODDC on regular visits unblocked and remove all debris. In the mid 1980s, FODDC put a grid on the face of the pipe to prevent any further objects entering. The Culvert had always been on the outer side of the boundary fence 'in the field'. With reference to the boundary line of 142 and 144 Lakeside Avenue, the line was at the rear of the garden

sheds which were at the bottom of the gardens. As the hedge at the rear of the sheds began to die back people were using the gardens as a walk through, therefore the dying hedge was removed and replaced with a fence, gaining approximately 3 feet at the rear of both gardens, hence why there was a 'step' in Mr Legge's fence line which remains in its original position. CL also advised that he was still currently seeking legal advice on the ownership of the trash screen at the back of his property (115 Lakeside Avenue) to ascertain who was responsible for it and asked that CJ seek to address this point with FODDC Legal Department.

Action: CJ to address ownership of trash screen with FODDC Legal Department.

RC advised, having researched copies of archived minutes held by LTC, that on various occasions during Full Council meetings LTC had asked FODDC about the culvert at the rear of 115 Lakeside Avenue. RC further questioned FODDC stance on the culvert in Queen Street as FODDC had also done some notable repairs to that culvert. In response CJ advised that no-one had taken responsibility for either culverts therefore FODDC had to make the repairs.

DG advised that GCC had consenting authority over an ordinary watercourse and that it was then delegated to District Council under the Flood and Water Management Act 2010 and Land and Drainage Act 1991.

RC expressed concern over the timescale of the attenuation ponds as things could potentially get worse over the winter months with a higher risk of flooding.

JS requested clarity from FODDC that the penstock would be on site and working within 4 weeks. JW confirmed this point.

JS also requested an update from GCC Highways concerning the reinstatement of attenuation ponds sited by the By-pass. BW confirmed that reinstatement was planned for middle of November 2014.

JS queried whether GCC could assist with the problems faced at Lakeside? DG advised that GCC had assisted with the penstock and that there were now limited funds available.

AP advised that he would contact the MP and Leader of the County Council asking for their support towards the formation of a multi-agency flood assessment group, which would complement the existing Lydney Flood Defence Group, with the mandate to minutely scrutinize every existing/outstanding/future (over 5 units) Planning Application that concerns Lydney and the immediate surrounding area specifically on water run-off. AP also advised that he would highlight the concerns around the

Action: JW to provide updated report following installation of penstock

Action:
AP to
contact the
MP and
Leader of the
County
Council
asking for

	Lakeside Area and at the bottom of Highfield Hill.	their support
	BB requested an update from GCC Highways confirming when the Engineers Report re. Fallers Field would be completed? BW confirmed that they had received the survey from FODDC including the CCTV images and the 'Telco' report which set out various options, most of which had already been discussed such as storage facilities at Fallers Field. The outcome was that the report was varied and it was a case of accessing the funds available. The plan at Fallers Field 'low spot' was to install a 10inch pipe between two small gullies with an estimated cost of £20k-£30k.	towards the formation of a multi-agency flood assessment group
	RC queried whether attenuation measures at Lakeside had been considered? JW referred to the 'Halcrow report' and advised that attenuation measures upstream were the focus along with the penstock upstream.	
	RC voiced concern that residents in lakeside were unable to get house insurance because of the flooding previously experienced by residents and felt that past experiences should be looked into and rectified so that it would not happen again. RC again felt that there would always be a time when the attenuation pond would not work and Lakeside would once again flood, with new housing developments compounding her fears.	
	BB advised that there were also concerns regarding flooding at the Oakdale Development and that it would require monitoring as it was coming out onto the A48. JS suggested that Oakdale was an area that FODDC could look at with the potential of containing SUDS on site.	
6.	ACTION PLAN/ACTIONS PENDING JS advised that LTCs Sandbag distribution list had been issued to all Councillors at the November Full Council meeting and a copy of the list had been displayed on all of the Town Council Noticeboards within Lydney.	
	 Action points for next meeting: As detailed, plus - FODDC to provide their Emergency Procedures/Out of Hours Contact numbers 	
7.	DATE OF NEXT MEETING Thursday 22 nd January 2015 at 11.00 am at Lydney Town Council Chambers.	

Meeting closed at 3.05 pm