

COOKHAM PARISH COUNCIL

**Minutes of a Meeting of the FLOOD and MAJOR INCIDENT COMMITTEE
Held in the Community Room on Tuesday 21st September 2021, commencing at
7.30pm.**

PRESENT: Cllrs M. Coker (Chairman), C. Aisladie, M. Brar, and H. Philips.
D. Scarff (Cookham Soc), P. Willmott (Flood Warden)

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:

Apologies were received from Cllr. J. Perry and M. Howard.
Cllr T. Suleiman did not attend.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:

No Declarations of Interest were made.

3. ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN:

On the proposal of Cllr M. Brar, seconded by Cllr C. Aisladie, Cllrs unanimously approved Cllr M. Coker's continued appointment as Chairman.

4. TO ACKNOWLEDGE THE AMENDED TERMS OF REFERENCE AND COMMITTEE STRUCTURE FOR THE FLOOD AND MAJOR INCIDENT COMMITTEE AS APPROVED AT THE ANNUAL MEETING ON 4TH MAY 2021:

The amended and approved Terms of Reference to reflect the changes to the Committee were acknowledged.

5. TO CO-OPT NON-COUNCIL MEMBERS AS PER THE COUNCILS TERMS OF REFERENCE AND IN ACCORDANCE WITH STANDING ORDER 4B:

On the proposal of Cllr M. Brar, Mr Paul Willmott was co-opted to the Flood and Major Incident Committee as Flood Warden and Mr Dick Scarff was co-opted to the Committee as Cookham Society Representative, this was seconded by Cllr C. Aisladie and unanimously approved.

These roles will have no voting rights but can chair a meeting.

Ms F. Hewer had requested that, in her role with the Thames Regional Flood and Coastal Committee (RFCC), she could continue to receive this committees agendas and minutes and will feedback with relevant information. Clerk to add to agenda notice.

6. TO PROVIDE AN UPDATE AND REVIEW REPORTS FROM OTHER FLOOD GROUPS' MEETINGS:

Borough Flood Liaison Group 27th July 2021: Minutes were included in agenda pack. The forum is attended by representatives from RBWM, Thames Water, the Environment Agency and the Parish Councils. A number of issues were raised by Cookham's representatives at the meeting, including the gully clearance and the balancing pond on Dean Lane. Representative will follow up matters in that forum.

7. TO APPROVE THE PURCHASE OF A SIMPLE LICENCE FOR THE FLOOD HUB WALKIE TALKIES TO INCREASE THEIR RANGE:

Cllr M. Coker gave an update regarding the purchase of an additional licence to improve the signal range and have more secure transmissions for the Flood Hub walkie talkies. This will also enable the Flood hub radios to work in a 'blue light' emergency even if mobile signals have been switched off. This has been successfully implemented with Bisham's Flood Committee.

Cllr M. Coker proposed that CPC purchase a five year simple licence for £75 (£15 per annum). This was seconded by Cllr M. Brar and unanimously approved. Cllr M. Coker to advise the Clerk of the details.

In addition to the licence, Cllr M. Coker asked if the ageing walkie talkie radios could be replaced with newer, more up to date versions which would be able to hold better charge. On the proposal of Cllr M. Brar, CPC to purchase 4 new radio devices at a total cost of approx. £80 (£20 per unit), this was seconded by Cllr C. Aisladie and unanimously approved.

The total spend of £155 will come from the Flood Plan/Management budget.

8. TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE ON THE CONSOLIDATION OF THE FLOOD HUB DOCUMENTATION AND ENSURE THAT ALL GENERAL DOCUMENTS REFLECT THE CHANGES IN THE TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR THE FLOOD AND MAJOR INCIDENT CMTE:

Cllr T. Suleiman was working with Cllr M. Coker on the initial effort to consolidate the Flood Hub documents following issues identified during the flooding incident in January 2021. However, no progress has been made. Cllr C. Aisladie was asked to help in Cllr Suleiman's absence.

9. TO ENSURE THAT THE FLOOD HUB DOCUMENTATION IS UP TO DATE AND READY FOR FLOOD SEASON:

No progress has been made as the consolidation of the documents still needs work. Cllrs M. Coker and C. Aisladie will look at this matter.

10. TO REVIEW AND PROVIDE UPDATES FOR THE FLOOD AND MAJOR INCIDENT COMMITTEE'S ACTION LIST:

- Flood Boards – Clerk emailed Brianne Valley (EA) at the beginning of the year. Cllr M. Brar to follow this up with the EA.
- Moor flood depth boards – this is with RBWM, but Cmte still question their effectiveness.
- Natural Flood Maps – Cllr M Brar to follow this up with Sue Fox (RBWM) as both S. Lavin and his successor have now left.
- Cllr M. Brar to request the surface water drainage maps, esp around the area of Lightlands Lane, from Thames Water/RBWM.
- Mr D. Scarff reported that the Cookham bund repairs were needed due to animal damage. Piling is to be added to provide greater protection. It was unsure when this work will take place.

11. TO RECEIVE UPDATES ON EVENTS PERTAINING TO FLOODING SINCE LAST MEETING:

There is a Friends of Battlemead meeting (whole group) due in October. The RBWM Cabinet meeting w/c 27th September will discuss the footpath on Battlemead. There is still a concern that flood mitigation around the site is not being addressed.

The meeting closed at 8.30pm.