

Minutes: Flood Group Meeting 4/3/24 (19.00)

1. Present: Lee ( chair ), Vikki, Gillian, Pauline, John

Apologies: Diane, Nicol

Lee welcomed David Braithwaite to the meeting

2. Minutes of meeting 29/1/24

Matters arising:

- i) Future role of Flood Group

The chair of the C.C, Jim Lewis, is arranging a meeting with the new vice- chair of the Trust and Lee, as chair of the Flood Group, to determine the necessity of a flood group and, if agreed, to determine its terms of reference, methods of tasking and communications between the Three groups to ensure a joined up approach to flood prevention measures is achieved. Members discussed appropriate representative membership of the group, the need to keep the community informed and to act as a conduit to represent their views.

It was agreed that the preferred way forward, if approved, was to operate under the auspices of the C.C. It was stressed that there needs to be clarity of purpose and clear lines of communication to avoid duplication of effort.

3. Review of Flood Alert / Warning Scheme

Following on from the last meeting when Pauline raised issues arising during the high water events of 27/12/23 and 21/1/24, discussions took place concerning residents signing up for the scheme and not receiving alerts, the number of SEPA generated alerts and their relevance as they may not be geographically specific. They can also lead to heightened levels of anxiety or complacency. It was agreed that further work was required to better understand the mechanics of the scheme, relevant sources of information, and the potential to provide residents with timely and relevant information in anticipation of high water events.

As a first step work should be undertaken in conjunction with relevant agencies.

ACTION: David to contact SEPA, Pauline SBC Emergency Planning, and John SBC Flood Team. The results to be collated and reported back to next meeting.

4. Flood Prevention Issues - Next steps

The 2021 consultation process, the provision of the bund and ongoing questions raised by residents about future flood prevention measures, both short and long term, provide the opportunity, in conjunction with SBC Flood Team, to conduct a “ public awareness day” at which questions and concerns can be addressed, current levels of flood prevention measures explained, as well as potential short and long term future areas of work.

Duncan and Paul, SBC Flood team, recently attended and “ walked the river bank” with Jim Lewis and Flood Group rep. To discuss issues raised by residents. It is anticipated that a further visit will take place on 12/3 to meet with residents from the South end of the village, the C.T and C.C.

ACTION: Following the 12/3 visit contact to be made with the SBC Flood Team to discuss the mechanics, timing and content for a future public awareness day. Update to be provided at our next meeting,

## 5. AOB

### i) Riverbank Clearance

Following the recent visit by Duncan and Paul discussions are ongoing with C.C about the issues involved in clearing riverbanks of overhanging branches and trees.

### ii) Riverbank erosion below footbridge.

There has been significant erosion of the West riverbank following high water events. Is it not possible to install "Granite" blocks to reinforce the riverbank? SBC Flood Team are aware of the issue and difficulties involved with the poor structure of the river bank and vertical drop to the water level. Possible remedies under consideration.

### iii) Wind Farm Money.

Should the proposed wind farm proceed as planned there will be a significant financial return to the village. Will some be allocated to flood prevention measures e.g Dredging? There has been a presentation by EDF to C.C at which financial return was discussed.

Are EDF considering building in flood prevention measures as part of the project?

ACTION: Liaise with C.C and C.T re. Current situation with possible future spending opportunities.

iv) Tree planting on riverside. There has been historical tree planting on the East river bank ( flood plain)which may be problematic. To be raised with SBC Flood team.

v) 1 in 200 year plan.The group is in favour of the 'built' flood prevention scheme commissioned by SBC

What does the future hold for a dedicated full flood prevention scheme for Newcastleton?

Is there a role for the group in lobbying, what are the current timescales? (2022-28 SBC funding round)

ACTION: Liaise with SBC Flood Team, Is this something to be raised as part of public awareness day?

vi) If the Flood Group is to continue should we engage in the development of a riverbank and flood risk management plan?For future discussion dependant upon future role/ terms of reference for the group.

( meeting duration 2 hours 10 minutes)

Date of next meeting 29/4/24 19.00 (venue to be confirmed)