

Minutes of the EDENBRIDGE EMERGENCY PLANNING COMMITTEE held at Rickards Hall at 7.30 pm on Monday 1 February 2016

Present: Cllrs M V McArthur (Chairman), J Barnett, Mrs J Davison, R Davison (ex officio), A Layland, S McGregor (ex officio), A W M Robson, B Todd (Vice-chairman); and J Brown, J Chappell, B Johnson, D Johnson, K Jefferies-Elliott, J Martin, B Neville-Robinson, G New, T Norton, R Rooth.

In attendance: K Staff - Deputy Town Clerk,
There were no members of the public and no press present.

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received, noted and accepted from Cllr T Bryant; received from Ben Brownless, S Cash, M Diggins, S Geere, G Lambert, J Isherwood, H Jackman, G Middleton, V Pearman, and K Tomsett

2. Declarations of Interest

None were declared by the Councillors present.

3. Co-option of Member

Members noted that following her resignation as a Councillor, it was proposed to co-opt Jo Chappell as a member of the committee. It was

Resolved: to co-opt Jo Chappell as a committee member

4. To receive and sign minutes of the Emergency Planning Committee meeting held 2 November 2015

Resolved: that the minutes be signed as a true and accurate record of the meeting

5. Matters arising from the minutes not covered elsewhere

5.1 Audit of all equipment and location

It was noted that the audit had been carried out and the Chairman thanked committee members for their help. Obsolete equipment from both Doggetts Barn and the WI Hall had been disposed of.

5.2 Amateur radio skills

Members noted that once new aerials had been installed, all licence holders would be contacted to arrange a practice event.

6. Financial matters

Members noted the financial report up to 31st December, and that purchase of the replacement desk top charger would show in the next quarter figures.

7. Review of activity since last meeting

7.1 Communication with residents

A letter to residents had been produced and delivered in early January to homes most at risk of flooding. The Chairman thanked the committee members who had helped with this task. As a result of this delivery, some revisions to the property list had been identified a necessary and would be actioned

Members were shown a set of the new FloodSax and advised that these are now available from the Council offices.

In the past month several flood alerts had been issued by the Environment Agency and Tim Norton gave a presentation explaining how alerts were triggered, and an update on ongoing improvements to the local flood defences.

7.2 Correspondence with KFRS

It was noted the Chairman continued to make efforts to establish a closer working relationship with KFRS

7.3 Drainage issues

Despite prompt and urgent reports to KHS of blocked gullies and drains during recent heavy rainfalls, the response had been very slow with 12 blockages in high risk areas remaining un-actioned more than a month after reporting. The Chairman was making representations to KHS.

Committee members were urged to be vigilant and report any problems to KHS,

8. Information exchange:

8.1 Kent Police Service

No representative was present

8.2 Kent Fire and Rescue Service

No representative was present

8.3 Sevenoaks District Council Emergency Planning Officer

In his absence Kevin Tomsett reported that there had been a gas outage in Leigh over the New Year, a reminder of emergency other than flooding that can face local communities. He had kept in close contact with the Chairman during the recent weather events.

8.4 Edenbridge Community First Responders

Installation of a defibrillator for public use had been completed on Debonhair hairdressers' building.

9. Date and venue of next meeting

Wednesday 15 June 2016 at 7.30 pm in the Sports Pavilion, Lingfield Road Recreation Ground

10. Press Release

Publicise the availability of FloodSax.

The meeting closed at 8.35pm.