

Minutes of the EDENBRIDGE EMERGENCY PLANNING COMMITTEE held at Rickards Hall at 7.30 pm on Monday 5 February 2018

Present: Cllrs R Bell, Mrs J Davison, A Layland, M V McArthur (Chairman), and L Abel (KFRS), A Dawson (SDC), K Elliott (Sencio), G New, R Rooth and J Martin

In attendance: C Lane - Town Clerk,

There were no members of the public present, and no press.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received, noted and accepted from Cllrs T Bryant, B Todd, S McGregor and M Robson; and noted from S Cash and L Brown.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None were declared by the Councillors present.

3. TO RECEIVE AND SIGN MINUTES OF THE EMERGENCY PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING HELD 6 NOVEMBER 2017

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

4. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES FOR REPORT AND NOT COVERED ELSEWHERE, none

5. FINANCIAL MATTERS

The budget and expenditure to 31 December 2017 was circulated

Agreed: that the budget shortfall for the cost of the six licence training exams should be taken, as agreed at November Council, from Council Contingency Fund.

6. REVIEW OF ACTIVITY SINCE LAST MEETING

6.1 Depth gauge

Members were pleased that the Medway Catchment Asset Performance Group had installed a new gauge board by the Stone Bridge next to the former chapel.

6.2 Medway Flood Partnership

Membership of the Partnership had been requested but no response, via the Environment Agency, had been received.

6.3 Amateur Radio licence training

The Vice Chairman had organised a bespoke Foundation Licence training course in Rickards Hall for six volunteers from 12 -14 February. If successful in passing the technically demanding test, the non-Member volunteers will be proposed for co-option on to this Committee to strengthen the communications team.

6.4 Exercise

Alex Dawson advised that SDC was planning an emergency exercise for September, and it was possible that Edenbridge could either take part as a remote participant, or run a local exercise alongside it. Further details would be available shortly.

6.5 Volunteer registration

The implementation of the new general Data Protection Legislation is likely to result in all volunteers having to complete new documentation relating to the management of their data and the purposes it can be used for. The legislation comes into effect on 31 May.

7. FORTHCOMING ACTIVITIES

7.1 Training

The Chairman had been in contact with Kent Resilience Forum regarding possible training updates for volunteers and Members, perhaps in the areas of manual handling, emergency rest centres and a Flood Warden refresher.

8. INFORMATION EXCHANGE

8.1 Kent Police Service

None, not in attendance

8.2 Kent Fire & Rescue Service

Lee Abel advised the group of the campaign by KFRS to recruit on-call firefighters for the Fire Station at Edenbridge. It is already underway and the aim is to be able to man Edenbridge Fire Station 24/7 with local crews and managers. The Council was thanked for helping to advertise the campaign.

8.3 Sevenoaks District Council Emergency Planning Officer

Alex Dawson updated the group on the wide scope of her responsibilities she has under her Emergency Planning remit. She advised that Ash Dieback disease was now a serious issue for the south of the country and some cases had already been identified in our district. She highlighted the ongoing issue of drought and that the water tables remain low. She advised that the District Council and Emergency Services were taking part in Exercise Vanguard on 6 February, to check that response to a terrorist incident in the District was sound. Issues with the newly formed Safety Advisory Group were aired with the unintended impact they are having on local events discussed. The group was advised that unfortunately, due to the current targeting of events by terrorists, this is unlikely to be changed.

8.4 Edenbridge First Responders

None, not in attendance

8.5 Open round table comments from Members, if any

Cllr Jill Davison advised the group that two radios would be returned which could be allocated to new group members as and when required.

9. DATE AND VENUE OF NEXT MEETING

Monday 2 July 7.30pm at Rickards Hall

10. PRESS RELEASE

Press release to be issued in support of Fire Officer recruitment.

The meeting closed at 8.15 pm.