

Minutes of the EDENBRIDGE EMERGENCY PLANNING COMMITTEE held at Rickards Hall at 7.30 pm on Monday 2 July 2018

Present: Cllrs R Bell, Mrs J Davison, A Layland, M V McArthur (Chairman), S McGregor, G Middleton, Z Roberts Smith, and B Todd (Vice-chairman), and L Abel (KFRS), G New, R Rooth

In attendance: K Staff – Deputy Town Clerk,

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

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received and noted from A Dawson (SDC), K Elliott (Sencio), J Brown, B Brownless, D Johnson, G Lambert and J Martin.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None were declared by the Councillors present.

3. TO ELECT THE COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN

Cllr M V McArthur was proposed as committee chairman, and there being no other nominations, members

Resolved: Cllr M V McArthur be elected committee chairman for the ensuing year.

4. TO ELECT THE COMMITTEE VICE-CHAIRMAN

Cllr B Todd was proposed as committee vice-chairman, and there being no other nominations, members

Resolved: Cllr B Todd be elected committee vice-chairman for the ensuing year.

5. TO CONFIRM CO-OPTED COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Members noted the resignation of David Johnson from the committee, and then considered the list of existing and proposed individual co-optees as follows:

Helen Doyle	Kirsty Jefferies-Elliott	Rose Briggs
Charles Laver	John Martin	Lesley Martin
Steve Mercer	Robert Peters	
Richard Rooth	Helen Burgess	Ben Brownless
Rev Stephen Mitchell	Helen Jackman	Jenny Brown
Mary Grieve	Marjorie Johnson	Margaret Watts
Jan Hart	Doreen Howe	Gwen Chappell
Wendy Sneyd	Linda Brown	Vicki Raeburn-Ward
Ronnie Pearman	Gill New	Sue Cash
Gill Lambert	Sara Young	Paul Byrne

Resolved: to confirm co-opted members as per the above list, providing non-councillor committee members with the opportunity to speak at meetings (though not to vote on decisions) and also insurance cover during activities.

6. TO RECEIVE AND SIGN MINUTES OF THE EMERGENCY PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING HELD 5 FEBRUARY 2018

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

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

8. FINANCIAL MATTERS

The budget and expenditure to 31 May 2018 was noted (*including £26 rent for equipment storage space at the WI Hall*)

9. REVIEW OF ACTIVITY SINCE LAST MEETING

9.1 Radio licence training

Congratulations were recorded to four people who attended the radio licence training arranged in mid February – Cllrs Roger Bell and Bob Todd, the Community Warden Rose Briggs, and new volunteer Paul Byrne.

10. FORTHCOMING ACTIVITIES

10.1 Training

Members considered a proposal to hold a short refresher training session for radio licence holders on Wednesday 10th October 2-3pm in Rickards Hall. Committee members with radio licences were requested to confirm their availability for the date, and it was

Resolved: to arrange the training as proposed.

11. INFORMATION EXCHANGE

11.1 Kent Police Service

None, not in attendance

11.2 Kent Fire & Rescue Service

Lee Abel advised the group of a change of roles in the service, and he was now i/c of all part-time stations in west Kent. Recently operationally Edenbridge had been quiet, but elsewhere very busy in Kent. A new all-terrain vehicle was now based in Tunbridge Wells, which included mounted spray cannon, and extended the range of locations accessible.

He explained the operational demand difficulties of getting an appliance to attend a recent fire in Edenbridge, but the campaign by KFRS to recruit on-call firefighters for the Edenbridge station had been successful, with four through interview and possibly 11 more in the pipeline. It was hoped to reach the target of 17 personnel available, and the ability to man Edenbridge Fire Station 24/7 with local crews and managers. He thanked the Council for its support.

11.3 Sevenoaks District Council Emergency Planning Officer

Alex Dawson had provided a verbal update, which included advice that the radio equipment at SDC could not be relocated within the offices due to signal reception, and currently there was an arrangement with Raynet volunteers that they would operate the equipment in an emergency.

There was still intention to run an exercise in Edenbridge based on a tall-building fire scenario, likely at the end of October. This would include opportunity for testing radio communications.

11.4 Edenbridge First Responders

None, not in attendance

11.5 Open round table comments from Members, if any

Items raised included river bridge and catchment capacity and flooding – there being no recent information from the Environment Agency on any proposals for alterations.

12. DATE AND VENUE OF NEXT MEETING

Monday 5 November 7.30pm at Rickards Hall

13. PRESS RELEASE

Press Release to be issued on successful recruitment of more fire crew.

The meeting closed at 8.10 pm.