

Minutes of the EDENBRIDGE EMERGENCY PLANNING COMMITTEE held at Rickards Hall at 7.30 pm on Monday 4 February 2019

Present: Cllrs. B Todd (Vice-chairman), Mrs J Davison, A Layland, and T Bryant, and L Abel (KFRS), Alex Dawson (EPO for SDC), R McKillop, P Byrne, R Rooth, J Martin, and G New.

In attendance: Deputy 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 M V McArthur (chairman) – unwell, R Bell – unwell, M Robson – unwell, and S. McGregor (away), and also received and noted from L Brown, H Jackman, G Lambert, L Martin, and V Pearman.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None

3. TO RECEIVE AND SIGN MINUTES OF THE EMERGENCY PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING HELD 5 NOVEMBER 2018

Resolved: that the minutes be signed by the vice-chairman 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

5.1 Current budget and expenditure update

Members noted the position up to 31 December 2018, and that purchase of a new stock of batteries for torches and megaphones at £18.26 plus VAT following the equipment audit would appear in January figures.

5.2 Committee budget for 2019/20

Members noted the budget agreed within Council's Budget was as committee requested, plus funding for the five-year radio licence due.

6. REVIEW OF ACTIVITY SINCE LAST MEETING

6.1 Exercise Eden

Alex Dawson reported on Exercise Eden held on 30th November, based on a tower block fire scenario, and using the Leisure Centre as a welfare centre and base for forward control. She advised that it had not gone as well as hoped, but had provided useful learning experience and highlighted points for change within the Sevenoaks Emergency Plan. Radio communication from Edenbridge over to Sevenoaks had worked well, with Raynet volunteers operating for SDC. The planned feed-back meeting had been postponed, as staff had been diverted to work on preparations for Brexit.

6.2 Annual equipment audit

Councillors Layland and Todd, with Robert McKillop, completed this audit in December

6.3 Review of Edenbridge Community Emergency Plan

Councillors Layland and Todd reviewed the Plan last month, and had identified several points of information to update.

6.4 Community Resilience workshop – October 2018

Members noted the Chairman and Robert McKillop attended this workshop in Tonbridge, organised by the Environment Agency and Kent Resilience Forum, to give a joint presentation on

how Edenbridge Community Emergency Plan works, and especially to share this Committee's experience of maintaining resilient communications.

7. FORTHCOMING ACTIVITIES

Members noted the annual check of First Aid kits was due – Cllr Davison had already checked one, and the Deputy Clerk would check the other.

8. INFORMATION EXCHANGE

8.1 Kent Police Service

No-one in attendance.

8.2 Kent Fire & Rescue Service

Lee Abel reported that building adaptations to co-locate the local police presence at the Fire Station had been completed. He confirmed it would not provide a public drop-in facility. The recruitment campaign to increase Edenbridge crew numbers had formally closed that day, having reached its target.

8.3 Sevenoaks District Council Emergency Planning Officer

See item 6.1 above.

8.4 Edenbridge First Responders

Not in attendance

8.5 Open round table comments from Members, if any

Alex Dawson drew the committee's attention to plans prepared to respond to the death of a senior member of the Royal Family. She also highlighted preparations being made for any emergency arising from Brexit, and the information which had been distributed to towns and parish councils by KALC.

9. DATE AND VENUE OF NEXT MEETING

Monday 22 July 2019 at 7.30pm in Rickards Hall

10. PRESS RELEASE

No items were identified for a news release.

The meeting closed at 8.17 pm.