

Minutes of Meeting

Date: 14 October 2020
Time: 14:00-16:00
Place: Zoom Virtual

West Wolds
Slow the Flow

www.westwoldsslowtheflow.org.uk

1 Present

1.1 Amanda Foster, Becky Preston (EA); Becky O'Sullivan, Suzanne Smith (Clerk) (Newbald PC); Bob Munby (South Cave PC); Bill+Elizabeth Blackledge (2B); Jackie North (North Cave PC); Richard Meredith (ERYC Ward Cllr); Claire Wood (Ellerker PC).

Apologies

1.2 Mike Kitching (ERYC FloodRisk); (EA); Victoria Aitken (ERYC Ward Cllr); Gary Collins (YW).

Note: Action items are highlighted

2 Date of next meeting set:

2.1 Wednesday 18 November, 10am

3 Actions / Matters arising from the last meeting (17 September)

3.1 Finkle St drain info (Gary Collins / Andy McLachlan) still requested. This is the drain running from Finkle Street west to the beck, not the one running north. Definitive plan (GIS) and specifications requested.

4 Meeting Protocols

4.1 It was generally agreed that we do not need formality within the group, but that we need to be seen to be using standard protocols and recording of decisions.

4.2 It was agreed that we should vote and record numbers for/against/abstaining. RM noted that he might be obliged to abstain at times, in this more formal context, due to his obligations etc as a Cllr.

4.3 Notes of the last meeting (17 Sept) were approved as a true record.

5 Role and Authority of Parish Council Representatives

5.1 Reference the ERNLLCA Guidance note shared by CW. Agreed that PCllrs cannot commit the PC to a course of action, until discussed and agreed by the PC. Main benefit of PC involvement is to ensure that the PC's concerns and ambitions are represented to WWSTF.

5.2 SS noted that rules the PCs operate under are set out in the Local Government Act 1972. SS will send the relevant section through.

5.3 Post-meeting note, SS sent the following link:

<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1972/70/section/101> - this was forwarded to WWSTF members by email 29 October.

- 5.4 Agreed that **All** will review the LGA 1972 terminology and check that there is no conflict within the WWSTF TOR.
- 5.5 AF/BP confirmed that they will refer any decisions within EA as needed, but WWSTF is well-aligned with the EA agenda.

6 Accountable Body

- 6.1 RM stated that meetings with senior ERYC Officers have confirmed that ERYC does not have the resources to act as accountable body, not least because if it does it for one, it would have to do it for all, with significant resource implications. RM noted that FRCM dept has seen budgets decreasing, not increasing, and that funding is restrictive and targets capital not revenue - so the more the Council does in capital works, the more it has to do in revenue, but there is insufficient budget for that.
- 6.2 RM suggested a possible county-wide flooding group with a management committee acting as accountable body for all flooding groups. It was discussed that to set up such a group could take considerable time and its status as a legal accountable body would still need to be resolved.
- 6.3 Discussed Yorkshire Wildlife Trust being accountable body and noted that they had not said 'no' previously, it was just that any decision would have to be referred back to director level - which was not possible in the timescale of the Yorkshire Water funding bid the last month. AF noted that there is an added complication that YWT may in future be competing for the same pot. BB said that the partnership should ideally mean we are not competing so much as chasing funds in partnership. AF agreed that such an approach would work well, especially working through the HER Catchment Partnership.
- 6.4 It was suggested that **BB** should get in touch with YWT regarding accountable body role - is there anything we can explore?
- 6.5 CM warned against pursuing charitable status due to the workload implications. BB noted the time and resource needed by the 8-10-strong team at Calderdale STF to achieve charitable status.
- 6.6 RM suggested that we might be able to get informal legal advice.
- 6.7 Discussed the possibility of a Parish Council being an accountable body, but noted that this could result in a heavy resource implication and unacceptable (illegal) responsibility outside the PC's geographical area. SS noted that Sober Hill funding also pays for PC to manage the fund.
- 6.8 RM suggested that **BB** contact Cllr Bernard Gateshill for informed comment.
- 6.9 RM mentioned the Environment and Regeneration Overview and Scrutiny Sub-Committee - 14 October 2020 which had taken place that morning.
Post-meeting note: RM issued a link to the meeting:
<https://youtu.be/Qn68kOYa0mQ?t=6486> - S19 report (Steve Charlton) starts at 1:47; Everthorpe is discussed at <https://youtu.be/Qn68kOYa0mQ?t=7349> 2:02:28 - apparently there is a phase 2 design in progress. Interesting to note that the solution to (YW) Combined Sewer Overflows (CSOs) in Atwick

was not to prevent the CSOs occurring (noted that YW had not engaged well) but to clear the beck so that it could better accept the CSOs in times of flood. Better for properties but not good for the environment. Skidby is discussed at 2:04:00 - notable that a flood wall was insufficient but a mound has proven more effective - example of a successful low-carbon approach resolving surface water issue. Failure of YW maintenance noted at Swinemoor and Hedon.

7 ERYC Flood Alleviation

7.1 RM noted report of preparation and appraisal of South Cave Flood Alleviation scheme, and that other works would be spreading out concentrically from Hull (inc Langtoft, Middleton on the Wolds, Brough, Market Weighton, Hessle, Carnaby). It was discussed that ERYC could achieve more through partnership working than by working on its own. Also noted that response to flood risk mapping does not account for the subtleties of surface water flooding. Frustrating that not all parties engage in a genuine partnership approach.

7.2 **ERYC Flood Risk was requested to discuss the South Cave Flood Alleviation Scheme with us ASAP.**

8 Yorkshire Water (Community Fund Bid) and further actions

8.1 Noted that YW had confirmed that there was no issue with the bid itself, it was only the level of competition for funding which meant that they could not satisfy all applications. Also noted that the bid manager had asked Gary Collins to work further with us. When sending apologies for this meeting, Gary said that he would be handing over responsibility to engineer Sereya Sigsworth and that she was 'meeting with the consultants today'.

8.2 **Gary Collins has been requested to provide contact details for Sereya.**

8.3 The PC's noted that previous statements of commitment have not resulted in action.

8.4 AF reported that the WWSTF Feasibility Study had been entered into the Medium Term Plan (MTP) for the Water Environment Improvement Fund (WEIF). Indication of Funding availability in early 2021, which will be targeted toward Water Framework Directive benefits, but will be very competitive. This would become available in next financial year. May not have issue with accountable body as EA may be able to project manage. No promises possible as to likelihood, but there are often later opportunities e.g. if other funding not spent. There will also be opportunity for continuity of funding following feasibility, if successful. AF was thanked for her positive efforts.

8.5 Would it be acceptable to approach large businesses for funding? BB wondered whether businesses would want to sponsor a non-charity organisation. It would be necessary to approach businesses across the catchment. To be considered further.

8.6 RM suggested approaching Leanne Wright @ ERYC ref access to committed sums. It is possible that ERYC may not need there to be an accountable body. **RM suggested emailing ERYC Customer Services to contact Leanne (ref RM) - BB to follow up.**

9 Publicity

- 9.1 JN suggested preparing a newsletter for residents, ask for views and welcome concerns.
- 9.2 Discussed working through existing parish publications: Village Link (bimonthly); South Cave Parish Newsletter 10x/year; Ellerker News is quarterly - mostly emailed plus some hardcopy; Newbald has a quarterly print newsletter which can also be emailed.
- 9.3 Social media: we need more help to make this work better.
- 9.4 Still need Vice Chair role to be publicised and met.

10 Actions in relation to Forward Planning

- 10.1 Chris Cole presented at last meeting and was very willing to have concerns around development plans and land bids, and their impact on flooding or on preventing NFM, to be represented back to Forward Planning. Again noted that Neighbourhood Plans could recognise WWSTF strategy and would carry statutory weight, but only Ellerker and Newbald are actively pursuing NPs.
- 10.2 Discussed possibility of BB (Zoom) meeting each PC to discuss land bids etc, make notes, compile for all PCs, share with partners then submit to Forward Planning.
- 10.3 RM noted that ERYC is meeting its Housing Supply targets but the Planning White Paper has thrown all targets into question. ERYC is objecting vociferously to the White Paper. There is proposed to be a wide consultation on targets by ERYC in Spring 2021, and we can be part of that process. So although this work is important, it is not urgent. However, it was agreed to progress this in order to be better prepared.

11 Any Other Business

- 11.1 Brantingham - surface water issues being addressed by ERYC - although WWSTF knows nothing about it.
- 11.2 RM noted ERYC report today on surface water improvements in Everthorpe (see para 6.9 above): Phase 1 complete, Phase 2 being designed. BB noted a) absence of multiple benefits to the pipe-based proposals and b) if WWSTF was informed, we would be pleased to publicise in Village Link and inform Everthorpe residents accordingly. We continue to seek better communication and a closer partnership approach.
- 11.3 RM suggested inviting Cllr Nigel Wilkinson to next NC Parish Council meeting to address Planning White Paper implications in the parish. RM would do the same for Ellerker PC.