

Minute of KPFG meeting 11th August 2016

Present

Ken Ledingham
Jim Buchan
John MacNicol
Jude Galas
Irene Ferguson
Helen Chalmers

Previous Minute

1. The minute from the last meeting had already been circulated to residents having been approved by e-mail. Irene said she had not seen the latest version. Ken said he would send her a copy.

Matters Arising

2A. **People not on e-mail list**- Ken raised the issue of visits to those in KP not on the email list and to people on Bremner Way. Previously there was a list with people allocated to do visits but as Eileen Cook has resigned the list needs to be revised. Eileen was to visit the first 5 folk on the list and these were reallocated to Helen who offered to visit them. Ken confirmed that he had visited other folk but there was a small group of 10 people who need to have paper copies as they do not have e-mail. Helen said she was willing to distribute paper copies to numbers 5 -51. No 59 is for sale and John agreed to do 91 to 119.

2B. **Petition** – Ken indicated that a letter of acknowledgement had been received from Aberdeenshire Council which was very positive.

2C. **Scottish Flood Forum survey**- John is developing a spreadsheet for Paul Hendy showing the extent of damage to properties in KP affected by flood water. This exercise will show that not only houses were affected but that gardens, outhouses and other property like cars/caravans were damaged. John said he was happy to keep this work going.

2D. **Inverurie and Garioch Flood Support Group** - Ken indicated that Irene has found a contact name and number for this group but asked if members felt it was relevant to contact them at this time. After discussion it was agreed that Ken would send an email to the group.

2E. **SEPA and Scottish Water** – Ken indicated that there had been no further news from SEPA and that he had been due to send them a reminder but had not done so as yet. We had asked them to carry out a study of the flood defences at Kembhill Park but Irene had indicated that they would only respond to such a request from a body like Aberdeenshire Council. Discussion took place and it was agreed to put SEPA on the back burner for now.

Scottish Water – Ken indicated that SW had responded; a copy of their letter had already been circulated. Ken said he had spoken to a Diane Burgess at SW and it was agreed that

Aberdeenshire Council and Scottish Water should agree a time and date for a joint meeting and that we would be invited to attend. Ken said he had also written to Alexander Burnett, MSP and asked him to contact SW about holding such a meeting.

2F. BBQ arrangements – Jim agreed to send out a paper copy of the invitation letter to all houses in a last attempt to drum up interest as there had not been as good a response as hoped. The date for the BBQ would now need to be the 3rd September to allow time for organisation. Pauline Paterson has offered to be contact for the primary school and Jim will also include folk in the Bremner Way area. Jim will also continue to liaise with the church about catering arrangements.

Agenda Items

3. Temporary flood protection at KP – Following the recent Watergate demonstration Ken asked if the group was now happy to indicate their support to the Council to accept their offer of the barrier if they decided to go ahead with its purchase. After discussion it was agreed that Ken will draft a letter to residents asking them to vote for or against accepting the barrier with a deadline for responses. Ken indicated that the Council is waiting for a decision from the group.

The question about insurance cover for volunteers who might be involved in the deployment of the barrier was raised. Ken indicated that Irene Ferguson from KCC had information about this issue. Irene said that KCC will confirm the position at their next meeting if they can cover such volunteers.

It was suggested that there remain a number of questions about the deployment of the barriers and where they might be located. Ken agreed to put together a list of questions which we can put to the council and send this out to residents to see if they have any other questions which we might not have thought about. Group members will be sent a copy of the questions so that they can comment before the document is sent to the Council.

4. Public meeting – Jim indicated that there had been previous discussion about having a public meeting to get the group formally constituted. It was agreed that such a meeting should be timed to take place after the BBQ (if it goes ahead). The first item on the agenda will be to explain what this group is about and what it will do to achieve our goal of permanent flood protection at Kembhill Park.

Jim said that he would send out a copy of the Draft Constitution to committee members and once it was agreed he will make photocopies to deliver to all residents in KP. Jim indicated that he would produce Version 1.0 of the Constitution based on the current draft but will remove all unnecessary formatting to produce a clean copy.

Discussion took place about what size of quorum would be required for AGM and SGM meetings. It was suggested that this should be the three office bearers + 6 members = 9. It was agreed that the inaugural meeting of the new group would take place at Kemnay Academy on 14th September 2016. Ken said he would make the booking arrangements.

5. Feedback from KCC- Irene indicated that KCC had received an initial response from the Council to the letter that they had sent asking for a Kemnay Flood Risk Assessment to be carried out but that this had not answered all their questions and a second letter was now being sent. It had been pointed out that communication from the Council to various bodies has not been good and needs to be improved and the Council has agreed to this. The KCC letter had also queried the fact that a bund had been built at the Burley Bush Council depot next to the Golf Club without any planning application being made. Irene said that the issue of insurance for volunteers will be discussed at the next KCC meeting and that she will confirm what has been discovered at a subsequent KPFG meeting but there should not be any major concerns. Irene commented that there is a need for a flood protection bund to be built at Milton Meadows and the residents association will be pursuing this with the Council.

6. Letter to MSP- Ken said that he had spoken to a Grace O’Keeffe who is secretary to Alexander Burnett (MSP). She had ‘phoned Ken in response to his letter sent some time ago and has since drafted letters to various bodies, including SEPA, raising the issues Ken had discussed with her. Ken said she had given him the opportunity to amend these letters which he had done and has sent these back to Grace. Ken said that he will circulate copies of these letters to group members. Ken has proposed significant changes to strengthen the case for action toward a permanent barrier being built sooner rather than later. Ken’s suggested amendments were both welcomed and accepted.

7. AOB- John raised an issue concerning home property and content insurance. He said that residents in Ellon have reported that insurers have upped insurance excesses to £10,000.

Ken indicated that we need to develop our own resilience plan for Flood Wardens and tabled the document from Scottish Flood Forum on this topic. Jim agreed to read the document and see what needs to be done to produce a version which is suitable for Kembhill Park.

Ken mentioned a talk which had been given at a recent KCC meeting by a representative from Scottish and Southern Energy and drew attention to their scheme to protect the energy supplies of vulnerable people who were placed on their “at risk” register.

Email from Gordon – Discussion took place on an appropriate response to Gordon’s latest e-mail. It was agreed that he should be asked to share any new information that has come into his possession.

8. Date of next meeting- A date was not fixed due to the next meeting of the group being the inaugural meeting of KPFG on the 14th of September.