



DRAFT Minute KPFG Committee

Meeting 17/05/2017

Present

Ken Ledingham (Chairman)
Jim Buchan (Secretary)
John MacNicol (Treasurer)
Alastair Gill
Steve McGill
Tamara Forgie-Watt
Eleanor McEwan

Apologies

Helen Chalmers
Jude Galas
Irene Ferguson

1. Apologies and welcome:

Apologies were noted and Ken welcomed all present to the meeting.

2. Minute of meeting 19/04/17, approval and circulation:

Having noted a few typos, the previous meeting minute was approved for publication.

3. Feedback from KCC:

John had attended the KCC meeting and provided feedback.

John indicated that Colin Gray, Emergency Planning Officer from the Council was present and discussed the KCC resilience plan. He mentioned the insurance arrangements for covering formal volunteers and said that the Council Infrastructure Services department will replenish sand bags as needed. These are currently stored in the Watergate container. A contractor to help deploy the Watergate barrier is yet to be appointed. Colin also said that resilience coordinator training is to be arranged in June but no date has been set for this as yet. Ken might attend as the lead co-ordinator for the Kembhill Park area.

It was indicated that in an emergency the Red Cross are to be on hand to provide emergency medical cover and they may bring along a communications truck. It was agreed that KPFG should continue to plan for



its own backup communications system in the event that during an emergency the normal telephone service might be down.

John also mentioned that the SSE wind turbine fund was discussed but it was not thought appropriate to look at this at the moment as our plans for alternative flood defences are not sufficiently progressed as yet.

Sleeping Dragon Project:

Eleanor asked for an update on the group's plans for a community project which would improve flood defences at KP.

Jim described the idea of building a flood defence round the most vulnerable houses in KP which would not require planning permission nor SEPA's approval. This plan consisted of building a wall up to a metre high on peoples' own land and inserting temporary barriers to seal paths and gates in the case of a flood event being forecast. Ken has asked a local building contractor to provide some indicative costs for such a project. There ensued a long discussion about how such a project could be funded and how the community could be involved.

Any structural project on Council land it was indicated would need to have planning permission and this would mean that SEPA would become involved. This in turn would lead to the need for a Flood Risk Assessment which might cost a three figure sum to complete and this is money that the Council do not have in their budget plans at this time. Ken explained the earliest that such work could be funded as part of the Council's flood protection plans would be during the 2022 to 2028 work cycle if the Council agreed Kemnay should be included in their priority list for this period.

Eleanor mentioned Cordelia Menmuir from SEPA and asked if she had been consulted about the situation at Kemnay. Ken confirmed that he had spoken with Cordelia some time ago but she had not been able to offer any "helpful" advice. John pointed out that SEPA had missed the gap in the flood defences at KP when they had surveyed the area.

Some time was then taken up explaining past events and the general context of flood risk for the Kembhill Park estate.

Action: Ken agreed to send Eleanor a written summary of past events .

Discussion then took place about the possibility of a community art project such as the Sleeping Dragon idea which had first been raised by the committee. Eleanor said she would ask Alan Hanna from Sanctuary Housing to come and have a conversation with KPFG as he has experience of this sort of project.



Eleanor thought that a community art project would be easier to get funding for. Such a project would need to include people from the local community as well as schools and other relevant local groups.

Ken then mentioned other ideas the group has been considering such as building a large raised flower beds across the “wild flower garden” area with gaps which could be plugged with sections of the Watergate barrier or similar flood gates if they were needed and thus lead to an improvement of the flood defences at KP.

Eleanor said that a gardening project would be a good idea for a proposal and that we could apply for funding from various sources to acquire the land to develop it for the benefit of the local community. Eleanor said that Community Empowerment legislation allows for community groups taking over land that is not well maintained by authorities.

Action: Eleanor agreed to provide information about the Empowerment legislation. She will also try to identify someone with a “good listening ear” in the planning department and refer us to this person.

4. Matters arising from last minute-

a. Feedback from KCC meeting-

Action: Irene to talk to Sub Sea to see if they would be interested in transporting and deploying the barrier as they are locally based.

Irene not present so no update available.

b. Contact with Stuart Donaldson, MP:

Action: Paul to contact Rosanna (Cunningham) and report back to the next meeting.

Paul not present so no update available.

c. Letter to Alexander Burnett, MSP:

Alistair has written to the MSP and received a reply from Grace O’Keeffe, his Case Worker about the Parliamentary Question which he raised about our PVA status and being added automatically to the PVA list since we had in fact been flooded.

The answer appears to be that the Scottish Ministers are minded not to use their power to take any interim action at this time which might assist the KPFG cause.

Discussion followed about the Flood Risk (Scotland) act and its current deficiency. It was felt that the reasons which Roseanna Cunningham gave in her Parliamentary reply to take no action at this time were lacking in merit and that we should continue to challenge the Scottish Government on this question.



Jim thought that we should ask Alexander Burnett to seek clarification of the Government's position not to use their powers to take action in advance of the 2019 deadline for the current SEPA review.

Jim also stated that he felt that the Act is deficient in that funding for flood prevention work is only available to areas which have PVA designation. However, if an area had been flooded surely it can then be described as a Vulnerable Area (VA). The Flood Risk (Scotland) Act does not recognise the concept of a VA therefore it should be considered deficient. On this basis, we should challenge the assertion that the Act is not deficient. If an area is flooded then it should be automatically designated as a PVA.

Action: Alastair agreed to write back to Alexander Burnett based of the above discussion.

d. Web site funding:

Action: Jude will follow this up and report back with any further funding leads.

Action: Jim agreed to issue details of the website to the local community via a Mail Chimp update.

There was no further feedback from Jude as she was not present.

Jim described the SPAM Assassin Professional service which he has paid for on the basis of a life time subscription.

Jim indicated that all committee members can have a KPFG.org email address if they wish. No one said they needed this at present.

e. Application for Charitable status-

Action: Jim to try to get these forms completed and have AVA comment on them before submitting.

Jim said he had circulated the current draft and is awaiting a meeting with AVA to get the form validated. Once this is done it can be submitted to OSCR. The application is for full charitable status.

f. Collection of data on house damages-

Action: Jim to progress this matter when time permits.

Action: Jim to do a letter asking for any information which people are willing to share about these costs.

Jim has sent out a request for information and has had 3 responses.

Tamara said that Sanctuary Housing spent £30k per property plus £2k for alternative housing; this included a discount for having a number of houses affected by the flooding. Some people stayed with family members keeping the alternative accommodation costs down.



Action: Jim to ask members and residents again for the information.

Action: Jim to do an email to Paul to query how the FloodRe scheme should work and to get clarification as to whether customers are having to pay for the fund by increased premiums.

Action: not done yet. Jim will follow up.

g. Meeting with David Fyfe, Fetternear Estate:

Action: Jim is awaiting reply to his email.

Action: Jim to write again.

Jim has emailed again but has not received any response to date.

Action: Jim will phone David Fyfe

h. Drain cleaning:

Action: Ken to write to the local councillors to see if this might get action

Action: Ken will continue to follow this up.

John reported that the drains have been cleaned but there was concern that the overgrown grass and weeds have not been cleared yet.

Action: Ken will follow-up by writing again.

i. Rotary pump:

Action: Jim to price quick fit joints. (Also issue of storage in Council container)

Jim had circulated prices for replacement couplings and asked if we should go ahead and purchase these at £270 inc VAT, approx. It was agreed that we should not purchase these items at the time and should wait to see how the system works when we do an exercise and whether we needed more soft output hose.

Action: Jim to email Milton Meadows group to see if they are interested in also purchasing CamLock Connectors; this would mean we could exchange hoses .

Action: Jim to price a soft output hose.

Action: Ken to ask the Council (Graham) if the main hose and/or pump can be stored in the container.

j. Letter to Stuart Donaldson, MP:

Action: Helen and Ken have worked on a letter to Mr Donaldson – this has been sent and they are awaiting his response. (See response from Roseanna Cunningham)



Ken had circulated the response from Rosanna Cunningham to Stuart Donaldson. Despite her negative response about a change in the Flood Risk (Scotland) Act it was agreed that there is merit in keeping this issue alive.

Action: Ken to draft a response and circulate to committee members.

k. Funding from Garioch Partnerships, purchase of equipment:

Action: Jim will circulate the quote he received to committee members for information.

Jim as circulated information about CB radios which can be used in an emergency to maintain communication between KPFG volunteers.

Alastair said that his company are upgrading their equipment and he might be able to persuade them to donate their old handsets to KPFG .

Action: Alistair will make enquiries to see if the old handsets could be donated to KPFG.

It was agreed to wait and see how he got on so there was no need for further action at the moment.

l. Allocation of tasks in relation to the Emergency Resilience Plan and KPFG organisation:

Action: Jim to make announcement in church about getting volunteers.
Not done yet; Jim to get this done before the next meeting.

Jim made an announcement in church which resulted in two volunteers from Street Pastors saying they were willing to help in an emergency and another church member who offered a short term room/bed in their home should it be needed.

Action: *Jim will produce a form for people to fill their contact details and indicate what service they can offer.*

Action: Jim to approach a local resident to ask about his volunteering to operate the Rotary pump in an emergency.

Still to be done

Steve has spoken to KP the taxi firm and they are willing to provide assistance in an emergency with transport etc.

Action: Steve to pass contact details to Ken.

m. List of volunteers to deploy Watergate when needed:

Helen had said that it would be best to send an e-mail to Alan Findlater to ask what he would be able to offer in the way of help in an emergency.

Action: Ken agreed to write to him.



Ken said he has done this and is awaiting a reply.

n. Sleeping Dragon art project:

Action: Jim agreed to ask if there would be any interest at the Academy to be involved in a community art project.

Jim to keep this on his to do list.

Jim said he has spoken to the Art department but due to pressure of work there was little chance of them being involved.

Action: All committee members to consider who might be approached to provide input to such a project and to make initial contact with folk they knew might be interested.

o. KPFG resilience plan:

Alastair said he is working on a final draft and had circulated his latest version for comment. It was agreed that we would review the plan at the next meeting.

Action: Put on agenda for next meeting.

p. Watergate flood barrier

Ken gave an update on communications with the Council regarding storage and deployment of the barrier.

Ken said that he had been told by a KCC member that the container is likely to be moved from its present position to the main depot. Ken will ask the Council about this arrangement and any implications.

q. Contact details for KP residents:

Action: Jim to produce a contact details form using one form that can work for members and non - members.

Action: Jim to progress this as time permits

r. BBQ:

Action: Ken to send e-mail to see if people want to have another BBQ and help with the arrangements.

Ken said that two people had indicated to him that they were interested in helping to organise another BBQ but only one person has said they were keen to attend. It was agreed to take no further action at this time but to wait and see how things progress.

5. Update on Resilience Plan:



See discussion above under 4(o)

Alastair shared his new draft of the plan for Zone 3 which is a section of the Kemnay Community Council Plan. He said that further work is now needed to complete the appendices.

Action: Alastair is to circulate an electronic copy to committee members. Members are asked to comment on the revised plan and, once it has been agreed, a copy will be passed to KCC.

6. Scottish and Southern Resilient Communities Fund application:

This item was held over from last meeting.

Ken reported that we are not ready to apply for funding from this fund as yet as more work is required to firm up our proposals.

7. Attendance at KCC meeting 25th May 2017

Steve McGill agreed to attend for KPFG.

8. Boundary walls flood defence idea:

See discussion under item 3 above. It was agreed to give this idea further consideration. If this is a viable flood defence project, we need to find a local building firm which can offer design and costing advice. Ken has had some design costings from a local builder but needs further information to bring back to the committee.

Action: Ken to follow up with the builder.

8. Feed back on appeal to Church Members:

To seek volunteers for emergency work in the event of a future flood/.

See report under 3(L) above.

9. Date and venue of next meeting:

Jim reported that there was an offer from Kemnay Parish Church for KPFG to use a room for our meetings at the church centre. The Church Centre is now registered as a respite location in the KCC resilience plan and they are keen to support the ongoing work of the local flood/resilience groups. If we can move to a Thursday evening for our meetings we can use one of the downstairs rooms.

Discussion took place on moving all meetings to a Thursday and this was agreed. If there is a need to have a meeting on a different evening it was agreed that we can explore that on a case by case basis.



10. **AOCB** Ken indicated that he had written to each of the candidates in the upcoming Council election giving them a briefing paper about why Kemnay was in the current situation as far as our lack of adequate flood defences was concerned and asking for their support in getting a higher priority for Kemnay. Ken said he had circulated a copy of his paper to committee members and would send a copy to KP residents.
11. **Date of next meeting- 7.pm, 22th June 2017 at Kemnay Church Centre.**