

Copythorne Parish Council Meeting – May 16th 2023

Item 21 - To receive & approve a response to the HCC F&WM Team “Bartley Water-Flood Risk Investigation Report

BACKGROUND

At the Council meeting on Sept 27th 2022 a report on the above was presented as Item 11 on the agenda. The following is an extract from the minutes of the meeting:-

155/22 To receive and note the HCC Flood & Water Management Team response to the Parish Council's comments on the “Bartley Water Flood Risk Investigation Report”

Cllr. Chillcott (as Chair of the Flooding Advisory Committee presented a report (a copy of which is included in the supporting documents for this meeting on the Parish website) and asked members to note it's contents.

Cllr. Goodwin said that he remains concerned that the proposed 2022 Bartley Flood Report still has no information on the severe flooding that occurred in Bartley, as well as elsewhere in the Parish and southern England, over the 2013 -2014 winter period. By way of a counter-proposal to that contained in the report, Cllr. Goodwin proposed that a decision on noting the response be deferred until further consideration had been given by the Flooding Advisory Committee on asking the HCC Flood & Water Management Team to amend their report to reflect his concerns.

RESOLVED: That the Counter-Proposal be approved.

Proposed by Cllr. Goodwin, seconded by Cllr. Lady Kara, CARRIED

ACTION – Flooding Advisory Committee to consider Cllr. Goodwin's request

The issue of making reference to the 2013-14 Flooding had previously been raised by Cllr. Goodwin at the March 8th 2022 Council meeting when Council considered a report. Cllr. Goodwin's comment and the Flooding Advisory Committee response was as follows:-

JG Comment: Additionally this new report makes no mention whatsoever on properties affected or the work carried out following the 2013-14 flooding.

FAC response – If we can be provided with details for the above then we will ask HCC to reference these issues.

At its meeting on October 7th 2022 the Flooding Advisory Committee considered Cllr. Goodwin's request. The following is an extract from the notes of that meeting:-

Item 4 - Update on response to the HCC F&WM Team Bartley Flood Investigation Report following report to Council on September 27th 2022.

Cllr. Goodwin's concerns raised at the September 27th 2022 Council meeting that “..the proposed 2022 Bartley Flood Report still has no information on the severe flooding that occurred in Bartley, as well as elsewhere in the Parish and southern England, over the 2013 -2014 winter period..” were considered. Members noted that Cllr. Goodwin had raised this point (and others) previously at the March 8th 2022 Council meeting. The Flooding Advisory Committee's response to the points raised by Cllr. Goodwin was agreed at its April 6th 2022 (item 4, point 6). In respect of the “omission of the 2013/14 flooding” the response was “If we can be provided with details for the above then we will ask HCC to reference these issues”. No information was forthcoming and the Flooding Advisory Committee made a report to the May 10th 2022 Council meeting (Agenda item 20/minute 102/22) which was approved.

To move this matter forward all Flooding Advisory Committee members agreed to ask the Clerk to e-mail Cllr. Goodwin and ask him to supply the information/comment that he would like to see in the “Bartley Report”. Once received a report will be submitted by the Flooding Advisory Committee to a meeting of the Council seeking approval to ask the HCC F&WM Team to include the information/comment within their “Bartley Report”

ACTION – Clerk to contact Cllr. John Goodwin as detailed above.

At the Flooding Advisory Committee meeting on January 20th 2023 the Clerk provided the following update which was included in the notes of that meeting:-

UPDATE – e-mail sent, no additional information was received

(Cont'd./....)

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Since then, in response to a query from Cllr. John Goodwin during the February 14th 2023 Council Meeting, the Clerk arranged for the HCC F&WMT report in question to be added to the Council website.

On March 6th 2023 the Clerk received a complaint from a resident that proper procedure has not been followed and that the Council still needed to discuss a response to the report as agreed at the Council meeting on September 27th 2022.

This same point was raised by a resident during the Public Session at the March 14th 2023 Council meeting. All members were provided with a paper detailing the concerns by the resident. This included the following extract from the papers for an NFNPA New Forest Consultative Panel meeting on September 4th 2014:-

Consultative Panel 4 September 2014

Responses from the Environment Agency – David Horne

Further dwellings that we have now been notified were flooded over winter (in addition to those on slide 4 of Wes' presentation):

Cadnam – 3

Copythorne – 2

Bartley (inc Shepherds Rd) – 9

Marchwood – 3

With the big caveat that these are only the ones that have been reported to us.

If they would like further information regarding the flood response Wes is happy to be contacted - wesley.jones@environment-agency.gov.uk.

We are continuing to work with partners and local communities to manage flood risk.

We've gathered additional information on the numbers of properties affected by flooding over the winter, including in Bartley, Cadnam and Copythorne.

As a result, the Chairman of the Council and the Clerk agreed that the HCC F&WMT report would be removed from the Parish Council's website and the matter raised would be discussed at the next Flooding Advisory Committee. A report from the Flooding Advisory Committee would then be brought to a future Council Meeting.

CURRENT POSITION

The Flooding Advisory Committee ("FAC") met on April 21st. As Chairman of the FAC, I started the discussion by confirming that the "Bartley Flood Report" had been removed from the Council's website. I went on to say that following John Goodwin providing additional specific information from the Environment Agency about the impact of the flooding in winter 2013/14 as part of presentation in the Public Session of the February 14th 2023 Council meeting, the FAC was now in a position to ask the HCC F&WMT to include these details within their report.

My proposal was that the FAC recommended to the Council that it instructs the Clerk to write to the Environment Agency to ask if the information that has been found is correct and if so, the Clerk then writes to the HCC F&WMT and advise them of the information and ask that they include the details in a revision of their report. This proposal was seconded by Cllr. Lady Kara Hawks, all members of the FAC present were in favour.

ACTION REQUIRED

That the Council approves the recommendation detailed in the "current position" section above.

Cllr. Graham Chillcott
April 22nd 2023