

EXETER CITY COUNCIL
SOUTH WEST WATER LIAISON GROUP

Wednesday 30 April 2014

Present:-

Councillor Lesley Robson (Chair)
Councillor Keith Owen

Jay Harris, South West Water
Mary Evans, Residents Representative
Simon Ruddy, Exeter City Council
Ian Ward, South West Water
Jo Quinnell, Assistant Democratic Services Officer (Committees)

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APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Councillor Newby, Jack Board and Kevin Bingham.

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MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 12 FEBRUARY 2014

The minutes of the meeting held on 12 February 2014 were agreed.

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MATTERS ARISING

Jay Harris reported that Cornwall College had installed the odour monitors on 9 April and plans identifying the location of these were circulated for information.

On Tuesday 6 May, Cornwall College would download the first tranche of data – complaints have been made during the time the monitors have been in place. The timescale as to how long the data report would take was unknown.

Enquiries would be made as to whether any spare monitors are available so that they could be located at the school. If no monitors were available at this time, it would be investigated at a later date.

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OPERATIONAL UPDATE

Ian Ward reported on the operation of the new sludge treatment plant. It was not fully in use, as they are not prepared to sign it off until the snagging list has been resolved. However, it can be used if required.

An amount of sludge was also going through the existing process.

Work had been undertaken on the storm tanks. Reference was made to 'Water Live' on the internet which provides up to date information, although this was purely set up for the clean water site. Simon Ruddy referred to a complaint received whereby the complainant had advised that he had seen details of works being undertaken on line. Ian advised that the information may have been transferred onto that site.

Email addresses for members of the Group would be sent to Jay Harris in order that he can advise of any planned works.

Problems had been encountered with the sludge screen, which had created some odours. SWW were seeking some investment to cover this totally or by some other means as there will be increased flows from Cranbrook. This may have resulted in some of the sweeter smelling odours being experienced.

Since the last meeting, a meeting had been held on site with Persimmon at the Pumping Station. A number of failings had been identified with the pump station, and there had been an acknowledgement from Persimmon that it was not designed as it should be and a willingness to rectify it. A further meeting was taking place this afternoon to discuss issues and to get a commitment from them to carry out the work and a timescale for this. Works will be undertaken with SWW's advice, prior to adoption.

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COMPLAINTS

The complaints were noted.

It was reported that there were no issues with sludge at present.

A different odour was given off last summer as the sludge had turned septic. It was considered that the problems last year had heightened residents' awareness as no complaints had been received in the previous summer.

A regular dialogue would be helpful with ECC to provide a weekly update to enable a proactive approach.

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ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Flooding in Topsham

Mary Evans referred to the recent flooding at the Pumping Station in Topsham. She enquired whether it was possible to build a bank at the rear of the building by the river to stop the water.

Ian Ward responded by advising that this was more of a flood defence issue and needed to be looked at as a whole. A wall at the building would merely push the problem further up, but a wall at the end of the recreation ground may be a consideration. It was suggested that the Environment Agency be contacted.

Terms of Reference and attendance

Councillor Owen advised that the Terms of Reference are currently being reviewed. It was likely that representation would come from three ward councillors, with the Portfolio Holder being invited depending on his/her ability to attend.

£5,000 to Wear United

Mary Evans enquired where the £5,000 had been allocated which was for residents/groups in the areas that were affected by the odours. Councillor Robson advised that this had been distributed to groups such as the Topsham football ground, Countess Wear School, 100 Club.

Potential odours

Jay Harris reported on some works to be undertaken to clean the digesters that could potentially create some odours. He would liaise with ECC once the date had been confirmed.

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DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The date of the next meeting was arranged for Wednesday 23 July at 2.30pm at SWW Offices, Countess Wear.

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TOUR OF THE WORKS

The tour of the works did not take place.

(The meeting commenced at 2.30 pm and closed at 3.15 pm)

Chair