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**Minutes of the meeting of the Essex Flood Partnership Board (Private Meeting), held Online on Wednesday, 26 January 2022**

**Present:**

**Members of the Board:**

Cllr Lee Scott	Essex County Council
Cllr Nigel Avey	Epping Forest District Council
Cllr Simon Crow	Colchester Borough Council
Cllr Gary Collins	Thurrock Council
Jonathan Glerum	Anglian Water
Cllr Simon Hart	Castle Point Borough Council
Rachel Keen	Environment Agency
Peter Massie	Essex County Council
Cllr Mike Mackrory	Chelmsford City Council
John Meehan	Essex County Council
Cllr Richard Moore	Basildon Borough Council
David Orrin	Environment Agency
Cllr Richard Pavitt	Uttlesford District Council
Cllr Nicky Purse	Harlow District Council
Cllr Wendy Schmitt	Braintree District Council
Lucy Shepherd	Essex County Council
Cllr Dave Sperring	Rochford District Council
Cllr Nick Turner	Tendring District Council

**Also present:**

James Ennos	Tendring District Council
Daniel Johns	WRE
Richard Powell	RFCC
David Prudence	Essex Highways
Peter Richardson	Essex County Council
Glenn Shaw	Essex County Council
Tim Simpson	Essex County Council
David Strang	Water UK
Lisa Siggins	Essex County Council – Democratic Services
Mandy Thompson	Epping Forest District Council
Nuvtej Tung	Thurrock Council

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**1 Online meeting protocol and software functionality**

Councillor Scott explained the online meeting protocol and software functionality.

**2 Membership, Apologies, Substitutions and Declarations of Interest**

The report of the Membership, Apologies, Substitutions and Declarations was received.

It was noted that Cllr Sue White had been reappointed at the representative for Maldon District Council

Apologies had been received from:

Peta Denham- EA – David Orrin substituting  
Mark Eaglestone - Essex County Fire and Rescue Service  
Cllr Mulroney - Southend-on-Sea Borough Council

No declarations of interest were made

**3 Minutes from the previous meeting**

The Minutes of the meeting held on 23rd November 2021 were approved as a correct record.

With regards to Minute 8 (**Local Nature Partnership**), Cllr Schmitt enquired as to whether the first meeting had taken place. Tim Simpson advised that there had been some internal delays, but the first meeting was now planned for February.

**4 Water UK: A Legal and Policy Introduction**

The Board received a presentation from David Strang, Senior Legal and Policy Adviser at Water UK (<https://www.water.org.uk/>)

The Water UK team engages with companies and regulators to ensure customers receive high quality tap water at a reasonable price and that our environment is protected and improved.

Jonathan Glerum raised the issue of wet wipes and the problems that they cause.

Cllr Hart raised an issue concerning local authorities being reluctant to impose planning conditions on developers. A discussion followed and it was acknowledged that this did vary across the various authorities within the County.

Cllr Collins raised an issue within his area with it being confirmed that contact will be made with him in this regard.

The presentation can be found [here](#)

## **5 Water Resources East (WRE): Regional and Local Strategies**

The Board received a presentation from Daniel Johns, Managing Director, Water Resources East (<https://wre.org.uk/>) regarding the ongoing Regional Strategy and leading Local Water Resource Strategies.

The Board were advised that WRE's Water Resources Regional Plan was out to consultation and that WRE were hosting a webinar to launch the Regional Plan on 1<sup>st</sup> February. Full details and links were forward to members following the meeting.

In response to a question raised by Cllr Turner, Mr Johns clarified the relationship between Ofwat and the water companies.

Mr Johns also gave details of drought resistance plans in response to a question raised by Cllr Collins.

The presentation can be found [here](#)

## **6 2021-22 Essex Capital Flood Programme update**

To receive a report **EFPB/01/22** from Dave Chapman, Project Delivery Manager, which was presented by Peter Richardson, project design engineer on the progress of schemes in the Floods Capital Programme.

Members were asked if there were any questions or issues arising from the report and there were none.

## **7 Land Drainage Law and Watercourse Regulation Case Studies**

The Board received a presentation from Lucy Shepherd and Glenn Shaw from the Lead Local Flood Authority Team, which provided a recap on the requirements of Land Drainage Act responsibilities and visiting some recent case studies from across the County.

It was confirmed that guidance on maintenance responsibilities was available online, a copy of which was forwarded to Members following the meeting.

In response to a question, it was confirmed that enforcement under Sec 23 of the Land Drainage Act 1991 was retrospective for a period of six months.

There followed a discussion regarding the issues concerning maintenance responsibilities.

Two examples of recent case studies were shown to the Board.

The presentation can be found [here](#)

**8 Development and Flood Risk. Sustainable Drainage Team Update**

The Board received a presentation from Tim Simpson, Green Infrastructure and Sustainable Drainage Manager, on Essex County Council's statutory role as a consultee for Sustainable Drainage.

Cllr Turner raised an issue regarding the safety and maintenance responsibilities of locating of ponds in housing developments. Mr Simpson advised that the design of such features was key to minimise risk and that enforceable maintenance responsibilities should be incorporated in the accompanying planning consents

Cllr Hart requested a link to the video, which was part of the presentation, with it being confirmed that the presentation would be forwarded to Members following the meeting. He also raised an issue regarding the Local Plan in his District with Mr Simpson confirming that ECC do provide comments and feedback.

The presentation can be found [here](#)

**9 Any Other Business**

Cllr Turner requested that Ofwat attend a future meeting of the Board in order to provide greater clarity of its relationship with the water companies.

**10 Date of Next Meeting**

The Board noted that the next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday 27th April at 10am, to be held online.

The meeting closed at 12.22 pm

**Chairman**