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12 September 2023

S U M M O N S

MEETING: Community & Environment Board
DATE: 20 September 2023
TIME: 6.00 pm
PLACE: Council Chamber
Democratic Services contact: Linda Coote

DEBBIE GORE
CHIEF EXECUTIVE

MEMBERS OF THE BOARD

The Mayor (Councillor Pepper (ex-Officio) and Councillor Chegwyn (ex-Officio))
Councillor Westerby (Chairman)
Councillor Marshall (Vice-Chair)

Councillor Mrs Huggins
Councillor Johnston
Councillor Maynard

Councillor Mrs Morgan
Councillor Philpott

FIRE PRECAUTIONS

(To be read by the Mayor if members of the public are present)

In the event of the fire alarm sounding, please leave the room immediately. Proceed downstairs by way of the main stairs or as directed by GBC staff, follow any of the emergency exit signs. People with disability or mobility issues please identify yourself to GBC staff who will assist in your evacuation of the building.

IMPORTANT NOTICE:

- If you are in a wheelchair or have difficulty in walking and require access to the Committee Room on the First Floor of the Town Hall for this meeting, assistance can be provided by Town Hall staff on request.

If you require any of the services detailed above please ring the Direct Line for the Democratic Services Officer listed on the Summons (first page).

NOTE:

- i. Councillors are requested to note that, if any Councillor who is not a Member of the Board wishes to speak at the Board meeting, then the Borough Solicitor is required to receive not less than 24 hours prior notice in writing or electronically and such notice shall indicate the agenda item or items on which the member wishes to speak.
- ii. Please note that mobile phones should be switched off or switched to silent for the duration of the meeting.
- iii. This meeting may be filmed or otherwise recorded. By attending this meeting, you are consenting to any broadcast of your image and being recorded.

AGENDA

1. APOLOGIES FOR NON-ATTENDANCE
2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST
3. MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE BOARD HELD ON 21 JUNE 2023 (Pages 5 - 6)
4. DEPUTATIONS- STANDING ORDER 3.4

(NOTE: The Board is required to receive a deputation(s) on a matter which is before the meeting of the Board provided that notice of the intended deputation and its object shall have been received by the Borough Solicitor by 12 noon Monday 18 September 2023. The total time for deputations in favour and against a proposal shall not exceed 10 minutes)

5. PUBLIC QUESTIONS- STANDING ORDER 3.5

(NOTE: The Board is required to allow a total of 15 minutes for questions from Members of the public on matters within the terms of reference of the Board provided that notice of such Question(s) shall have been submitted to the Borough Solicitor by 12 noon on Monday 18 September 2023)

6. PRESENTATION BY REPRESENTATIVES OF SOUTHERN WATER
7. ANY OTHER ITEMS

Which the Chairman determines should be considered, by reason of special circumstances, as a matter of urgency.

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**A MEETING OF THE COMMUNITY & ENVIRONMENT BOARD
WAS HELD ON 21 JUNE 2023**

The Mayor
Councillor Chegwyn

Councillors Westerby, Mrs Morgan, Burgess (Substituting for Mrs Huggins), Marshall, Philpott, Cox (Substituting for Maynard) and Earle (Substituting for Johnston)

1. APOLOGIES FOR NON-ATTENDANCE

Apologies were received from:

Councillor Huggins, who was substituted by Councillor Burgess
Councillor Maynard who was substituted by Councillor Cox
Councillor Johnston who was substituted by Councillor Earle

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were none

3. MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE BOARD HELD ON 1ST MARCH 2023

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the previous meeting held on the 1 March 2023 were signed as a true and correct record.

4. DEPUTATIONS- STANDING ORDER 3.4

There were none

5. PUBLIC QUESTIONS- STANDING ORDER 3.5

There were none

6. CONSTRUCTION OF FLOOD DEFENCE STRUCTURES AT FORTON

Consideration was given to a report by the Chief Executive updating members on the progress with the Forton coastal defence scheme since the update in March 2023 and seeking approval for the project delivery.

Members were reminded of the funding received to date and advised that a decision on the inflation claim should be known by the end of the week, which if successful, would close the funding gap.

Officers advised that the design work was on target, with remaining work to finalise the drawings, including revisions to mitigate the badger issue. The planning application would be submitted once the designs were completed, with a target of the Autumn Regulatory Board. The tender process is anticipated to start in July 2023.

Community & Environment Board
21 June 2023

Members were advised that the April 2024 start date was the earliest possible start date due to over wintering of birds. The window available for work in the badger area was July to November, making the period of April to November the optimal timeframe for the project.

In answer to a Member's question, Officers agreed to provide more details and assessment of the effect of flooding beyond the number of properties mentioned in the report. Flood modelling and the number of properties affected, underpins the eligibility and amount of potential Environment Agency funding, but there would also be impact on highways, vehicles, infrastructure, and risk to life.

Officers advised that their engineering experience and information in previous tenders showed that the project was deliverable in the time frame available. They agreed that there are always unknown issues that might arise once on site, but the team have been managing the risks getting the project to site, and have carried out full due diligence and trial pits for below ground risks.

In answer to a Member's question, Officers advised that the badgers had not been picked up on the initial environmental surveys as they were later found to be located beneath a building with no obvious signs of a sett. Sett re-location had been considered but ruled out as high risk option when compared to the chosen option of relocating the defence away from the sett.

Officers advised that the Environment Agency had indicated a high confidence that the inflation claim will be approved, and that the time needed for the assessment was due to the necessary due diligence applied to what is a relatively new funding mechanism.

Members were advised that the funding achieved to date is ring fenced and cannot be moved to another project.

RESOLVED: That the Board approved that:

- Authority is given to the Chief Executive:
 - a) To undertake the procurement of the works and the evaluation of bids received, and
 - b) In consultation with the section 151 officer, to award a contract for the works to the preferred bidder, subject to sufficient funding being in place.
- The project team report back to Board with a project update in Autumn 2023 to confirm the expected start date of April 2024.

7. ANY OTHER ITEMS

CHAIRMAN

Concluded at 6.27 pm