

## WYRE MAKING SPACE FOR WATER TECHNICAL GROUP

Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 01 March 2018 at Wyre Civic Centre.

**Present:**

Paul Long (PL)	Wyre Council
Kevin Kellett (KK)	Lancashire County Council (Flood Risk Management)
Nigel Morris (NM)	Lancashire County Council (Flood Risk Management)
Alistair Graham (AG)	Lancashire County Council (Flood Risk Management)
Paul Bond (PB)	Environment Agency
Pippa Hodgkins (PH)	Environment Agency
Nicola Beale (NB)	Environment Agency
Fiona Crayston (FC)	Environment Agency
Kevan Williams (KW)	United Utilities
Dan Blacow (DB)	United Utilities
Louise Ashworth (LA)	United Utilities

**Apologies:**

Carl Green (CG)	Wyre Council (WBC)
Graham Wilcock (GW)	Lancashire County Council (Highways)
Gareth Kelly (GK)	Lancashire County Council (Highways)

**Action**

**1. INTRODUCTIONS:**

PL welcomed all to the meeting.

AG introduced himself to the group; he is the new representative for LCC Flood Risk Management.

PB and FC were present to discuss Agenda item 5 – construction of bund at Butlers Farm, Churchtown.

**2. APOLOGIES:**

Apologies were as noted above.

**3. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING:**

The minutes and Hot Spot list of the MSfW meeting of 7 December 2017 were agreed.

**Matters Arising:**

**3.1 Churchtown Pumping Plan.**

PL informed the Group that the draft pumping plan was not yet completed. This was expected to be finished by the end of March for consultation with residents and the emergency services.

PL

3.2 Sharples Quarry, Tarnacre Lane, St.Michaels.

PH reported that the EA had objected to the original application and the Applicant had made a number of amendments to their plans. The EA maintains its objection. LCC's planners are currently considering the Application.

4. FLOODING – 22/23 NOVEMBER 2017:

- 4.1 PL reported that members of the Group had met with representatives from the Thornton Flood Action Group (FLAG), local residents and a representative of Paul Maynard MP on 1 February to look at flooding issues throughout the Thornton area.

The site visit and subsequent discussion had been very successful and the Group had agreed that initial works would concentrate on ensuring that culverts were checked and cleared since these form the principal bottlenecks on the area's drainage network.

It was agreed that PL would identify culverts and that each agency would undertake inspection/repair works on their own assets. Where culverts were owned by other authorities/persons, owners would be contacted to undertake all necessary works. Once all culvert work is completed then other works to watercourses, including desilting if necessary, would be looked at.

- 4.2 PL reported that he had contacted Network Rail to clear the watercourse to the rear of properties on School Road, Thornton. Network Rail have replied that they do not own the watercourse nor are they responsible for its maintenance. PL has written back to Network Rail for confirmation and has arranged for a Land Registry search to be undertaken – the results of this search are awaited.

- 4.3 PL reported that, as agreed at the Wyre Flood Forum in December, he had contacted Highways England to undertake cleaning of the culvert under the A585 Amounderness Way at New Lane, Thornton. Highways England have responded and agreed to add the cleaning works to their maintenance schedule.

- 4.4 KK confirmed that the blockage to Royles Brook watercourse on Meadows Ave., Thornton has now been cleared by the builder working on construction of the new building. He noted that there was some debris in the watercourse downstream within the section maintained by Wyre Council. PL agreed to look into this and remove as necessary.

PL

- 4.5 KK confirmed that LCC were working on the production of Section 19 reports for area in the Borough affected by flooding on 22/23 November 2017. He said that all flooded areas had been visited and requests made to partner agencies for additional information. Reports are expected to be published later in the year.

## 5. CHURCHTOWN:

- 5.1 PB updated the Group on discussions with the Churchtown FLAG who are looking to construct an embankment along the northern bank of the River Wyre adjacent to Butler's Farm by Kirkland Bridge.
- 5.2 The FLAG proposes to construct a new embankment that will directly protect three properties and will prevent flooding to the A6 and A586 (The Avenue) thus protecting an additional 26 properties.
- 5.3 All member agencies agreed to support the FLAG seeking funding to enable the bund to be constructed. The FLAG has estimated the construction costs to be approximately £120k and has already secured £30k toward this.

FC confirmed that additional finance could be made available through either Capital Funding Aid or the Local Levy – she added that while funding may be available time scales are restrictive. The scheme is not yet on the programme for the Local Levy and this would need to be passed to the Regional Flood and Coastal Committee (RFCC) by the next finance meeting on 13 April.

The next meeting for Capital Funding Aid is in June.

It was agreed that PL and FC would draw up a briefing paper to allow an application for the remaining sum to be made.

PL / FC

- 5.4 PB warned that the scheme may not be exempted work and an application for consent would also need to be made to the EA.

## 6. HOT SPOT ISSUES:

- 6.1 The list for March is produced as Appendix A.

### New Cases:

- 6.2 No new flooding issues were reported.

## 7. UPDATE ON FLOODING ISSUES:

- 7.1 LCC (Highways) have yet to investigate the highway drainage on The Avenue, Churchtown to determine whether watercourses discharge to the highway drainage and whether this could be redirected to the adjacent fields. GK will be asked to look into this ahead of the next MSfW meeting.

GK

## 8. OTHER ISSUES:

- 8.1 NB reported that the EA are planning works to White Bridge in Great Eccleston as water from the watercourse was noted seeping through the headwall during recent flooding events.
- 8.2 PL reported that officers from Wyre Council had attended meetings at Pilling and Great Eccleston to discuss with residents the formation of FLAGs. During the visit to Pilling residents had raised a number of issues; they reported extensive frequent flooding to properties on Smallwood Hey Road, St. Jones Avenue and School Lane and queried whether the outfall from Broad Fleet watercourse would be dredged anytime soon to allow the water to discharge quicker. PH replied that the outfall had been recently done as part of the EA's routine maintenance works.

8.3 KK noted that during the November flooding Royles Brook primary school had been affected and suffered internal flooding. He told the Group that the school may be looking for assistance from the Group on how best to improve their surface water drainage.

DB noted that the school has a pre-existing issue with foul drainage; LA added that there were also issues with the local surface water drainage on this site.

It was agreed that the Group would provide advice if requested.

## 9. ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

9.1 PB reported that Paul Maynard MP is interested in holding a public event informing Blackpool residents on drainage issues and particularly on riparian ownership. PB suggested that the Group consider a joint event with Blackpool – there was a general consensus that the Group support this.

### 9.2 Single Point of Contact

The single point of contact for each agency remains

- Environment Agency – Paul Bond
- Wyre Council – Paul Long
- Lancashire County Council – via HAMS (Tel: 0300 123 6780)

## 10. NEXT MEETING:

Thursday 31 May 2018 - 10am at Wyre Civic Centre