

Wyre Making Space for Water Meeting

Minutes of meeting held Thursday 27 May 2021
via Microsoft Teams.

PRESENT:

Carl Green (CG)	Wyre Council (WC) – Chair
Paul Long (PL)	Wyre Council
Lydia Cowell (LC)	Environment Agency (EA)
Stephanie Woods (SW)	Environment Agency
Rachel Crompton (RC)	Lancashire County Council (Flood Risk Management)
Mark O'Donnell (MD)	Lancashire County Council (Highways)

APOLOGIES:

Graeme Kelly (GK)	Environment Agency
Christine Hamilton	Environment Agency
Phil Wylie (PW)	United Utilities (UU)
Nigel Morris	Lancashire County Council (Flood Risk Management)
Kevin Kellett	Lancashire County Council (Flood Risk Management)
Tom Myerscough (TM)	Wyre Rivers Trust (WRT)

1. INTRODUCTIONS:

PL welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. APOLOGIES:

Apologies were noted as above.

3. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING:

The minutes of the meeting of 18 February 2021 were agreed.

MATTERS ARISING:

There being no representative from UU present the follow issues are to be addressed at the next Flood Forum on 10 June.

- Update on UU response to reports of flooding on Sunningdale Place, Inskip.
Action - UU
- Update on UU proposals for drainage works on Church Road / Marsh Road, Thornton.
Action - UU
- Update on works to the foul drainage on Hardhorn Road, Linderbeck Close and Snowy Dell, Poulton.
Action - UU

- PW confirmed that UU had undertaken a CCTV inspection of their outfall pipe from the pumping station in Great Eccleston – he would locate a copy of the video and forward this for colleagues to view.

Action - PW

- MD/RC reported that LCC has been looking into the flooding issue on St. Heliers Place, Barton – they reported that there was suspected fault to a syphon under the highway. While this is a private issue, LCC (Highways and FRM) will arrange a site visit to look into how this can be resolved.

Action - LCC

- PL confirmed that the owner of the land behind Sefton Ave, Poulton has been identified. He also confirmed that floodwater is coming off the land behind the properties, rather than from the highways drainage. WC and LCC to arrange site meeting with the landowner to determine what actions can be taken to prevent future flooding.

Action - WC / LCC

4. ISSUES FROM FLOOD FORUM AND FLAGS:

PL reported that he had recently held Teams meetings with the FLAGS from Hambleton/ Stalmine, Thornton, Preesall, Churchtown, St.Michaels, Great Eccleston and Pilling. Issues raised are detailed in the Appendices and have been added to the Issues and Action log.

HAMBLETON & STALMINE:

MATTERS ARISING FROM LAST MEETING:

- Local drainage culvert from the former Police Station on Broadpool Lane has been surveyed and works identified; information has been shared with the FLAG – LCC will undertake repair works as necessary.

Action - LCC

- PL confirmed that the watercourse, previously culverted, between Queensland and The Coppins has been reopened and is running well.

- PL confirmed that he walked the watercourse behind Queensland down to Rydal Road. He noted that foul seems to be discharging from the watercourse from Rydal Road. This needs further investigation.

Action - ALL

- PL confirmed that United Utilities have cleared the surface water sewers that discharge into the watercourse on Marsh Lane, close to the junction with Sandy Lane. UU have reported that the watercourse needs clearing adjacent to the outfalls to improve flow. Watercourse has been confirmed as Main River.

Action - EA

- LCC have inspected the condition of the highway gullies on Church Lane / Marsh Lane to the junction with Green Meadow Lane / Shard Lane – LCC will undertake repair works as necessary.

Action - LCC

- Stalmine FLAG asked that LCC look at the junction of Highgate Lane and Staynall Lane. MO replied that he had been made aware of this and would investigate.

Action - MO

NEW ISSUES RAISED - MEETING 17 MAY 2021:

- Update on the layout of the foul pumping station on Kiln Lane, including invert levels of discharge to Wardleys Creek has not yet been provided by UU – FLAG would like to know how the station discharges to the river at Wardleys Creek and whether or not this is contributing to flooding on Kiln Lane when the outfall is tidally locked

Action - UU

- Queensland Country Park, Carr Lane – watercourse adjacent to The Coppins was culverted without consent some years ago. FLAG have requested that this been opened up again to reduce the risk of flooding from Carr Lane.

Update: PL confirmed that the watercourse has been opened up.

- The FLAG has asked whether LCC would consider installing a culvert under A588 Carr lane from fields on east side (opposite Queensland) to west, to alleviate flooding on Carr Lane

Action - LCC

- The FLAG has requested copy of UU drainage plans for the north of the village (A588 Carr lane, north of Market Street.

Update: Plans have been provided.

- The FLAG has requested copy of any surveys of the highway drainage on A588 close to Queensland and The Coppins. Can LCC undertake survey of drainage north of the recent survey on Broadpool Lane?

Action - LCC

- Issues & Actions log needs to be updated with latest issues.

Action - PL

- Hambleton Sub-Group – can this continue to report separately to MSfW as previously to ensure that Hambleton issues are fully addressed?

Update: Sub-Group met 27 May

- When did EA last survey / desilt Wardleys watercourse behind Queensland Country Park? MD noted that much of the local drainage system discharges to local watercourse. He said that unless the watercourses were regularly cleared, and the discharge to Wardleys Creek improved then Hambleton would continue with flooding issues.

Action - EA

- Can UU Update on when they will install flow meters into foul system to establish flows and locate where problems are?

Action - UU

- Highway flooding at junction of Highgate Lane and Staynall Lane – repeated flooding from overflowing watercourse. Road is impassable when flooded.

Action - LCC

- Highway flooding on Wardleys Lane, north of New Road.

Action - LCC

THORNTON:

MATTERS ARISING FROM LAST MEETING:

- MO confirmed that works to repair issues close to the Co-Op have now been completed. PL asked whether the gully at the junction of Bourne Road and Fleetwood Road North has been repaired. MD said that works were currently in progress.

NEW ISSUES RAISED:

- Have ENWL have been contacted about the culvert under their concrete apron Stanah area, and if they have undertaken any work to clear their culvert?

Update: ENWL have not yet responded to request for information.

- Where are we regarding the checking of the rest of the system from Cathrow Way to the pumping station? There is a good proportion of riparian responsibility in this area but it would be great if people with responsibility for their culverts are contacted and a plan and timescale devised which would ensure the whole area flows freely prior to the onset of bad weather next winter.

Update:

- The development on the corner of Stanah Gardens to be constructed will use the system for its surface water removal. Has the development been held up until the system flows freely or is this not considered a problem?

Update: The Application (ref 19/01283) has been approved by Wyre Planners. Condition 16 refers to drainage issues for the site.

- For the past two financial years LCC promised to sort the blockage outside the new Co-Op. This is still outstanding and this area of Fleetwood Rd North is to be resurfaced starting on the 25th of this month. It would be a shame to have to dig up the road again or are they planning on doing the work in conjunction with the road surfacing.

Update: LCC reports that works outside the Co-Op have been completed.

- Also the homes over the road with downward sloping gardens have no freeboard on their dropped kerbstones so it would make sense to try to give them a little bit of a kerb to help alleviate some of the wash from passing cars outside their homes as they are resurfacing. Could you pass this onto Mark please?

Action - LCC

- There is continual road flooding at the junction with Bourne Road (Lake Ballard) Mark was going to dig up the two drains in this area. LCC are going to adopt Bourne Road I believe in October but this work has been outstanding for the last couple of years so could you give him a nudge and try to get some sort of fixed date for these repairs.

Action - LCC

- The culvert under Fleetwood Rd North which feeds the tributary of Springfield Dyke south of the Iron Horse is blocked. We have dyed it and no flow was obvious. Could you ask Mark if and when he is going to clear this culvert please?

Action - LCC

- Also on our last inspection of this system just south of the Iron Horse the dyke is now blocked just after the first 90 degree turn north. It is totally chocked up with weeds and old signs etc. This system drains land to the west of Fleetwood Rd through to the Pheasant Wood estate. As you know by personal visits this is the responsibility of NPL Estates and according to Mark (LCC) it also drains Fleetwood Rd North although we dispute this. We believe that surface water from

the Fleetwood Rd area travels up Bourne Way in an Easterly direction. Could you once again request that NPL or POS Landcare maintain this area properly? We are aware that it is scheduled for building and it would be very expedient if this area wasn't crisscrossed with a drainage ditch. We will be showing aerial photos of this area on our FB page this week dating from 2015 to last year. The amount of neglect is patently obvious.

Action - WC

- Moving onto Hawley Gardens the area is worse than ever. I know this is not your responsibility so I'm not sure what can be done but I believe that as existing areas of North Thornton drain through this system there should be a responsibility on LCC as Lead flood Authority to get something done.

The pond area in our opinion is patently dangerous for children. It would be impossible to see a child in distress in the long bulrushes. The lifebuoys are not easily seen or accessed. Once again there will be photos taken in 2015 and 2020 and the neglect obvious. Surely there should be some overarching responsibility on the Environment Agency or LCC. Clearly something has gone wrong in this area and it needs fuller discussion when the Flood Forum can once again meet in person. This is why in our opinion riparian responsibilities should lie with the proper agencies and not with some subcontracted company with no standards to work to.

Action - WC

- We have concerns that the new development on the football site will also be riparian. Can you confirm if this is the case please?

Update: The Developer will look to have the drainage system and SuDS adopted by UU. Ownership and maintenance of the watercourse will remain with the residents.

I have asked Councillor Howard Ballard if a couple of our group can have a site visit and he is arranging this with the site manager. It would be good if you could accompany us as I said it was just a learning exercise as we can't see much from the periphery.

- We had a meeting with Graham from the EA down at the Sandyforth Arms to look at the fitting of a camera overlooking the culvert which we use to assess the potential implications with high volumes of rainfall. He said he believed it was doable so could you ask Graham for an update regarding progress please?

Action - EA

- Can the EA confirm how their study into Stanah Pumping Station is progressing, and when they believe it will be available for the Flood Forum to discuss?

Action - EA

- Could you also check with Tom Myerscough of the Rivers Trust regarding when the leaky dams are to be fitted on Peter Holts land. Richard Green keeps sending me pictures of the broken dam and I tell him that the leaky dams are to replace the existing structure which is clearly useless.

Action - TM

- A585 Amounderness Way - can an update on the clearance of culverts by Highways England be provided?

Upgrade: A further request for an update has been sent. HE have not yet responded.

- Marsh Road / Church Road sewers - can UU provide an update on drainage works?

Action - UU

- Tesco car park, Marsh Mill, regularly floods – can EA check that culvert is running free?

Action - EA

PREESALL:

MATTERS ARISING FROM LAST MEETING:

- LCC have written to the owner of the landowner re: the issue of water and sand running off Preesall Hill and down Cart Gate. MD confirmed that LCC have provided a budget for a topographical survey of the Hill to assist TM in drawing up a plan. Works are planned to be undertaken soon.

MO said that LCC are looking to connect drainage from the Hill to the watercourse behind the properties on Sandy Lane. He confirmed that there is an existing 150mm pipe under the road which is proposed to provide an alternate route for surface water to discharge.

- MO confirmed that an order has been raised to inspect the culvert under Burned House Lane, but works have not yet started.

Update: Survey works have been completed – no major issues were found.

- PL raised concerns from the FLAG that the watercourse on Green Lane did not appear to be running well. Concerns have been raised that the flow is being restricted by flows to the south of Green Lane (from St.Aidans school) which appear to be the dominant flow. It has been suggested that the east and west side of the watercourse be joined upstream of the existing crossing to improve flow from Cart Gate.

Action - EA / LCC / WC to investigate

- The FLAG asked that the long proposed walk through of the surface water system between Meadow Ave and Wheelfoot watercourse be undertaken.

Update: Walkover planned for 3 June

NEW ISSUES - MEETING 17 MAY 2021:

- There is concern about increased flooding of Sandy Lane; the FLAG is concerned that the changes to the profile of Preesall Hill is affecting the surface water flows. PL confirmed that this is being looked at by LCC and WRT.

- The FLAG has asked that the pallet of sandbags by the side of Sunnyside Terrace be removed – these are no longer required to be stored here.

Action - WC to remove.

- Flooded gardens/ cross contamination issues were raised about Coniston Ave. Issues have been raised with UU.

Action - UU

- The FLAG asked if the Acco drain and highway gullies at the junction of Sunnyside Terrace and Sandy Lane could be cleared – they appear to be blocked.

Action - LCC

CHURCHTOWN:

MATTERS ARISING FROM LAST MEETING:

- The FLAG asked that the MSfW look at the possibility of flooding woodland north of the A586 (opposite Ainspool Lane) to reduce flows under the road and into the Ainspool. They consider that this would reduce the risk of flooding of Ainspool Lane and properties nearby. The Group agreed to investigate the possibility of doing so and report back to the FLAG.
Action - LCC have undertaken a survey at and found an issue with highway drain – this to be repaired by mid-July
- The FLAG asked that the sandbag bins close to the Memorial Hall be located – this was agreed – WC to agree new locations with the FLAG.
Update - Works completed
- The FLAG asked whether a level marker could be installed in the river at the outfall from Ainspool to the River Wyre so that it could be read from a drone during a flood incident. GK agreed to look into the possibility of providing this.
Action - EA

NEW ISSUES - MEETING 18 MAY 2021:

- The FLAG requested that LCC the outfalls by Kirkland Bridge be amended as water cannot discharge to the river when it is high.
Update: Flap valve on east side of Kirkland Bridge is to be adapted and the two flap valve on the west side of the Bridge are to be adapted.

ST.MICHAELS:

MATTERS ARISING FROM LAST MEETING:

- Responses to issues raised have been included in the revised Issues & Actions log (dated 27 May 2021)

NEW ISSUES - MEETING 17 MAY 2021:

- Lower Wild Boar, off Rawcliffe Road; river embankment is leaking and trees are growing in the embankment. EA are aware – FLAG want to ensure that EA have investigated and checked that embankment is secure.
- Unknown persons have put in a clough on Humblescough Brook watercourse under the road leading to the quarry. EA claim not to have installed this. Can EA investigate it?

GREAT ECCLESTON:

MATTERS ARISING FROM LAST MEETING:

- The FLAG asked that the highway drainage on Butts Lane be checked due to flooding of the highway close to the junction with the A586.
Update: Works undertaken by LCC
- Whites Bridge - concern about flooding of A586 and the potential for a vehicle accident when hitting floodwater, particularly at night. The FLAG asked that LCC consider improved signage to warn drivers in advance of floodwater.
Action - LCC / EA

- Flooding to Lancaster Road and Raikes Road - regular flooding at junction with A586. While works have been undertaken to improve the drainage on the north side of the A586, further works, including to the pipe that outfalls to the need undertaking.

Action - WBC / UU

NEW ISSUES - MEETING 18 MAY 2021:

- The FLAG asked that the highway drainage on Butts Lane (at the junction with Back lane) be checked due to flooding of the highway.

Action - LCC

PILLING:

MATTERS ARISING FROM LAST MEETING:

- The FLAG raised a number of issues with highway drainage throughout the village – these have been raised previously with LCC and detailed in the Issues & Actions Log; the FLAG are looking to LCC to confirm whether or not these have been addressed – see Issues & Actions Log

Action - LCC

NO FLAG MEETING IN MAY - NO NEW ISSUES:

OUT RAWCLIFFE:

MATTERS ARISING FROM LAST MEETING:

- EA previously advised that they would investigate problem of water logged fields – no communication yet from EA. Can EA confirm that this is in hand?

Action - LCC

- Road flooded, Bodkin Lane.

Action - LCC

- Dry Bread Lane, matters being managed by Mark O'Donnell.

Action - LCC

- Union Lane watercourse which flows to Broadfleet in Pilling, running clear?

Action - EA to confirm.

- Road flooded on riverside road Out Rawcliffe, at the bottom of the hill just past Town End, possibly a drain needs clearing, but water is normally across the road.

Action - LCC

- Knitting Row Lane / Hudson Cottage, needs attention re drainage into field.

Action - LCC

NO FLAG MEETING IN MAY - NO NEW ISSUES:

5. ISSUES AND ACTIONS UPDATE:

The updated Issues & Actions list is attached as Appendix 1

- PL confirmed that Wain Homes have now completed the installation of the surface water discharge pipe from the Lambs Hill development to the River Wyre.

- CG reported that local councillors had raised issues about the Ainspool watercourse and the number of recent developments in the area – they have asked whether this could be modelled. SW said that she would make GK aware of this.

6. NEW ISSUES:

- CG reported that Cllr Clempson has raised an issue of foul flooding to Bluebrook Ave., Hambleton. It is unclear whether this is due to improper connection of the foul system or a capacity issue. Investigation of foul drainage is being undertaken by UU.

Action - UU

- CG reported that he received a report of damage to a bridge over Horsebridge Dyke watercourse on The Oaks, Poulton. It is unclear who is responsible for maintenance of the bridge.

7. HAMBLETON AND PREESALL WALKOVERS:

PL confirmed that the following walkover inspections have been agreed with FLAGS;

- Preesall – 3 June, 10am – Meadow Ave.
- Hambleton – 21 June, 11am – Shovels car park

8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

- MO noted that a significant number of the issues that are being looked at by the Group are the responsibility of riparian owners, and the councils and other agencies have been picking up issues which were not really theirs to resolve. RC said that she has arranged a meeting with Christina Worsley from the Flood Hub to look into this issue and to include local information with regional and national initiatives.
- CG noted that TM has undertaken SuDS works in Thornton area, including King George's fields. He offered to show
- PL reported that he and Thornton FLAG had recently inspected the confluence of Royles Brook watercourse and the watercourse from Anchorsholme Lane East. The watercourse is full of debris and needed cleaning out. He asked if the EA would consider removing this as part of future works to Royles Brook. SW said that she would take this back for consideration.

Action - EA

- RC confirmed that Kevin Kellett would be leading on flooding issues in Wyre for LCC until a replacement for Alistair Graham, who has left the authority.
- RC reported that she is about to commission the council's Framework consultant to undertake a preliminary appraisal of Thornton-Cleveleys to see if there is scope to access money from Defra investment programme. Works to be undertaken later this year.
- RC reported that the framework consultant will also be used to catch up on outstanding Section 19 reports, up to and including the 2019 floods.

9. NEXT MEETING:

26 August 2021, 10am start – Details to follow.