



Flood Emergency Group Meeting
Thursday 16th March 2023
4:30pm at The Clubroom, St Mary Bourne

Present: Clem Jones, Sarah Cooney, Dave Peart, Ed Makgill, Maxine Owen.

There was discussion around how the measured water level at the Vernham Dean borehole is behaving differently than we had anticipated. Since the 30th January, the VD borehole has dropped from 118.33m to 110.50m (16th March) i.e. approximately 17cm per day.

There was some discussion around the fact that the borehole at Clanville Gate was behaving differently and that water levels there had been at a high plateau since the end of January. It was noted however that the Bourne Valley rainwater catchment is quite different to Clanville, since VD levels take in the Facombe/Netherton valley and also probably beyond the edge of North Wessex Downs AONB area.

It was agreed that it was unlikely that there will be flooding this year unless there is a late wet Spring.

There is still tankering occurring at the Vitacress end of the valley, problems probably caused by the new development at St Mary's Hill. It was suggested that holding tanks for sewage should be installed as part of the infrastructure for the development, then the sewage could be released into the system at off peak times. It is unknown whether this went ahead, it doesn't look like it considering the problems occurring at the moment. When the groundwater fills the sewers the waste will not flow away; as soon as the groundwater recedes the sewers work fine.

The group agreed that it might be worth exploring the setting up of a pan-parish forum for our area, and include Hurstbourne Priors, & Hurstbourne Tarrant for example. Sarah agreed to speak to Janet Wright, the secretary of the Pan-Parish forum to understand how often this group meets. Is this every quarter throughout the year, or only seasonally?

Discussion led to the installation of the sump to prevent flooding of properties in the High Street. Too many utilities in the ground where the sump was planned to be installed outside The House. Ed Makgill was working with Dan Bessant from Highways at Hampshire County Council, and now that Dan has moved on Ed is working with Tom Thacker. It has been suggested that the sump could be situated outside 2 Jubilee Villas instead of The House. The plan is to extend the drain along to the river. Ed Makgill owns Jubilee Villas so is happy for the pipework to run under the hedge. Ed Makgill to continue pushing Tom Thacker to make these changes happen.

The group then moved on to Review and Update the Flood Emergency Plan and Action Tracker.

It was agreed that Ed Makgill would become the Flood Action Group Deputy Coordinator instead of Bridget Culley who wishes to step down. Dave Peart to remain as Flood Action Group Coordinator. Details of updates for Emergency Plan in Action List below. Other actions listed on the Tracker now up to date thanks to Sarah Cooney during the meeting. The updated Emergency Plan and Action Tracker to be published on the Parish Council Website.

It was suggested that after the good work done in past years clearing out the riverbed of debris, a measurement should be taken at each bridge, to that it can be tracked, and remedial work organised when the debris increases again as it will over time. Detail of who is covering each bridge is in the Action Tracker. Measurements to be collated and published on the Flood section of the Parish Council Website.

The discussion then moved to Riparian Owners responsibilities. This applies all through the Parish, not just the river side owners, hedges are allowed to become overgrown, trees are often not maintained and can become dangerous, but specifically if responsibilities are ignored on the river side they can cause immediate and serious consequences for the Bourne and its wildlife. It was suggested that this needs to be addressed soon, and the place to start would be putting a list together of who the owners are. Sarah advised of an Environment Agency Document called Living On The Edge that would be useful to have to circulate and add to the website. It was also suggested that the EA could be invited to write an article for the Hill & Valley.

Meeting Concluded at 18:00

See Action Tracker Document plus extras in list below.

1. Sarah Cooney to contact Janet Wright concerning their meeting frequency.
2. Ed Makgill or Maxine Owen to invite Dave Burlison onto the FEG.
3. Update Emergency Plan – with Ed Makgill's contact details (Pg 9) – Maxine Owen
4. A check of contact details for the included agencies to be checked – Dave Peart
5. Update Emergency Plan with any changes in agency details (Pg 4) – Maxine Owen
6. Request Insurance Documents from Toby Bunce if he wishes to stay on the Local Skills & Resources List – Maxine Owen
7. Find replacement for Flood Warden Zone C (Bell View & Baptist Hill) – All
8. Review Vulnerable Properties – Stoke – Sarah Cooney
9. Complete Vulnerable Properties – SMB – Maxine Owen to update list – Ed Makgill to check contact numbers.
10. Ed Makgill & Dave Burlison to create/reinstate Flood WhatsApp group.