

Wyre Making Space for Water Meeting

Minutes of meeting held Thursday 26 November 2020
via Microsoft Teams.

PRESENT:

Carl Green (CG)	Wyre Council (WC) – Chair
Paul Long (PL)	Wyre Council
Christine Hamilton (CH)	Environment Agency
Graeme Kelly (GK)	Environment Agency
Alistair Graham (AG)	Lancashire County Council (Flood Risk Management)
Laura Makeating (LM)	Lancashire County Council (Flood Risk Management)
Mark O'Donnell (MD)	Lancashire County Council (Highways)
Phil Wylie (PW)	United Utilities (UU)
Dan Blacow (DB)	United Utilities

APOLOGIES:

Paul Bond (PB)	Environment Agency (EA)
Nicola Beale (NB)	Environment Agency
Tom Myerscough (TM)	Wyre Rivers Trust (WRT)
Katie Duffy (KD)	United Utilities

1. INTRODUCTIONS:

PL welcomed everyone to the meeting.

MK introduced herself to the Group – she is one of two Principal Flood Officers for Lancashire County Council leading on planning applications, planning policy, strategic policy and providing support to MSfW groups.

2. APOLOGIES:

Apologies were noted as above.

3. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING:

The minutes of the meeting of 20 August 2020 were agreed.

MATTERS ARISING:

- PB had asked whether the Quick Wins budget could be used to provide a couple of submersible pumps for Churchtown to deal with flooding issues. CG stated that if money was available then it would be best used to buy an additional pump that could be used at any location in the Borough rather than tying it up at Churchtown. This was agreed by all.

MO reported that LCC have installed a non-return valve on the highway drainage pipe near Ainspool Lane to reduce the impact of highway flooding in the area. It is hoped that this will negate the need for an additional pump during any heavy rainfall event.

- PW reported that investigation works by UU on reports of flooding on Sunningdale Place, Inskip have yet to be undertaken.

Action – UU

- PW reported that investigation works by UU on reports of flooding on Roylen Avenue, Carlton are on hold. Some works have been undertaken and the piped watercourse appears to be clear – there are concerns that the private section, on land owned by St. Hildas C of E School is blocked by tree roots. It is believed that much of the flooding is a consequence of run-off from the school playing field and that, while clearing the watercourse will have benefits, there will always be run-off from the fields.
- PW reported that he was not aware of any progress with the drainage on Church Road, Thornton, but would chase this up and report back with any updates.

Action - PW

- GK reported that ownership of the embankment downstream of Six Arches Caravan Park, Scorton that had been reported as damaged is unregistered. He confirmed that the damage was, in fact, to a faced wall and not the embankment itself. He added that it is the EA's plan to undertake repairs next year to the embankment further downstream on Station Lane; if money is left over from these works then the scheme could possibly be extended to include repairs to this wall.
- PW reported that he was not aware of progress with the foul drainage on Hardhorn Road, Linderbeck Close and Snowy Dell, Poulton but would chase this up and report back with any updates.

Action - UU

- PW raised the issue of a watercourse/sewer on Holmefield Close, Thornton – UU are looking at whether this should all be designated as watercourse and not part of the UU system. No actions have been taken yet but UU will be contacting residents once this has been completed.
- The issue of continued flooding on Sunnyside Terrace, Preesall is to be considered separately in the Making Space for Water Sub-Group.
- PL reported that flooding problems on Hall Lane and Raikes Road in Great Eccleston have been investigated. LCC (Highways) have cleared and checked the highway gullies and Wyre officers have inspected the downstream watercourses and outfall to the River Wyre. Works to clear blockages in the watercourses have been undertaken. Wyre to check that the pipe leading to the river from the watercourse is clear.

Action - WBC

4. FLOODING OCTOBER / NOVEMBER

PL reported that there had been significant surface water flooding on 29 October, 1/2 November and 13 November with many roads in Wyre flooded. There had also been reports of internal flooding of residential properties, although numbers were relatively low.

PL confirmed that a draft report had been drawn up by WBC identifying the areas affected and AG confirmed that LCC would be issuing a Section 19 report on the flooding in due course.

The main areas of flooding were Thornton, Hambleton and Preesall; PL confirmed that he has subsequently spoken to the FLAGs from these areas and raised a number of issues to be included in the Issues and Actions log to be discussed later.

PL raised the issue of flow meters that UU were planning to install in Hambleton to record sewer flows; PW confirmed that these had not been installed and that funding for this work has now been withdrawn. PW added that UU are planning to install meters to the whole of the network, but these works are not expected until next year.

MO asked whether the EA could undertake maintenance works to Kiln Lane watercourse to reduce the risk of flooding to properties on Carr Lane (A588) – GK confirmed that works are planned to be undertaken within this year's works programme.

PL noted that part of the problem in Hambleton was the inability of Wardleys watercourse to discharge to the Creek at high tide, even when there was capacity in the Creek. CH said that the proposed EA flood prevention scheme for Hambleton included attenuation tanks as part of the construction to reduce flooding.

5. HAMBLETON, PREESALL AND THORNTON WALKOVERS.

HAMBLETON -

PL reported that he had walked the area to the north of Kiln Lane to locate the suspected outfall from Kiln Lane highway gullies to the ordinary watercourse. He confirmed that he had found the outfall, but that this was in a poor condition and blocked with silt. Desilting is the responsibility of the local landowner; PL to discuss with landowner.

Action - PL

PREESALL -

PL reported that he, MO and Gary Scott from WBC had walked the watercourse from Green Lane to Burned House Lane looking for issues. It was noted that the watercourse on Green Lane appeared not to be running and LCC carried out a cleaning of the culverts under Green Lane to clear any potential blockage. The watercourses were found to be in general good order. LCC to check, and clear if necessary, the large culvert under Burned House Lane.

Action - LCC

THORNTON -

PL reported that he and members of Thornton FLAG had walked over watercourses to the north of Bourne Road, Thornton. It was noted that there was a large volume of surface water on the junction of Fleetwood Road North and Bourne Road and a number of blocked gullies on Bourne Road. MO confirmed that a gully under the junction is planned to be repaired in the first week of January.

PL reported that the watercourses on Hawley Gardens are in poor condition and that he had reported this to the management company – they have agreed to undertake these works in the next couple of weeks.

MO noted that LCC were planning to clear road gullies from Bourne Road back to Cala Gran caravan site early in the New Year.

6. ISSUES FROM FLOOD FORUM AND FLAGS:

PL noted that he had recently held Teams meetings with the FLAGS from St. Michaels, Churchtown, Preesall, Thornton and Hambleton. Issues raised have been added to the Issues and Action log. (See Appendix)

7. ISSUES AND ACTIONS UPDATE:

The updated Issues & Actions list is attached as Appendix 1

8. NEW ISSUES:

- MO reported that he has been looking into a new issue on St. Heliers Place, Barton. There is internal flooding to a number of properties in the area – it is considered that the drainage is riparian. Both UU and LCC were aware of this and were investigating.
- CG asked that 44 Sefton Ave, Poulton be added to the Issues and Actions log. This was a residential property that is suffering flooding from an adjacent field. PL noted that this had been looked at some 20 years ago and resolved by the construction of a bund behind the properties on Sefton Ave. CG noted this but added that new development on the field appears to have resulted in a return of the flooding.

9. ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

MD reiterated his previous report, that LCC (Highways) has received £250,000 funding to deal with issues from Storm Ciara in February 2020.

10. NEXT MEETING:

25 February 2021, 10am start – Details to follow.

APPENDIX

Issues raised by FLAGS

1. St. Michaels FLAG (met 9 Nov)

- a) Issue 17/16 - Does the EA have an updated work programme? Can a copy be made available to Wyre Forum? **EA**
- b) Issue 18/08 - Can EA provide an update of progress? **EA**
- c) Issue 18/26 - Gabions are rotting. Can EA provide an update? **EA**
- d) Issue 18/32 - Can EA provide update? **EA**
- e) Issue 18/41 - Can EA provide an update of progress? **EA**
- f) Issue 18/42 - Does EA have map of where watercourse has been fenced? **EA**
- g) Issue 18/43 - Areas of concerns at X/Y 17 and 18, V17 and T17 – mainly on the Brock, but some on Wyre. **EA**
- h) Issue 18/45 - Slump on Rawcliffe Road. **EA**
- i) Issue 18/57 - What is progress on Upper Mid Wyre Project? **EA**
- j) Issue 20/03 - FLAG has concerns about continued flooding of highway – danger to traffic on A586. **LCC / EA**
- k) New issue - A586 Road flooding, junction with Rawcliffe Road. Area T16-S17. **LCC**
- l) New issue - Two non-return valve not working. Area T17 and S18. Suspected UU outfalls into river; one on north side, one on south – can these be checked? **UU**
- m) New issue - Slump/erosion west of bridge (S18) - field opposite the Grapes. Can EA check? **EA**
- n) New issue - Erosion of south bank of River Bank where river meets - location unsure, either AC22 or Z18. **EA**
- o) Rawcliffe Road - Any progress dealing with sewage problem? **UU**
- p) General - UU drains were surcharging during November rains – toilets not flushing. **UU**

- q) Rawcliffe Road embankment - FLAG expressed concern about the condition of the sandbags - when is the work expected to be undertaken? **EA**
- r) New issue - Planning site 20/00036/REM - FLAG expressed concerns about the reserved matters planning permission for 4 houses off Garstang Road. Drainage issues not yet agreed and subject to full application. **WBC**
- s) New issue - Suspected drain collapse under A586 from petrol station (opposite Grapes) to Compton House (T16). **LCC/UU**

2. Churchtown (met 10 Nov)

Two recent flooding events – no properties flooded. Issues on The Avenue (A586), on the Old A6 road and on Ainspool Lane.

- a) Have LCC put in non-return valve by Ainspool Pool? **LCC**
- b) Can MSfW look at flooding woodland north of A586 opposite Ainspool Lane to reduce flows under the road? **ALL**
- c) LCC to investigate gully outside 1 The Avenue. The road is low at this point and is flooding. Does gully empty under A6 to River Wyre? If so, it's not working. **LCC**
- d) Can Wyre replenish sandbag stocks? **WBC – completed**
- e) Telemetry on Kirkland Bridge - can EA check - FLAG think that it is reading too low by approx. 300mm. **EA**
- f) FLAG concerned that when the flood basin at Garstang is emptied it may cause the Ainspool to remain tidal locked more than it would normally. It is possible to reduce the discharge rate from the basin to allow the Ainspool more opportunity to discharge? **EA**
- g) Thanks to all agencies for assistance during recent flooding events.

3. Preesall FLAG (met 10 Nov)

- a) Query to LCC: has culvert under Green Lane been cleared? **LCC - note walk through on 16 Nov**
- b) Query to LCC: has culvert under A588 Burned House Lane been cleared? **LCC - note walk through on 16 Nov**
- c) Request from FLAG for additional barriers for diverting floodwater. **WBC**
- d) Note: highway flooding has increased on Sandy Lane in recent months; this is considered to be as a result of the changes to the topography of Preesall Hill.
- e) Sunnyside Terrace has had multiple flooding incidents this year (Feb, Aug, Oct and Nov). On the last occasion six properties suffered internal flooding.
- f) New issue: Flooding to properties on Back Lane from watercourse/ blocked highway drainage. **LCC - note site visit on 16 Nov**

4. Thornton FLAG (met 11 Nov)

- a) Hornby Corner - blocked gullies (roots); when are LCC planning to clean out roots? Can gullies be also cleaned and the pipes under the road be checked for damage? **LCC**
- b) A585 Amounderness Way - can an update on the clearance of culverts by Highways England be provided? **WBC**
- c) Marsh Road sewers - can an update be provided about drainage works? **UU**
- d) Lawsons Road / Torrentum Court - can an update on the installation of a non-return valve be provided? **WBC**
- e) Fleetwood Road North - can Highways provide update as to when repairs to broken gullies at junction with Bourne Road will be undertaken? **LCC**
- f) Hawley Gardens estate, Bourne Road - contact with Management Company required to get local watercourse cleaned. **WBC**
- g) Can EA consider installation of telemetry on Royles Brook (close to Sandyforth Arms) to help monitor main river levels? **EA**
- h) Lambs Hill development - FLAG looking to carry out further inspection of new development to check on drainage construction. **WBC**

5. Hambleton FLAG (met 11 Nov)

- a) Four main areas of flooding concern - Carr Lane (by Queensland), Carr Lane (by paper shop), Sandy Lane and Sherbourne Road/Kiln Lane. Update to be provided on works to resolve flooding. **ALL**
- b) Queensland country park has culverted watercourse between them and The Coppins - could this be opened up again to reduce risk of flooding? **ALL**
- c) Kiln Lane - highway drainage discharges to watercourse to north of Kiln Lane; culvert is totally blocked and needs clearing by riparian owner. **LCC / WBC**
- d) Have UU installed flow meters into foul system to establish flows and locate where problems are? **UU**

6. Great Ecclestone FLAG (met 19 Nov)

- a) Areas of concern - Moss Side Lane, Hall Lane, Copp Lane, Whites Bridge (and A586), Raikes Road.
- b) Moss Side Lane - issue of flooding of highway preventing access/egress to residential properties. Consider raising road or containment of floodwater on field. **LCC / EA**
- c) Hall Lane - flooding of highway (possibly from new developments) seems to have resolved itself. To be monitored.
- d) Copp Lane - continued flooding of highway. Was new pipeline promised by LCC into field to north of highway ever installed? **LCC**
- e) Whites Bridge - concern about flooding of A586 through bridge parapet. Potential for vehicle accident when hitting floodwater, particularly at night. Can signage be provided to warn drivers in advance of the bend in the A586? **LCC**
- f) Raikes Road - regular flooding at junction with Lancaster Road. Outfall to river needs further checking and clearing. **WBC**
- g) Blocked gullies reported on Barrows Lane East and Butts Lane (between Back Lane and A586). **LCC**