



WYRE FLOOD FORUM

Thursday 10 December 2020, 1.00pm start
via Microsoft Teams

MINUTES OF MEETING

Present

Chair

Carl Green (CG) Head of Engineering, Wyre Borough Council

Wyre Borough Councillors

Cllr Roger Berry (RB) Neighbourhood Services & Community Safety Portfolio Holder
Cllr Phil Orme (PO) Preesall Ward (and Preesall Town Councillor)
Cllr Paul Moon (PM) Preesall Ward (and Preesall Town Councillor)

Lancashire County Councillors

Cllr Matthew Salter (MS) (Wyre Rural Central)
Cllr Alf Clempson (AC) (Poulton-le-Fylde)
Cllr John Shedwick (JS) Lancashire County Council (Thornton & Hambleton)

Parish and Town Councillors

Cllr Roger Brooks (RBr) Garstang Town Council

Council Officers/Agency Representatives

Paul Long (PL) Wyre Borough Council (Engineers Directorate)
Christine Hamilton (CH) Environment Agency
Graeme Kelly (GK) Environment Agency
Lydia Cowell (LC) Environment Agency
Alistair Graham (AG) Lancashire County Council (Flood Risk Engineer)
Tom Myerscough (TM) Wyre Rivers Trust
Mark O'Donnell (MO) LCC (Highways)

FLAG Representatives

Roger Weatherell (RW) Churchtown FLAG
Linda Rowland (LR) Preesall FLAG
Phil Jenkins (PJ) Thornton FLAG
John Quine (JQ) Thornton FLAG
David Astall (DA) Great Eccleston FLAG
Pamela Nickols (PN) St Michaels FLAG
John Nickols (JN) St Michaels FLAG

APOLOGIES:

Cllr Andrew Cropper	Preesall Ward (and Preesall Town Councillor)
Cllr Julie Robinson	Hambleton Ward
Cllr Graham Holden	
Cllr Liz Webster	Wyre Borough Council and Garstang Town Council
Cllr Mary Stirzaker	Wyre Borough Council and Fleetwood Town council
Kathrine Pye	Wyre Borough Council
David Thow	Wyre Borough Council
Paul Bond	Environment Agency
Nicola Beale	Environment Agency
Simon Bennett	Environment Agency
Maria Ulliyart	Environment Agency
Katie Duffy (KD)	United Utilities
John-Gareth Phillips	United Utilities
Rachel Crompton	Lancashire County Council (Flood Risk Management)
Dusty Rhodes	Natural England
Robert Hogg	Churchtown FLAG
Siriol Hogg	Churchtown FLAG
Nicola Pattrick	Preesall FLAG
Cindy Moseley	Preesall FLAG
John Kenyon	Barnacre Parish Council
Graham Hargreaves	
Diane Andrews	Out Rawcliffe Parish Council
Richard Beatson	Out Rawcliffe Parish Council

1. Introduction by the Chairman, Carl Green (Wyre Council):

Carl Green welcomed all attendees to the meeting. He noted that this Forum was being held remotely due to the Covid pandemic.

LC introduced herself to the meeting – she will be working within the Flood Resilience Team at the EA as replacement for Paul Bond, who has been temporarily seconded to another role.

2. Apologies:

Apologies were noted as above.

3. Minutes of last meeting:

The minutes of the meeting of the Forum held 12 March 2020 were confirmed as correct record. No matters were arising.

4. What's going on in the Region. Reports from Flood Management Authorities:

i. Lancashire County Council:

MO reported that LCC have been proactive in resolving flooding issues within the Borough. Following Storm Ciara in February 2020 he had acquired finance to undertake a number of works. He listed the following works

- **White Carr Lane, Thornton;** works to rebuild and strengthen the road edge adjacent to Royles Brook watercourse.
- **Rawcliffe Road, St Michaels;** CCTV inspection and repair of highway drainage, resurfacing of highway.
- **Inskip Lane, Inskip;** repairs to highway edges damaged during flooding.
- **Bell Lane, Barnacre;** repairs to culvert headwall.
- **Smithy Lane, Poulton;** CCTV inspection of private culvert at junction with Longhouse Lane.
- **Bold Street, Fleetwood;** (completed)
- **Breck Road, Poulton;** CCTV inspection of flooding issues (in progress).
- **Underbank Road, Thornton;** road is being closed from 11 January 2021 for a month to allow works to the watercourse and repairs to highway to be undertaken.
- **Fleetwood Road North, Thornton;** repairs to highway drainage around Bourne Road.
- **Station Road, Thornton;** repairs to carriageway (completed).
- **Snapewood Lane, Cabus;** repairs to highway drains (in progress).
- **Cutts Lane, Hambleton;** repairs to damaged headwall.
- **Ainspool Lane, Churchtown;** new non-return valve fitted to highway drainage (completed).
- **A586 Garstang Road, St. Michaels;** excavation works undertaken in highway to clear roots from highway drainage and clear outfall.
- **Longmoor Lane, Nateby;** repairs to highway drainage.
- **Kiln Lane, Hambleton;** clearance of highway drainage outfall and watercourse north of Kiln Lane (between Christmas and New Year).
- **Sunnyside Terrace, Preesall;** MO reported that he and PL had undertaken a walkover of the watercourses south of Sunnyside Terrace, Preesall. Works are planned to CCTV a large surface water culvert under Burned House Lane to check whether this is obstructed.

There are also plans to look at the option to install an additional drain to the north of Sunnyside Terrace to take water away from the junction with Sandy Lane. This would also reduce the load on the watercourse behind Sunnyside Terrace.

- PO noted that no action has yet been taken against the landowner on Preesall Hill who has undertaken works that is causing sand to block local highway gullies; he asked when this would be undertaken. MO replied that he had recently spoken with MS and agreed that action would be taken to prosecute the landowner.
- **Hazelhead Lane, Scorton;** a new non-return valve has been installed on the outfall to the River Wyre to improve local drainage.
- **Gubberford Lane, Cabus;** a flooding issue by the bus stop on the A6 at the junction of Gubberford Land has now been resolved.
- **Raikes Road, Great Ecclestone;** as part of the joint investigation into flooding issues on Raikes Road and Lancaster Road, LCC have checked and cleared the highway gullies in the area.

- **Stanah Road, Thornton;** culverts under Cathrow Way and Stanah Gardens have been jetted as part of a cleaning of the surface water network. A blockage of the open watercourse has been identified and LCC will clear this

PN thanked MO on behalf of the Forum, adding that she was particularly grateful for recent resurfacing works undertaken on Hall Lane, St Michaels. MO added that finance may be available in the New Year to resurface the A586 through St Michaels, which had been greatly affected by a number of recent flooding events.

RBr asked whether LCC had yet investigated the suspected misconnected road gullies on Gubberford Lane, Cabus (issue 19/35). MO replied that this had not yet been looked into.

Action: LCC (Highways)

RBr asked for an update on Church Lane, Winmarleigh (issue 19/36). MO replied that he had visited the site the previous day and agreed a number of works with the riparian owner. The owner would undertake the necessary work in March/April next year and LCC would provide the materials.

RBr reported that the gullies on Church Lane were full of silt and asked if these could be cleaned any time show. MO replied that they were not on the main cleaning schedule but that he would get them cleaned out as soon as possible.

Action: LCC (Highways)

JS asked whether works to clear the private watercourses on Stanah Road had been completed. MO replied that the main watercourse on Stanah Road had been cleared by the Management Company and that LCC had cleared the culverts under Cathrow Way and Stanah Gardens. Works to clear the watercourse adjacent to the electricity sub-station are planned for 21/22 December.

JS asked when the works to clear the drain on Kiln Lane, Hambleton would be undertaken. MO confirmed that this would be done between Christmas and New Year.

TM noted that the Rivers Trust may be able to use the fallen willow over the watercourse off Stanah Road could be used as part of the Hillylaid wetlands work.

TM asked whether the topographical survey of Preesall Hill could still be undertaken so that detailed designs for works could be planned.

Action: LCC (Highways)

PO asked whether MO was satisfied with the watercourse downstream of the Burned House Lane culvert. He also noted that there was a lot of silt in the watercourse on Green Lane. MO replied that the watercourse downstream of Green Lane was generally in good condition to the culvert. No inspection had been undertaken beyond the culvert – this will be inspected once the culvert is checked and cleared. He agreed that Green Lane watercourse did need desilting – LCC had cleared the culverts under Green Lane.

TM noted that silt in the watercourse was a sign of poor land management – he asked that landowners be directed to the Rivers Trust who can advise on how to stop silt being lost to watercourses.

TM added that, while there are a lot of unnatural watercourses and they do need maintenance, we need to be careful, from an environmental point of view, not to have a blanket policy that landowners need to maintain their watercourses. Some watercourses exist not just for land drainage and are a key natural habitat.

RW thanked MO for the installation of the new non-return valve at Ainspool Lane which he hoped would have a positive effect during a heavy rainfall event. He asked whether LCC had levelled the outfall to the river from The Avenue to check that it was falling correctly. MO agreed that this would be done.

Action: LCC (Highways)

DA asked what works had been undertaken in the Raikes Road / Lancaster Road area of Great Ecclestone to resolve flooding issues. CG confirmed that he had discussed issues with landowners and they had cleared the watercourses. PL confirmed that the system was checked on 3 November and was holding a lot of water. The watercourses have been cleaned but the pipe to the river needs checking.

DA asked what the situation was with the report of foul in the surface water system. PL noted that the system has an emergency outfall to the river and this may be contributing to the foul issue, although the sewage noted was upstream of the outfall and may simply be as a consequence of the foul system surcharging upstream of the pumping station. PN thought that this was related to the issues that S Michaels is experiencing on Rawcliffe Road and asked to be kept updated on any findings.

AC wished to thank MO and LCC for the prompt response to flooding issues and a number of properties had been protected from flooding due to their actions.

ii. Wyre Rivers Trust

TM reported that the WRT have a number of flood managements projects in progress throughout the Borough.

- The Wyre FM project (Defra Community money) is coming to a close in 2021 – the last bits of works are being undertaken
- The project at White Carr Lane, Thornton is now complete. The new wetland area provides around 2,000m³ of storage during a rain event and is working well.
- Phase 1 of the Hillylaid project is now complete and provides about 3,000m³ of storage. Phase 2 is expected to start in the New Year
- A bid has been made to provide an additional wetland area on King George's field, Thornton, providing an additional 2,000m³. PJ asked that TM send him details of the scheme.

Action: TM

RBr asked what parameters the Trust is using to determine whether the schemes have been successful. TM replied that level loggers are used to measure water levels upstream and downstream of the works to determine how the scheme has affected flows. Additionally, fixed point photography to visually confirm that a wetland is holding water.

- WRT are planning to plant 10-12,000 trees in the catchment this winter, including 150 black Poplar trees.
- The National Rivers Trust have a project for green investment in the Wyre catchment looking to invest at least £1,000,000 of private money in natural flood management in the Wyre.
- The WRT are bidding with Blackpool and Lancashire Councils for £6m of investment over six years from the Flood and Coastal Resilience Innovation Programme of which £1m is planned for the Wyre catchment.

RB thanked TM for his efforts and asked that priority now be given to resolving the flooding issues on Sunnyside Terrace, Preesall.

DA asked that Great Eccleston be considered for the planting of trees in the green area of Lancaster Avenue. TM agreed to contact DA to arrange this to go ahead.

iii. United Utilities

No representative from UU was present – no report received.

PN expressed her disappointment that no representative from UU has attended the meeting. PL noted that they had accepted the meeting and were due to attend – it is not known why they had not. PL to relay any concerns to UU for a response.

JN reported that there have been no fewer than 28 foul discharges into the watercourse by Catterall Farm, St Michaels in the last two years. Since the last meeting with UU no progress has been made. He added that the EA are investigating this. It has been reported to Wyre Council Environmental Health team. UU to provide an update on this matter. RB said that this issue was cropping up too frequently and UU should be informing us what their proposals are for dealing with it.

Action: UU

RB asked that UU be asked to provide an update on flooding on Aintree Road and Hardhorn Road. PL noted that he was aware of works having been done on Hardhorn Road but not about Aintree Road – he was aware of flooding issues around Thornton Cricket Club which may be related.

PJ expressed his concern that UU were unable to provide answers to questions raised by the FLAGS and Forum members when asked and always needed to be chased for a response. PL noted that the person representing UU did not always have the information as he was not from the operational team. PL to chase this with UU and forward on any response.

Action: PL

iv. Environment Agency

CH confirmed that the EA had submitted a pre-Forum report – copy attached. She wanted to highlight the following points

- The EA is working to support local communities with the impacts on mental health from flooding as part of the National Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management Strategy for England
- Updates on the Fleetwood and Hambleton Flood Risk Management Schemes have been provided.

GK reported on the operational issues covered by the EA

- The Frequent Maintenance Programme is now largely complete for this year, including works on Sunnyside Terrace, Preesall. Wyre Council have reported a build-up of silt under the grid at the entrance to the culvert under Cart Gate and this will be cleared next week.
- Maintenance of Kiln Lane watercourse, Hambleton has yet to be cleared due to poor ground conditions – this is expected to be undertaken once conditions improve.
- Works to repair the embankment on Rawcliffe Road, St. Michaels have been started and now include additional works near Wild Boar Cottage – PN asked if there was a date for the additional works as the residents were very concerned; GK replied that the residents were being kept informed and works were expected to be undertaken in the spring, but certainly within the current financial year.
- The culvert under Bescot Way, Thornton has been cleared following a complaint via the MP – he noted that this was a lengthy way of getting the information to the EA and residents should be encouraged to report such incidents via the EA incident number.
- Works to top up the embankment in St. Michaels is expected to be undertaken in January 2021.

PO expressed his concern that authorities were spending time and money clear additional siltation from drainage systems on Cart Gate when the landowner on Preesall Hill was depositing sand into the systems. GK confirmed that the EA would support LCC in any action against the landowner.

RBr asked whether the Garstang Flood Basin is providing protection to properties downstream of it. GK replied the basin level is set to a level that keep the River Wyre below the Flood Warning threshold; he added that the Catterall Basin also helped with this. The EA had been working with the WRT to slow the flow within the Wyre and keep water in the upper catchments to reduce the risk of flooding.

PM asked who is responsible for the maintenance of Green Lane watercourse, Preesall. GK confirmed that the watercourse is Main River and the EA undertakes maintenance of it; he confirmed that maintenance is the riparian owners' responsibility. PM asked if the EA offered advice to landowners on how to maintain their watercourses or recommended approved contractors to undertake works. GK said that this was not the case.

JS reported that Out Rawcliffe Parish Council have sent photographs of a number of flooded fields which they are concerned about. CH confirmed that she had received them and will investigate this and report back to the Parish Council

Action: EA

RW asked if the EA had investigated the Churchtown FLAG's query about the accuracy of the telemetry at Kirkland Bridge. GK replied that this had been checked and only a small discrepancy (around 7mm) had been noted. It was speculated that the difference could be due to the time difference in updating the website. RW queried whether the level at the bridge could be lower than the general river level as it formed a flume when passing under the bridge – GK would pass this back.

RW noted that the Catterall telemetry is recording two different levels and is difficult to interpret. GK would look into this.

Action: GK

JS asked if the EA could confirm that planning approval for the Hambleton Flood Risk Management Scheme would be applied for in mid-summer 2021. CH replied that the original plan to apply in spring 2021 has been delayed by a few months and would now be mid-summer.

PO noted that there increased incidents of flooding around Pilling Lane, Green Dicks Lane, and Meadow Ave, Preesall – he is concerned about the capacity of the pumping station on Sandy Lane and its capability to discharge all the surface water in the area. Additionally, he expressed concern that, historically, many watercourses used to discharge, via tidal flaps, into the sea but were diverted when the new sea wall was built. The water from these watercourses now runs inland and is discharged via the Sandy Lane pumping station. He asked whether the tidal flaps are supposed still to be working or does everything run to Sandy Lane. GK replied that the EA is happy with the capacity of the pumping station; the concern was not with the pumping station but with getting the water to the pumping station. The EA is planning works in 2021 to improve the flows in all watercourses leading to the pumping station. With regard to tidal flaps, he will look into this and report back to PO.

v. Wyre Council

CG reported the main focus has been on the Wyre Beach Management Scheme, a £42m scheme to protect around 11,200 residential properties on the coast.

In addition the Council has been working on the NW Coastal Centre of Excellence, bringing the experience of all authorities together to learn from each other and retain the local expertise.

The Council recently entered the Environment Agency's Excellence Awards and received a highly recommended for the radar scheme for beach monitoring.

vi. Natural England

No representative from Natural England was present – no report received.

5. Making Space for Water Technical Group:

The minutes of the meeting of the Group held 26 Nov 2020, the minutes of the Hambleton & Preesall Sub-groups held 1 Dec 2020 and an updated version of Issues and Actions Log were distributed to the meeting in advance.

PL referred to the minutes and log and asked whether there were any questions on the contents.

PN asked for an update from the EA on the Rivermede embankment (issue 18/26). GK confirmed that the EA has bid for money to uptake these works in the next financial year.

RBr noted that Churchtown FLAG had raised concern that when the Garstang flood basin was emptied, the increased flow of water in the river could cause the tidal flap on the Ainspool watercourse to remain shut and increase flood risk to Churchtown and upstream properties – he asked if this could be clarified. GK confirmed that the flood basin has been designed to control levels downstream of it and cannot hold back water at Garstang to control the flow downstream. RW noted that the EA could release the water from Garstang at a later time and give the Ainspool time to discharge, however, he agreed that if the basin was not emptied and a second event hit then the EA would lose control of the river.

PO asked about the likelihood of discharging water from north of 1 Sunnyside Terrace, Preesall across Sandy Lane to the existing watercourse. PL replied that this was being looked into by LCC.

PO asked whether the idea to build a bund close to no.1 had now been rejected. PL replied that nothing had been ruled out at this stage and various options were still being looked at.; this included works by WRT to reduce the flow from Preesall Hill.

PM asked what the timeline was for works to be undertaken. PL replied that LCC had finance in place to undertake works by the end of March, but works would need to tie in with works that may be planned by TM.

6. Local Flood Action Groups: Reports and Questions:

Reports and questions from each of the following groups

- **Churchtown**

RW informed the Forum that Siriol and Robert Hogg had moved out of the area and were currently en route to their new home. He wished to put on record his thanks for their hard work in the FLAG. This was supported by all present. RW reported that there have been changes to the setup of the FLAG with a new Head Flood Warden having taken up the role in the FLAG. Details have been forwarded to WBC Emergency Planning.

RW stated that construction of the bund at Kirkland Bridge the emphasis of flooding in the village had changed and concentrated more on surface water flooding. This did not require all flood wardens to be contacted during an event, just the two main areas of concern on Ainspool Lane and The Avenue.

- **Cleveleys**

No representative from Cleveleys FLAG was present – no report received.

- **Garstang**

RBr had no issues to raise that hadn't already be covered in the meeting.

- **Great Eccleston**

DA confirmed that the FLAG has regrouped and has new officers.

He confirmed that key issues have already been covered but added that there is a leaking water mains on the A586, possibly from the new development on Back Lane. CG said that he would chase this with UU.

Action: GC / UU

- **Hambleton**

No representative from Hambleton FLAG was present – no report received.

- **Preesall**

PO noted the key areas of Sunnyside Terrace, Pilling Lane and Sandy Lane have all been covered in the meeting. He noted that an additional area that is causing concern is Town Foot. PL has looked into this and reported back to the Forum that he had visited the site with LCC a couple of weeks back – the main issue was due to a blocked watercourse, which has now been cleared. Additionally, the highway drainage appeared to be blocked or restricted in at least two locations – LCC were going to return to clear these the following day.

- **St.Michaels**

PN noted most actions had been covered. She did want to raise the issue that local residents on Garstang Road are having problems flushing toilets – she wants this to be raised with UU.

- **Stalmine (Combined with Hambleton)**

JS stated that the drainage system in Stalmine is at capacity, and many residents are concerned that new planning applications will exacerbate flooding issues in the village.

- **Thornton**

PJ noted that most issues have been addressed. He also confirmed the following issues

- The FLAG have responded to the planning consultation for Phases 2 and 3 of the Lambs Road development, and were asking questions regarding the construction of the surface water drain on Phase 1 which has yet to be completed.
- The FLAG are now looking at the new planning application for Bourne Road which has 210 homes on a Flood Zone 3 site.

RB reported that County Cllr Andrea Kay has raised questions asking whether NPL had cleared the watercourse on Fleetwood Road North. PL confirmed that the watercourse had been cleared; he noted that the watercourse downstream on Hawley Gardens was in need of maintenance and works were expected to begin on this today.

RB also raised the issue of flooding on Lawsons Road – he asked the FLAG if they had any issues that they considered needed addressing here. PJ replied that WBC have plans to install a non-return valve on the outfall of the private culvert off Lawsons Road, which it is considered, should reduce the risk of flooding there. The Council are waiting for dry conditions so that water levels in Hillylaid Pool watercourse will allow them to safely access the outfall.

7. Communications Update:

PL reported that no update had been received. A subsequent report stated;

- We worked on the recent flood incident on 1 November communicating weather warnings, reminders of how to stay safe around surface water flooding and sending reports of flooding to the engineering team.
- We are currently running a winter campaign which will include messages about preparing for flooding and signing up for flood alerts.
- We've shared info about FLAGS and how to report issues to us.
- We are sharing the Flood Hub's community focus week campaign on our social media pages this week.

PO asked if WBC could produce an article on riparian ownership in the Wyre Focus magazine issued to each property with the Council Tax invoice.

8. Emergency Planning:

PL reported back issues raised by Kathrine Pye, Wyre Council, on emergency planning.

- The latest version of the Wyre Response Plan has been completed and will go online in January 2021.

PL confirmed that he had been in contact with the Lancashire Flood Resilience Team on updating the Part 2 of the Emergency Flood Plan – this looks at flooding issues in specific locations – the plan will be updated next year.

PO reiterated that Green Dicks Lane regularly floods and is regularly closed. He is aware that LCC are looking to introduce a no right turn policy onto Park Lane from Burned House Lane which would prevent any access to Preesall is Lancaster Road and Green Dicks Lane were closed due to flooding. He asked whether Wyre were consulted on this. CG said that Wyre were not consulted but he would consult with LCC on this matter. PO said that the restriction would need to be lifted during any flooding emergency.

Action: WBC

RBr confirmed that Garstang Town Council has agreed to explore the development of an emergency plan for Garstang. He asked whether WBC supported communities develop their local plans. CG confirmed that WBC did support such plans and that Churchtown and St.Michaels have developed their own plans.

9. Requests for reports to the next Forum meeting:

A request was made for UU to provide an update on their works in the borough.

Action: UU

10. Any Other Business:

RBr asked if UU would report whether they are putting additives in the water supply – he cannot get a good lather in the morning.

Action: UU

PO asked whether house searches included details of riparian ownership. RBr replied that this was not registerable.

11. Next Meeting:

- Proposed 11 March 2021, 1.00pm start